

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Is America a Christian Nation?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. After listening to the discussion, does there appear to be a multi-part response to the question?
 - a. Perhaps in separation of time? As in comparing the time of the nation's founding and today; the present time?
 - b. Or, perhaps, in separation of founding and the culture's current participation?
 - c. Or, perhaps, in the distinction of how nations or peoples can be readily regarded – such as christian, muslim, buddhist, animistic, or others?
 - d. When you look or think upon nations or cultures, what perspectives or lens do you use as descriptors?
2. What do you think is the thinking behind this question?
 - a. In your experiences have you or the people in your sphere of life asked this question? Why were they really asking?
3. With respect to the founding of this nation that is called the United State of America, did New Testament Christianity have any influences?
 - a. What about Old Testament Judaism?
 - b. What about laws, governments, cultures, and their myriad histories?
 - c. Do you think the founders began their efforts with any assumptions? About what?
 - d. Where is the source of law; or morality; of responsibility; of civility; of fidelity?
 - e. Is there Christian context for any of these? (Matt 22.37-40; Jo 13.34; John 13-17)
4. Now, compare that discussion with, perhaps, the current day lens some of us may look through, which might be:
 - a. Have we acted perfectly, as Christ would have us? No, absolutely not!
 - b. Or this: at this time, we should be a complete embarrassment to Christ, the way our nation is acting. What do you think about these two assertions?
 - c. Is this behind the question of Is America a Christian nation?

5. What is Christian nationalism?
 - a. Is it used as a pejorative term? By whom?
 - b. Is it used as a political wedge? By whom?
 - c. Is the present “culture” in the U.S. doing all it can to prevent “us” from being Christian? Or the United States from being a Christian nation?
 - d. Is there a present culture? If so, what is it?
 - e. Is it opposed to a “Christian nationalism”? Why?
 - f. Are we opposed to a “Christian nationalism”? Why?

6. Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14.34.
 - a. What is righteousness? Where is its source? (Is 51.1,5,7,8; Ro 1.16,17; 3.21,22)
 - b. What is sin? Who gets to define it? (Gen 4.7; Lev 4.2, 13, 22, 27; Is 5.18-23; Ro 1.18ff; 1 Jo 3.4)

7. Remove the faith of a nation and you remove the future of that nation. What do you think?
 - a. In America, is faith being removed from the public square?
 - b. In America, is God being removed from the public square?
 - c. Discuss Mark 3.24,25; Luke 11.16-18. Is there application?

8. Thought question 1: In Daniel 2, Daniel interprets the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the great image representing great kingdoms. In verses 34, 35, 44, and 45 Daniel relates to the king the image of the stone made without hands.
 - a. What does the stone represent?
 - b. How does it do what the prophecy says it will do without engaging cultures, peoples and governments?
 - c. Historically, what was the end result of the fourth kingdom?

9. Thought question 2: if you were king (or queen) what would your 'christian nation' look like?

10. Thought question 3: Discuss 1 Sam 8, Daniel 2.20-23 and Romans 13.1-7. Does anything here provide illumination on the nature of relationships between God, man, and nations?