

Kingdom Now's 9.5 Theses:

1. Despite its thoroughly religious character, the United States has never had any pretension of allegiance to Jesus and to his will for establishing a kingdom here on Earth (Mt 6:10). Thus, the United States of America is not the Kingdom of God, nor did it ever have any special place – as a nation -- in that Kingdom.
2. The supreme principle of America is not Christianity's love for Yahweh and neighbor, but rather personal liberty. The United States has thus created an idol for itself, one that is quite distinct from the triune God of the Christian faith and one whose name would demand the battlefield sacrifice of thousands of young American lives.
3. Over the last 150 years, a religion has been forming around this American idol, a religion that astute scholars have called the "American Civil Religion." This religion is marked by its rituals (pledging allegiance, voting, registering for the draft, etc.), as well as its holy days (The fourth of July, Memorial Day, etc.).
4. The people of God in the United States have therefore been called to reject this idolatrous religion of the State and the "pride" that energizes it, for such nationalistic pride is incompatible with our calling to follow Jesus's example of humility, "considering others better than ourselves" (Phil. 2:3).
5. We, the Church in the United States, have also been deceived about the way in which Yahweh's blessing is poured out; namely., economic wealth is rarely a sign of God's blessing. The nation of the United States with its wealth -- especially relative to the rest of the world – must therefore be regarded by the Church with caution for money is a powerful force and one that easily can become a false god (cf. Mt 6:24).
6. Despite the fact that the United States has never been truly democratic (the power has always rested primarily in the hands of the wealthy), God's people must remember that democracy – even in its purest incarnation -- is not the modus operandi of the Kingdom of God, for our sovereign and omnipotent King Yahweh loves all people and thus has a special concern for the marginalized minority (cf. Lk. 4:16-20).
7. We, the Church, who have been called by Jesus to an even higher standard than that of the Old Testament (Mt. 5:38-42), must resist American military initiatives of retaliatory rage that seek to be increasingly destructive, for we cannot both love Yahweh and hatefully destroy other human beings (I Jn. 4:20). Although we share Jesus's longing for justice, we must recognize in humility that our pursuit of justice must be subordinated to our faithfulness in following Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
8. Indeed, faithfulness to Jesus and to the building of his Kingdom is our primary calling, and we can no longer adulterously serve two masters: Jesus and the United States. Today more than ever, God's people in the United States need to hear the words of Jesus: "Repent! (Change your ways!) For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."
9. If we humble ourselves before Yahweh, confessing our sins of idolatry, pride and greed, the blood of Jesus will cleanse us, even from the blood on our hands from the lives that we have taken to appease our idols (liberty, wealth and the United States).
- 9.5. May the Kingdom come and the will of Yahweh be done "on Earth as it is in Heaven"...

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