

THE WORSHIP OF TWO (OR MORE) GODS IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!

Nationalism in the House of God!

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THE WAY WE treat the house of God (the church building) can reflect very accurately the respect, or lack of it, that we have toward God Himself. Quoting from, Commercialism,¹ a very similar subject, also in www.Micaiah.com, by this same author:

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The second time Christ cleansed the temple of nonworshippers, written of in: Matt.21:12-13; Mk.11:15-17, Luke 19:45-46, near the end of His ministry, Jesus quotes Jeremiah 7:11, and declares their attitude toward the temple as being comparable to the disdain one would give a den of thieves.

11 Is this house, which is called by My Name, become a den of robbers **in YOUR eyes?** Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord.

Jeremiah 7:11 The BIBLE

Jesus quotes a mere four Words (“a den of robbers”) from the verse in Jeremiah and expects that the rest of the phrase, “**in YOUR eyes,**” or, “**in YOUR opinion,**” will be understood by His hearers, as it is integral to the passage He’s quoting. The Old Testament passage rebukes those who fail to respect, or who even despise the temple of God. God doesn’t mean, in Jeremiah, that the temple has necessarily been made a literal, “den of thieves,” or, “a place where robbery takes place,” but that, **in THEIR eyes,** it’s become despised, a, “place of disrepute,” or simply, just a place that’s not worthy of the respect God requires of it (“... **a den of robbers in YOUR eyes**”). Jesus’ reason for anger is more their attitude of disdain toward the temple than for their actions (the disciples recognized this on the occasion of the first cleansing, realizing that Psalm 69’s “zeal of [love/enthusiasm for] Thine house” referred to Jesus).

In John, a passage of Scripture (Psalm 69:9) is quoted to illustrate the attitude of Jesus toward the temple. In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke), on the

¹ http://www.Micaiah.com/commercialism_03.htm

other hand, a passage of Scripture (Jeremiah 7:11) is quoted to illustrate the attitude toward the temple, of the merchants and of those passing through.

Jesus also cast out those who bought, and those who carried things through the temple – purchasers and couriers are not, “thieves.” Jesus’ rebuke wasn’t merely for criminal acts; it was for those with a cavalier attitude toward the house of God - who did things in the temple other than what Jesus and His Father had always intended. Jesus rebuked them, “It is written, My house is the house of prayer - Isaiah 56:7, but, Mark 11:17: “**ye have made it a den of thieves**” (“**in YOUR eyes!**” – Jer. 7:11).

15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves

16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

17 And He taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but **ye have made it a den of thieves.**

Mark 11:15-17 The BIBLE

1 The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, Hear the Word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.²

4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

5 For if ye throughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

6 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by My Name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

²6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalms 23:6 The BIBLE

4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His temple.

Psalms 27:4 The BIBLE

11 Is this house, which is called by My Name, become **a den of robbers in YOUR eyes?** Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

12 But go ye now unto My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My Name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of My people Israel.

13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

14 Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by My Name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

15 And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to Me: for I will not hear thee.

17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jeremiah 7:1-17 The BIBLE



How sacred is the House of God in OUR eyes? ‘Has this place become *despised, dishonourable, and disreputable in OUR eyes?*’

30 For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by My Name, to pollute it.

Jeremiah 7:30 The BIBLE

14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Mark 13:14 The BIBLE

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

II Thessalonians 2:3-5 The BIBLE

9 For the zeal of Thine house hath eaten me up ... !

Psalms 69:9a The BIBLE

On July 8, 2020, <https://www.Foxnews.com> ran the following story³ by Caleb Parke (emphases and drop cap added here):

³ <https://www.Foxnews.com/world/china-church-coronavirus-reopen>



China churches ordered to praise Xi Jinping's handling of coronavirus before reopening, watchdog says

Chinese government officials oversee reopening ceremonies requiring churches to raise national flag, sing anthem

Under Chinese Communist Party (CCP) instruction, state-run churches in China say they were required to raise the national flag, sing the anthem, and praise Xi Jinping's handling of the coronavirus pandemic in order to reopen, a watchdog reports.

The Lishiting Catholic Church in the Shunhe district of Kaifeng reopened on June 14 with around 20 people as a priest led the required ceremony supervised by government officials, according to Bitter Winter.

“We solemnly raise the national flag here today after the epidemic, witnessing the fruits of all people working together under the leadership of Xi Jinping who directs the government and the Party,” the priest allegedly said.

On the same day in the same district, a member of the Gangxi Christian Church said its leaders were also instructed to laud Chinese leaders for their handling of the pandemic.

“The church finally reopened after five months, 147 days, or 21 Sundays, but instead of singing hymns to praise God, the government required us to raise the national flag and sing the national anthem, praising Xi Jinping’s ‘victory in fighting the epidemic,’” a congregant shared.

The congregant added, “This is completely contrary to our belief.”

The Two Chinese Christian Councils in Henan, Zhejiang, and other provinces, shared that they were instructed to tell members "moving stories about China's battle with the pandemic."

And a pastor from Quannan Church, the largest Christian church in Quanzhou city in the southeastern province of Fujian, noted that he was told by officials to also criticize the United States for their handling of COVID-19.

The pastor said he was required to promote love for the “socialist system and the Communist Party.”

The United Front Work Department and Religious Affairs Bureau reportedly demanded churches to hold flag-raising ceremonies and promote patriotism, a member said, adding that an official said: “From now on, all churches have to do so, or they will be shut down, and their leaders dismissed.”

Marco Respinti, the director-in-charge of the Italian-based publication Bitter Winter, told Fox News this is another example of the CCP trying to "Sinicize," meaning "everything must become truly Chinese, but what they really mean is that everything must become puppets of the Communist regime ... **even at the cost of obliging people to blasphemous things.**"

Respinti notes other examples of how **the CCP forces churches to remove Christian symbols and replace them with portraits of Xi Jinping.**

And he says religious persecution in the country that is known for violating human rights across the board only worsened by trading freedoms for obedience to the Communist party.

"China used the coronavirus in many ways, in one way for propaganda reasons," Respinti said. "We know the Chinese regime is guilty for the coronavirus, at least in delaying vital information and responsible for thousands of deaths around the world."

"They were saying they were able to defeat the coronavirus," he added. "They sold this lie to the world and also tried to sell the so-called Chinese model offering to help ... **all the while oppressing religious and ethnic groups.**"



8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of Thy house,
and the place where Thine honour dwelleth.

Psalm 26:8 The BIBLE

SO, WHY IS IT

that, while:

- ***the persecuted, zealous Chinese Church is required to mix religion and nationalism, and OBJECTS or REFUSES ...***
- ***the free, complacent North American Church DOES IT VOLUNTARILY and ZEALOUSLY?***

The Western Church even applauds such from the Chinese Church, while themselves failing to follow the Chinese Christians' example in respecting God and His house! Meanwhile, the Chinese Church stands perplexed that the Western Church could be so carnal and worldly!

1) Nationalism in the church sets up two Gods in the House of the Lord!

Because the Chinese Church recognizes that nationalism in the church building sets up TWO gods in the house of God! Protestants are enthusiastic to condemn the setting up of Mary idols, and the worship of Mary, in Catholic places of worship, with the Catholics saying that they merely, "venerate," her. But Protestants welcome into their places of worship, nationalism, and the veneration of leaders, fathers on

Fathers' Day, mothers on Mothers' Day, the military, etc., diluting the worship of God, the reason the church is there in the first place!

a. *Nationalism in Church often involves standing, and singing hymns, to honour and worship the country*

14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, Whose Name Is Jealous, Is a jealous God:

15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

Exodus 34:14-15 The BIBLE

17 **Unto Thee, O my strength, will I sing:** for God Is my defense, and the God of my mercy.

Psalms 59:17 The BIBLE

b. *Nationalism in Church often involves reciting a pledge of allegiance to the State/Country*

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35 Nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Matthew 5:33-37 The BIBLE

12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

James 5:12 The BIBLE

c. *Nationalism in Church often involves honouring, in church, political leaders and/or military members, these, or celebrities, whom we have invited into our church for the specific purpose of honouring them*

We bring politicians, even profane people who would rarely even consider darkening the door of a church, into our churches before elections, to campaign in the very house of God, speaking from the very same pulpit from which the sacred Word of God is preached! We invite them into our midst and place them in auspicious locations in our church building during special occasions to attempt to garner their favour, or with hope that their presence in our midst will secure for us and our church greater respect in the community at large! Or we simply seat in an honoured place a celebrity who happens to wander into our church building some Sunday.

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love Him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy Name by the Which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

James 2:1-10 The BIBLE

7 In that ye have brought into My sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer My bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken My covenant because of all your abominations.

Ezekiel 44:7 The BIBLE

Where has the honouring of God disappeared to? **In church** on Fathers' Day (a day devoted to honouring especially fathers), and mothers on Mothers' Day (a day devoted to honouring especially mothers), etc., **we put aside the honouring of God to honour someone else!** Indeed, honour your parents,⁴ and honour political leaders and military members, who lead and protect you; that is a Biblical command!⁵ But not in church, which is for the honouring of God alone!⁶

⁴ 16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 5:16 The BIBLE

⁵ 1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Romans 13:1-7 The BIBLE

⁶ 13 And (*Jesus*) said unto them, It is written, **My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**

Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46 The BIBLE

16 And (*Jesus*) said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise!

17 And His disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of Thine house hath eaten me up.**

John 2:16-17 The BIBLE

8 I Am the LORD: that is My Name: and **My glory will I not give to another**, neither My praise to graven images.

Isaiah 42:8 The BIBLE

17 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and **THE LORD ALONE shall be exalted** in that day.

Isaiah 2:17 The BIBLE

We spend the entire week doing earthly things; we have so little time each week to come together to worship our Heavenly Father, and to minister to each other; it is **sacrilege** to dilute that time and take away from it for the mere purpose of honouring man! There is a time and place for everything! Do your nationalism and other matters in their own times and in their own places!, and reserve the House of God for its sacred purposes of the precious worship of God, and ministry to His people!⁷ When one seeks to mix the sacred and the earthly, the earthly is inevitably given priority, or simply takes it!

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 The BIBLE

9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:9-13 The BIBLE

17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye Me, ye hypocrites?

19 Shew Me the tribute money. And they brought unto Him a penny.

20 And He saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

21 They say unto Him, Caesar's. Then saith He unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.**

Matthew 22:17-21 The BIBLE

⁷40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

I Corinthians 14:40 The BIBLE

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 The BIBLE

d. Separation of Church and State

In the Bible separation of Church and State is unique to the New Testament. In the Old Testament Israelite nationalism and Godliness were intertwined because the Old Testament Books of the Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) are the history of the development of the Country of the nation of Israel, and the establishment of its Legal Code. The nation of Israel and the worship of God were intertwined; to reject one was to reject also the other; the Old Testament is written about, and to the Jews, the Israelite people (that the New Testament, the universal Gospel of salvation, is written to the Gentiles is the great Mystery of the ages. See, also, *The Foolishness of the mysteries of the Gospel in ANACHRONISM!*

7 But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 **Which none of the princes of this world knew**: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.

I Corinthians 2:7-8 The BIBLE

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Matthew 13:17 The BIBLE

But now, in the New Covenant/Testament, the age of the Gospel of salvation to the Gentiles, salvation and obedience to God is no longer a matter of **national** pursuit and commitment, but of **individual** pursuit and commitment.⁸ Salvation is now granted on a **personal, not a national** level, so, matters and functions of state are no longer the territory of the assembly of God's people, the collection of saved individuals of many nations.⁹ And, for the most part, blessings and punishments on man are bestowed

⁸ Although, in the Old Covenant/Testament disobedience to, or nonparticipation in that Legal Code often meant the forced separation of the guilty party from the Nation of Israel, that didn't necessarily mean the guilty party's damnation. We see this in the lives of Jethro, the priest of Midian, and Melchizedek, the king and priest of Jerusalem. That Spiritual salvation could be through faith and Godliness alone, and outside the Law, was evidenced in them, and in the life of Abraham, the Father of Faith.

⁹ But God's people are of course, as always, commanded by our Heavenly Father to pray for our nation, and our world, and to advocate for a Godly obedience to our leaders, for the sake of a peaceful and orderly society.

7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel ...

Jeremiah 29:7-8b The BIBLE

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

I Timothy 2:1-3 The BIBLE

1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

by God more on a personal level, than nationally. THAT is why we now have separation of Church and State: that separation wasn't devised by atheistic man, but by God Himself, in Scripture passages such as Jeremiah 31:29-34, Matthew 11:13, Luke 16:16, I Corinthians 11:23-26! And that is why we no longer bring the nation into the church building as members on a national level, but individually, on a personal level, inviting individuals to salvation, and making individuals, not the nation, the members of the body of Christ in the local church.

14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I Am married unto you: and I will take you **one of a city, and two of a family**, and I will bring you to Zion:

15 And I will give you pastors according to Mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:14-15 The BIBLE

29 In those days **they shall say no more, The fathers** have eaten a sour grape, and the **children's** teeth are set on edge.

30 But every one shall die **for his own** iniquity: **every man** that eateth the sour grape, **his** teeth shall be set on edge.

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a **New Covenant/Testament** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the **(Old) Covenant/Testament** that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the **Covenant/Testament** that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 31:29-33 The BIBLE

2) Nationalism in the church creates a division between Christians

While loyalty to, prayer for, and a commitment to protect one's fellows, whether family, friends, or nation, are highly admirable and required by our Heavenly Father,¹⁰ nationalism, itself, is a separate, State

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Romans 13:1-7 The BIBLE

¹⁰8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Timothy 5:8 The BIBLE

12 This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:12-14 The BIBLE

religion, worshipping the State, its people, and its culture. It demands devotion and loyalty to the death. And, when mixed with the Church as though it shares a common and equal importance, it thus creates a separation between Christians of that country and Christians of other countries, and the national loyalty can become superior to the relationship between Christian brethren. In fact, the national loyalty can become superior, even, to devotion to the Lord, its adherents being willing to do things in service to their nation that they would never think of doing in service to their God! When Christianity and nationalism are mixed they make the church building the temple of not only God, but of also their nationalism. This is supposedly legitimized by the fact that they have consummated both loyalties in their dual consecrations (to: God, Nation) in the same (church) building! The house of God is now the temple of TWO gods!

47 Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto Thy holy Name, and to triumph in Thy praise.

Psalms 106:47 The BIBLE

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

II Corinthians 6:14-18 The BIBLE

The Christian's home and country is in heaven, not earth.

9 By faith he (*Abraham*) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:9-10 The BIBLE

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 11:11-16 The BIBLE

- But one should also recognize that, in the context of John 15:12-14, Jesus was speaking of the friendship between Himself and His disciples, and of that between Believers.

We, as Christians, are not at home here on earth; we are a different people from all the others here, the people of this world! It should not be comfortable for us here!

14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself **a peculiar people**, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:14 The BIBLE

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:

I Peter 2:9 The BIBLE

3) Nationalism in church dilutes the worship of God and the ministry of God to His people!

A Godly nationalism for one's own earthly country is good and to be expected. But it must not be pursued in the church, which is intended only for the worship of God, and the ministry to His people! And nationalism must only ever be inferior to one's devotion to the Lord and His people! In church, anything that brings a separation between brethren is to be avoided, and delayed until one gets home.

17 Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

21 For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

...

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

I Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-34 The BIBLE

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

1 Corinthians 14:12-25 The BIBLE

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

James 2:1-9 The BIBLE

But the New Testament is a new contract between God and man (Jeremiah 31, I Corinthians 11), no longer centered around a nation or the collective. It is now offered freely and individually to all men everywhere, regardless of race or nationality. It transcends borders and nations and unites in one all those who call Christ Lord. The trouble arises when one seeks to return to that Old Testament cove-

nant, confusing, fusing, and intertwining Old Testament Judaistic nationalism with the New Testament Spiritual body of Christ: confusing the Old Testament with the New!

So now, in the New Testament, Jesus separated those two concepts: membership in an earthly nation, and membership in a Spiritual nation, two inherently different and separate things! Membership in a nation of man is by physical, first birth; membership in God's nation is by Spiritual, second birth: being Born Again.

The New Testament places extreme importance upon the unity of God's people, as one people! Scripture now establishes that any separation between Christians is something inherently and deeply evil! In fact, we are commanded in the New Testament to expel from our midst anyone who would dare to create division in the Church body!

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.**

18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Romans 16:16-18 The BIBLE

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, **whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,**

5 **Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds,** and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.**

I Timothy 6:3-5 The BIBLE

An attempt to bring into the Church the worship of the State creates a separation between the Christians in that church body, and anyone not from that same State/Nation! A flag, a national anthem, a war memorial in the church drives a wedge between one Christian and another not of that same nation! So for the sake of unity also, nationalism, while perhaps fine outside the Church, must therefore be kept totally out of the Church of God! Christians' first-most important nation and loyalty is that of the kingdom of heaven.

11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of **African descent**, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am **American**; and I **Israeli**; and I **Brazilian**; and I **Arab**.

13 Is Christ **American**? was **an Englishman** crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of **the Filipines**?

I Corinthians 1:11-13 The BIBLE

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an **holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:

10 **Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

I Peter 2:9-10 The BIBLE

Let's not cheapen the House of God, our worship in it, nor our relationships with and ministry to our fellow Christians, by diluting it all in church by our nationalism! For GOD's sake, literally, and for the sake of our FELLOW CHRISTIANS, let's do our nationalism OUTSIDE THE CHURCH!

Church is for the worship of God, NOT the worship of the State or its people. Mixing the two establishes the worship of two gods.

14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, Whose Name is Jealous, Is a jealous God:

15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

Exodus 34:14-15 The BIBLE

30 For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by My Name, to pollute it.

Jeremiah 7:30 The BIBLE

14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and **polluted the house of the LORD** which He had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because He had compassion on His people, and ON HIS DWELLING PLACE:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His Words, and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

II Chronicles 36:14-16 The BIBLE

11 For Mine own sake, even for Mine own sake, will I do it: for how should My Name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Isaiah 48:11 The BIBLE

15 ... that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Timothy 3:15 The BIBLE