IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?

Background

Well, here I am again: all alone with nobody to debate.

I sent emails to a dozen well-known Christian Nationalists challenging them to a debate on the topic "Is America a Christian Nation?"

All I got ... was dead silence.

I even taunted them, by asking why, not one of them was willing to stand up and defend their God.

Again ... just deafening silence.

So, after months of waiting in vain, I'm left with no alternative. I've decided to debate against their claims. I will begin by defining the scope of the debate.

By Christian Nation, we aren't talking about the demographic makeup of America. We all agree that most Americans are Christian; just as we all agree that most Americans are white, and that most Americans are women. But America is no more a Christian Nation than it is a White Nation or a Woman Nation. This debate is specifically about the government of America.

Christian Nationalists assert that the Founding Fathers intended to create a nation based upon Christian principles. The reason why they do so, is because they know that Americans (including tens of millions of Christians) would never agree to swap our Democracy for a Christian Theocracy. So Nationalists must convince Americans that the Founding Fathers *intended* to create a "Christian Nation."

True origins of America - Founding Fathers

In their writings, what did Founding Fathers, John Adams and Thomas Payne, credit as the models upon which, the American Constitution was built?

They credited the constitutions of ancient Athens & Rome. Neither of those constitutions, nor ours, claimed to have come from divine authority. That is the exact opposite of the laws in the Old Testament, and from Jesus, both of which claimed divine authority. Ours declares "We the people ... establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

John Adams wrote the book History of the Principal Republics in the World: A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America

vol 1: Influence of Greece & Rome

vol 2: Secular Renaissance Italian Republics

vol 3: Precedent of British Commonwealth

(if there were a vol 4: The Bible ... then someone must have stolen it)

As President, Adams signed the Treaty of Tripoli in 1797 which stated "... the government of the United States of America, *is not in any sense,* founded on the Christian religion ...." This treaty was ratified by Congress ... unanimously. That was only the third time in over 300 votes that Congress had voted unanimously. Now let's investigate the true origins of America.

True origins of America - Solon

Christian Nationalists try to convince Americans that the source of our principles comes from their God. They have stolen the credit from the man to whom it rightfully belongs; a man few Americans have ever heard of; the true father of The United States of America ... Solon of Athens. It is his statue that should be displayed in our public squares. It is his writings that should be posted in government buildings. And his statues and writings would be, if Christians hadn't stolen all the credit due Solon and falsely given it to their God instead.

Solon achieved influence in 594 BCE (over 600 years before Christ), and is the man most responsible for many American principles, including:

1st Amendment

Christian Nationalists often claim that the 10 Commandments are the basis of our Constitution. I only got as far as the first commandment before I ran into a huge problem: freedom of religion is forbidden by God's first and foremost commandment "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." God even assigned the death penalty to those who violated this commandment.

But our First Amendment guarantees all Americans the right to defy God's first commandment. Based on the Constitution written by our Founding Fathers, it seems that, instead of basing our laws on God's Holy Book, they chose instead ... to kick Him right in His invisible nuts.

2nd Amendment

Solon said it was not only the right, but the duty of every citizen to bear arms in defense of the state.

Jesus said turn the other cheek.

How well do you think that would have worked out for us, say in ... 1941?

Fortunately, Americans followed Solon's advice and ignored Jesus.

6th amendment

Solon introduced the concept that you have the right to a trial by a jury of your peers, chosen at random, with the right of appeal.

In the Bible you have the right to a trial, by a group of people holding rocks; which made appeals ... rather unlikely.

Article 1

Solon was the first man in history to eliminate birthright as a basis for government office, instead he proposed election of senators, and the creation of democratic assemblies, such that no law could be passed without a majority vote.

I couldn't find Democracy anywhere in the Bible. Just page after page of a celestial dictatorship.

Solon made laws defending the principles of private property, government encouragement of economic trades and crafts, and a strong middle class.

I couldn't find any of that in the Bible. In fact, Jesus said to give up all your personal belongings.

Solon also originated the concept of allowing foreigners, who have mastered a useful trade, to immigrate and become citizens.

Who are the biggest foes of immigration in America?

You guessed it ... Christians.

13th Amendment

Actually, I did find one biblical principle that the Founding Fathers accepted: slavery. On the floor of the U.S. Senate in 1850, the future President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, gave a speech in which he justified slavery by referring to the Bible. He said it was sanctioned in both testaments ... and he wasn't lying.

This one biblical principle ruined the lives of millions of Africans, who were ripped from their families, and if they survived the long voyage, spent the rest of their lives as the personal property of white Christian men.

To repair this mistake, Congress passed the 13th Amendment, and it cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of American heroes; and by heroes, I'm referring to Union soldiers, not to the ones who were willing to die to keep humans in slavery.

Solon invented the separation of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Boy that sure sounds familiar. Oh yeah, that describes ... our government.

What did the Bible offer? Moses had them all united under a single aristocratic council.

Once again it looks like our Founding Fathers chose Solon ... over the Bible.

Solon also introduced the concept of taking a government official to court for malfeasance.

I couldn't find that one in the Bible either.

Adams, Paine and many other Founding Fathers credited Solon’s constitution for Athens, as what most inspired the American Constitution, followed closely by the equally pagan constitution of the Roman Republic.

True origins of America - Stoicism

Now let's analyze the source of some other important legal concepts upon which our nation was founded, and see if there is any validity to the claims of Christian Nationalists.

The Stoics were Greek philosophers whose thinking dominated the Roman and Greek empires for more than 800 years, from 300 BCE until 529 ACE, at which time Stoicism was outlawed by Roman emperor Justinian 1. Why was it outlawed? Because it conflicted with Christianity.

Let's see just what it was about Stoicism that conflicted so badly with Christianity that it had to be outlawed. Here are some concepts that figured prominently in the Stoics' views on morality, law, and government:

1. Liberty

2. Human rights

3. Equality under the law

4. Freedom of speech

Those were the concepts that were at odds with Christianity.

Liberty

The Bible grants you the liberty to choose to be saved through belief in Jesus Christ ... or be tortured forever. There are those who actually believe, that represents liberty; but our modern laws classify that as coercion which is defined as "Actual or threatened force for the purpose of compelling action." Yep ... that's coercion all right.

Human rights

Are only applicable to Christians, which makes sense, since everyone else is going to Hell anyway.

Equality under the law

The 19th Amendment gave women equality at the voting booth. The Bible set the value of a woman at between 1/2 and 2/3 that of a man ... depending on age (I know that had to hurt). And for you teenagers who are celebrating ... you won't be teenagers long.

Freedom of speech

Conflicts with many Bible verses including blasphemy which is classified as an executable offense.

So it now becomes obvious why Justinian had to outlaw Stoicism. What's really sad, is that 1,500 years later, we are still struggling to regain what Justinian took from all of us. If Rationalism had not been defeated by Ghost Worshippers, the knights of the Round Table probably would have been playing ... video games; and King Arthur's most famous quote might have been "One small step for a man ... one giant leap for mankind."

Now let's look at The 10 Commandments, which Christian Nationalists claim, are the basis of our government.

The 10 Commandments

We've already dealt with God's first Commandment.

The second Commandment prohibits making graven images of anything that is in Heaven above. Oops! Sounds like all those Jesus statues are going to have to be melted down.

Taking God's name in vain is not a crime. Everyone does it all the time. Besides, it's a good way to take your mind off the pain after you've mistaken your thumb for a nail.

The 10 Commandments made working on the Sabbath a capital offense. But our laws allow millions of Americans to work on weekends. In fact, Americans who commit this heinous crime ... often get paid time and a half.

"Thou shalt not kill" - is that the law of our land?

Apparently not. Capital punishment has been, and still is, legal in America. And its most fervent supporters ... are Christians.

In the Bible, adultery is a capital offense; our laws don't even classify it as a misdemeanor. The Bible even considers looking lustfully at someone to be adultery; yet many of us watch scantily clad beauty contestants parade across the screens on our television sets doing their very best to look "sexy."

If we enforce that law, who'll be left alive to turn the TV's off?

The only commandment we incorporated into our laws is the prohibition against stealing; a prohibition that was recognized as necessary long before humans invented Christianity.

Bearing false witness is another law that has been included by almost every society. However, clergy and politicians are excluded from the prohibition against lying, which is actually a good thing, because if they were not allowed to lie, there wouldn't be any clergy or politicians; and then we wouldn't have anyone to steal our stuff.

I've yet to see a law in any state prohibiting envy. It is the foundation upon which our Capitalism functions.

Now that we've seen God's Commandments, let's look at a list of crimes that God didn't consider important enough to include: rape, arson, torture, bribery, extortion, and beating the snot out of someone. Thankfully, our lawmakers did decide to include these "lesser" crimes.

The Judicial Branch

If we were founded as a Christian Nation, why has the Supreme Court repeatedly interpreted the Constitution, written by the Founding Fathers, in a way that makes school prayer illegal? And in a way that makes teaching Creationism illegal?

That is even harder to explain when one considers that the vast majority of judges have been either Jewish or Christian.

The Supreme Court has held:

“the ‘establishment of religion’ clause of the First Amendment means at least this: Neither a state nor the Federal Government ... can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another.”

That would be a strange interpretation indeed ... for a Christian Nation. However, that is exactly what one would expect of a secular government.

If we were founded as a Christian Nation, why do justices use the Lemon Test to determine the legality of religious activity?

The Lemon Test consists of three prongs:

1. The government's action must have a secular legislative purpose

(why would a Christian Nation require a law

 to have a secular purpose?)

2. The government's action must not have the primary effect of

 either advancing or inhibiting religion

 (that doesn't sound very Christian to me)

3. The government's action must not result in an "excessive government

entanglement" with religion

(and there's your separation of Church and State)

If any one of these 3 prongs are violated, the government's action is deemed unconstitutional under the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

The Legislative Branch

If America were founded as a Christian nation as Nationalists contend, then why did Christian legislators attempt to pass amendments for almost a hundred years trying to declare America to be a Christian nation?

Amendments are changes to the Constitution. The only reason to change our Constitution to make America a Christian Nation, would be if we weren't founded as a Christian Nation. If we were, the amendments would not have been necessary.

Since nearly all congressmen were, and are, Christians, that means that these attempts ... were defeated by Christians.

Viewers should google "Christian amendment"

The Executive Branch

Question - which president said this:

“We establish no religion in this country. We command no worship. We mandate no belief, nor will we ever. Church and State are, and must remain, separate.”

Okay, time's up: that quote was from a 1984 speech ... by president Ronald Reagan.

Didn't see that one comin' ... didja?

The Constitution is my Bible and the Bill of Rights are my 10 Commandments.

And I can prove that America was founded on my Bible and my 10 Commandments.