

Christian Nationalism

How James Talarico is befuddling
a powerful political force
in the United States

July 2026



Agenda

- History / Trends
- Defining Christian Nationalism
- Defining Christianity
- How CN is impacting America today
- The 2026 Texas Senate Race
- What can we do?

Hold questions
until the end

The Great Awakenings

Four historic waves of Protestant revival that reshaped American faith — and a possible fifth emerging today



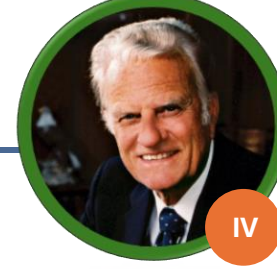
Jonathan Edwards



Charles G. Finney



Dwight L. Moody



Billy Graham



Charlie Kirk

FIRST

1730s–1740s

First Great Awakening

Edwards & Whitefield spark emotional, personal conversion — challenging established church authority.



SECOND

1790s–1840s

Second Great Awakening

Frontier camp revivals fuel reform (abolition, temperance) and an activist evangelical culture.



THIRD

1850s–1900s

Third Great Awakening

Urban revivalism and the Social Gospel; surging missions and faith-driven social activism.



FOURTH*

1960s–1970s

Fourth Great Awakening

The modern evangelical & charismatic movement rises — and the religious right is politicized.



FIFTH?*

2020s–2030s

A Fifth Awakening?

Today's surge of Christian nationalism, online faith, and mobilized evangelicalism — a possible revival.



SOURCES

1. Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Great Awakening" (britannica.com).
2. History.com (A&E Networks), "Great Awakening: First, Second & Definition."
3. Robert W. Fogel, *The Fourth Great Awakening and the Future of Egalitarianism* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2000).
4. Khan Academy, "The Great Awakening," U.S. History.

The Great Awakenings

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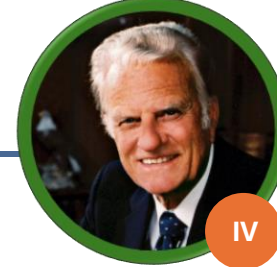
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Most
Americans
(62%)
identify as
Christian

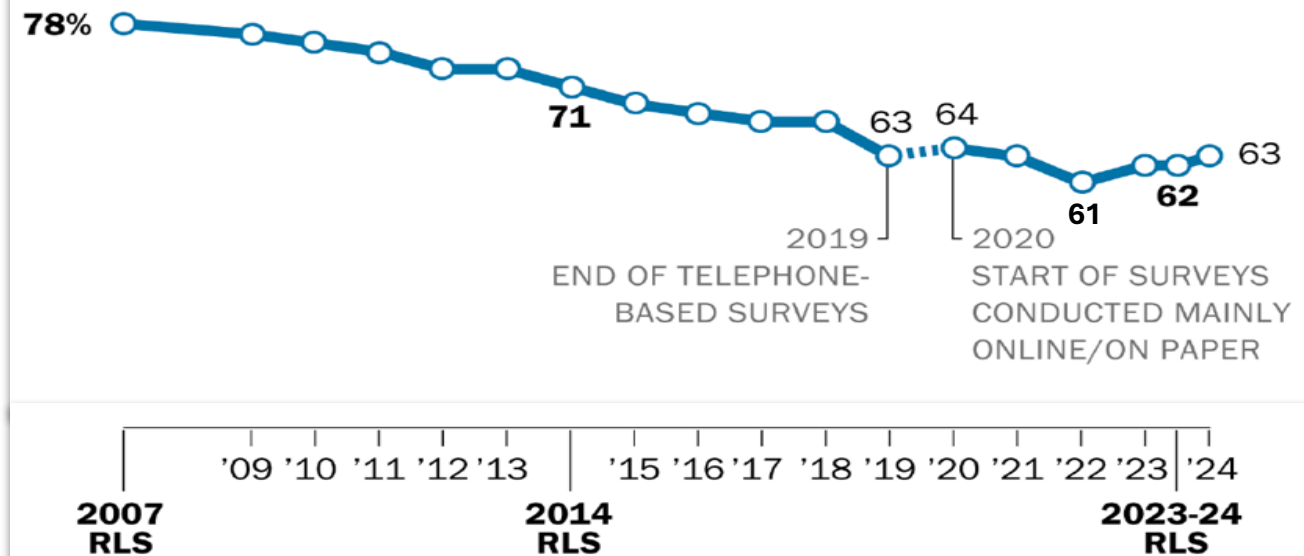
Decline has
slowed in
the last 5
years

Decline of Christianity in the U.S. Has Slowed, May Have Levelled Off

Findings from the 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study

After years of decline, the Christian share of the U.S. population stabilizes

% of U.S. adults who identify as Christian



Note: The 2007, 2014 and 2023-24 data comes from Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Studies. Other estimates come from the Center's random-digit-dial telephone surveys (until 2019), and from the Center's annual National Public Opinion Reference Survey (since 2020).

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

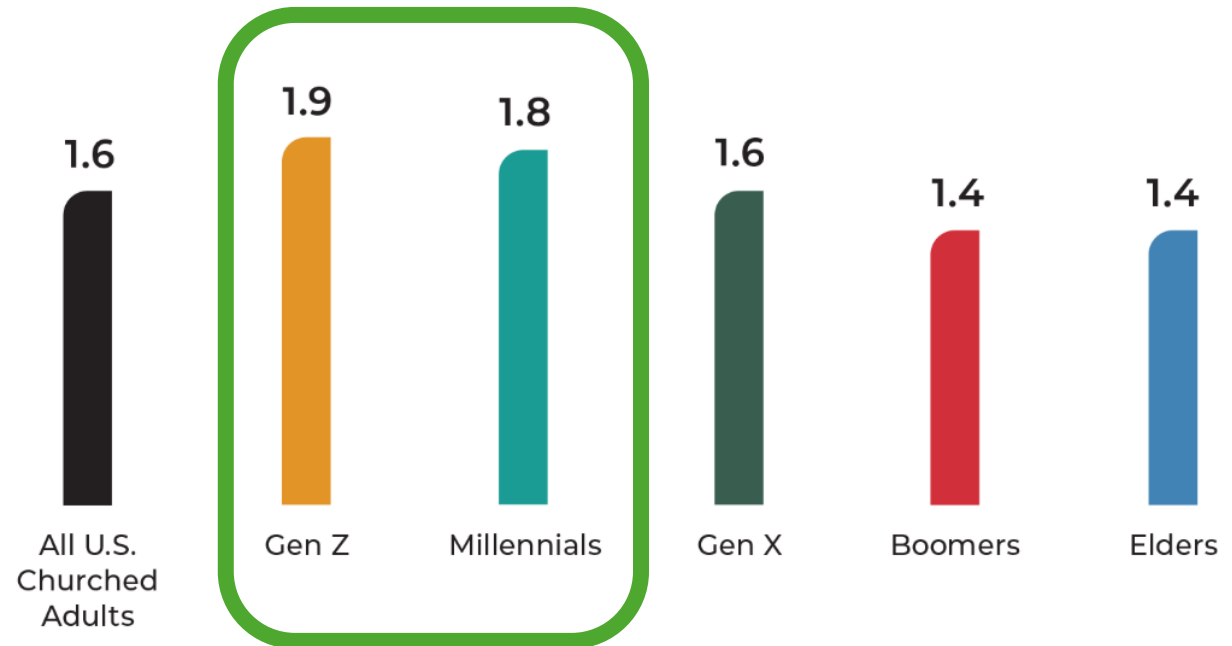
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Who is going to Church?

STATE OF THE CHURCH

Barna

Number of Weekends U.S. Churchgoers Attend Church Per Month, 2025



n=3,579 U.S. Adults, January to July 2025.

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What is Christian Nationalism?

The belief that
Christianity and
American national
identity should be
closely linked.

*(uhh... what about
freedom of religion?
Separation of church and
state??)*

Who is promoting Christian Nationalism?

Here are some....



Douglas Wilson



Pete Hegseth



Russell Vought



Paula White-Cain

Diversity?

Why do I think Christian Nationalism is a Concern?

- Not Christian
- Not American values



What do Christian Nationalists believe?



The moral teachings
of Christianity
benefit the nation.

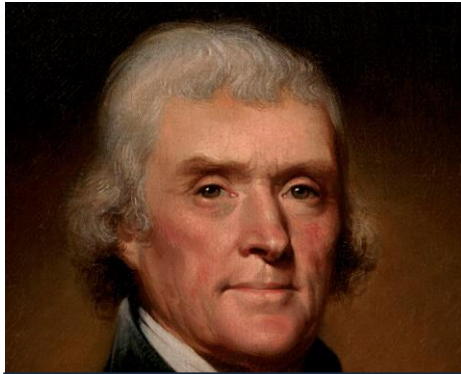
Christian values are
essential to a healthy
society.

America's founding
was deeply
influenced by
Christianity.

SIDEBAR:

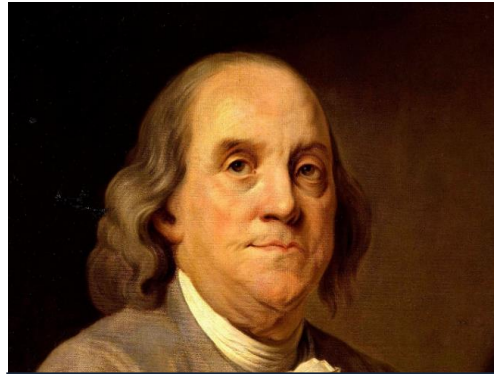
What were the Founding Fathers' Beliefs?

Authors of the Declaration of Independence



Deist

Thomas Jefferson



Deist

Ben Franklin

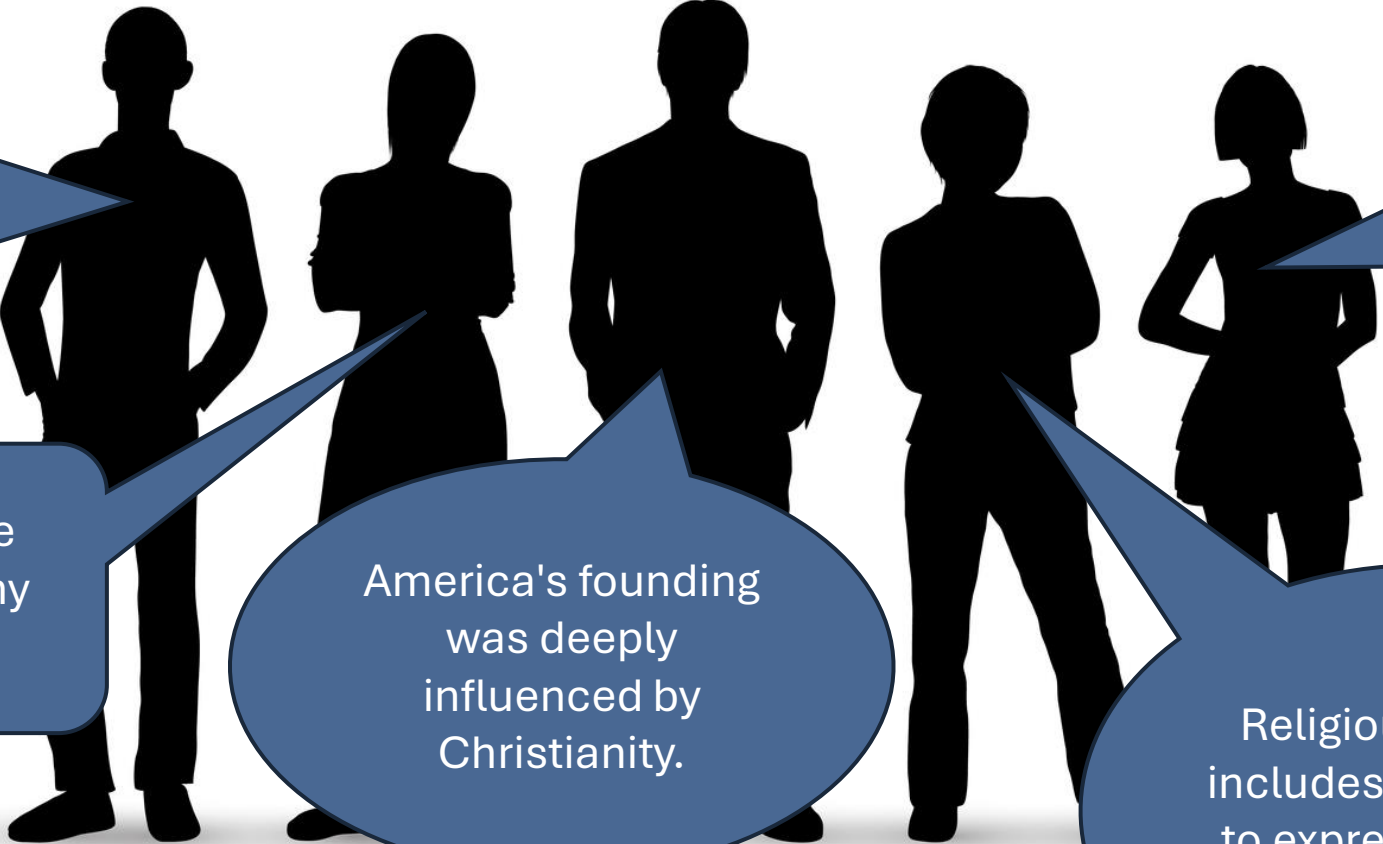


Unitarian

John Adams

UNITARIANS are broadly characterized by their rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity (the belief in one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in favor of the "unity" or singular nature of God

What do Christian Nationalists believe?



The moral teachings of Christianity benefit the nation.

Christian values are essential to a healthy society.

America's founding was deeply influenced by Christianity.

Religious freedom includes the freedom to express Christian beliefs publicly.

Faith should not be pushed out of the public square.



The pastor (Doug Wilson) who wants to repeal voting rights for women is becoming more mainstream

Leiila Fidel, NPR



03:08 / 41:05



Doug Wilson Interview Summary

- The United States should be a Christian theocracy and have a Christian Constitution
- Women shouldn't generally have the right to vote
- Only women who are head of households should have the right to vote
- Non-Christians can't run for office and perhaps not vote
- Same sex marriage should be outlawed
- No protections for LGBTQ+
- Homosexuality should be a crime
- "Public square belongs to Christ"

Who has the power in this scenario?

Straight, white, Christian men

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

What did Jesus teach?

2 commandments ...not 10

1

37 Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

2

39 And the second is like it: ‘**Love your neighbor** as yourself.’

40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

-- *Matthew 22:37-40*

How Nations will be Judged

- ³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the ^[a]holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’
- ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’



1. **Feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty** — meet people's most basic physical needs.
2. **Welcome the stranger** — show hospitality to outsiders and the displaced.
3. **Clothe those who lack clothing** — provide for the poor.
4. **Care for the sick** — tend to those who are ill.
5. **Visit those in prison** — show up for the imprisoned and forgotten.

What are Jesus's instructions?

How to Treat Your Enemies

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you".

Matthew 5:44 (NIV)

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you".

Luke 6:27 (NIV)

A blurred background image of a business meeting. Several people in professional attire are gathered around a table. One person is holding a smartphone, another is holding a tablet displaying a document with charts. There are white coffee cups on the table. The overall scene suggests a collaborative work environment.

How does Christian
Nationalism
translate into
action and policy?

CN Don't Follow Jesus's Teachings in Policy

Defense

Healthcare

SNAP

Immigration

Defense

The war in Iran is a holy war...



Independent Global News

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Report: U.S. Commander Told Troops “Trump Has Been Anointed by Jesus” to Wage War on Iran

HEADLINE MAR 04, 2026

You mean Armageddon?



Defense – Love Your Enemy?

Pete Hegseth Prays for Destruction of the Enemy



SNAP – Taking Care of the Least of These?

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

*Millions lose SNAP benefits
as One Big Beautiful Bill's Stricter
Requirements Kick in*

- **3.5 million people nationwide** have lost SNAP benefits.
- **Every state** has seen enrollment declines, with some (like Arizona) dropping **over 50%**.
- Recipients report going **months with no benefits**, cutting meals.

HEALTHCARE

Care of the Sick?



“Big Beautiful Bill” Harms Medicare, Medicaid, ACA



Historic coverage losses due ACA subsidy cuts

14–17 million more Americans are projected to be uninsured by 2034 —cutting over \$1 trillion from health programs.



Medicaid — biggest cut ever (~\$900B+)

New 80-hour/month work requirements, twice-yearly eligibility re-verifications, and restrictions on state provider taxes are expected to push ~7.5 million people off Medicaid



Medicare insolvency pressure

The law accelerates insolvency of Medicare's hospital trust fund and, absent further congressional action, triggers automatic PAYGO cuts of ~\$500 billion (2026–2034),



Strain on providers and rural care.

Reduced Medicaid financing and higher uninsured rates threaten rural and safety-net facilities.

IMMIGRATION – Welcome the Stranger?

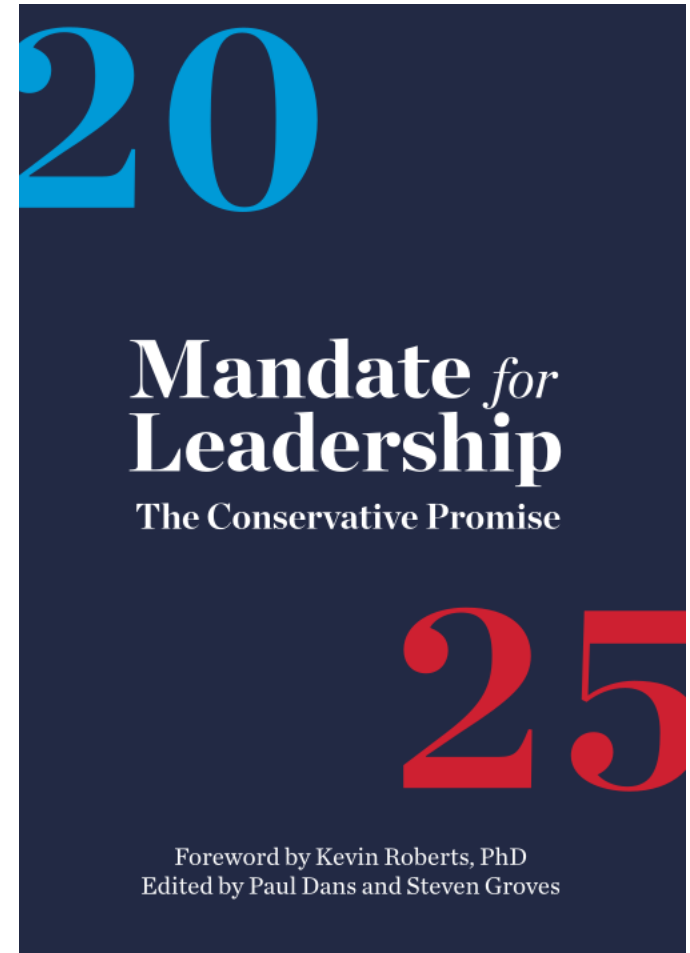
ICE in our
neighborhoods



PROJECT 2025

4 Pillars based on Christian Nationalism positions

1. Restore the family as the centerpiece of American life and protect our children.
2. Dismantle the administrative state and return self-governance to the American people.
3. Defend our nation's sovereignty, borders, and bounty against global threats.
4. Secure our God-given individual rights to live freely — what our Constitution calls "the Blessings of Liberty."



Foreword: A Promise to America by Kevin D. Roberts, PhD

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What's New? Religious Liberty Commission

REPORT DELIVERED JUNE 26, 2026

Most Controversial Positions

- 12-member panel consisted of 11 Christians and 1 Orthodox Jew.
 - Faiths not represented: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, mainline protestants, black protestants, orthodox Christians and progressive Christians.
- Repeal the Johnson Amendment (1954) and recommend IRS stop enforcing it
 - Allows houses of worship to support political campaigns and keep nonprofit status.
- Commission Chair says separation of church and state is “a lie”
 - First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”
 - Establishment Clause and Exercise Clause

Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick



Deadline: Monday, July 13, 2026. Comments may be emailed to RLC@usdoj.gov.

Do Americans support Christian Nationalism?

- One-third of Americans qualify as Christian nationalism Adherents (11%) or Sympathizers (21%)
- Two-thirds who qualify as Skeptics (37%) or Rejecters (27%).

In Red States:
14% Adherents
24% Sympathizers

Trump supporters:
21% Adherents
34% Sympathizers^[39]



Survey Reports > Christian Nationalism

Mapping Christian Nationalism Across the 50 States: Insights from
PR's 2025 American Values Atlas

Christian Nationalism



Topline



Press Release

Agenda

- Trends
- Defining Christian Nationalism
- Defining Christianity
- How CN is impacting America today
- The 2026 Texas Senate Race
- What can we do?

The Texas Senate Race



About James Talarico

- 37 years old
- From Round Rock, north of Austin
- Masters Degree in Education Policy from Harvard
- Masters of Arts in Theological Studies from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- Middle School teacher in San Antonio
- Served 8 years in the Texas House of Representatives



A video frame featuring three men. On the left is a man with short brown hair wearing a dark suit and white shirt. In the center is an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a dark jacket. On the right is a man with short brown hair wearing a light-colored shirt. The background shows a city skyline with tall buildings and greenery. A blue rectangular text box is overlaid on the right side of the frame.

This video describes the fundamental principles of Talarico's campaign

TEXAS FIGHTS BACK

45:57 – 48:30

Christianity Applied to Policy

Jesus' Teaching	Policy Area	What Jesus Would Do
Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty <i>Matthew 25:35</i>	SNAP / Food Assistance	Protect and expand food aid so no child or family goes hungry..
Clothe those who lack clothing; provide for the poor <i>Matthew 25:36; Luke 12:33</i>	Economy	Order the economy to lift the poor first — fair wages and care for the vulnerable
Care for the sick <i>Matthew 25:36</i>	Healthcare	Make healing available to everyone, especially the poorest.
Welcome the stranger <i>Matthew 25:35</i>	Immigration	Receive migrants and refugees with dignity and hospitality. “You were once strangers” — protect the displaced rather than turn them away.
Visit those in prison <i>Matthew 25:36</i>	Voting Rights / Justice	Stand with the marginalized and voiceless. Defend the dignity and full participation of those society overlooks or excludes.
Blessed are the peacemakers; love your enemies <i>Matthew 5:9, 5:44</i>	War in Iran / Defense	Pursue peace over violence and restraint over escalation — reconciliation with enemies rather than their destruction.

THE RIGHT FIGHTS BACK WITH INSULTS: “ALPHA” VS. IDEAS

“THIS 60-SECOND CLIP EXPLAINS MAGA”

David Pakman Show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXzSkWCZx1E>



Response to
being called
“Low T”

**JAMES TALARICO ON WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE A REAL MAN**



no one is **watching.**

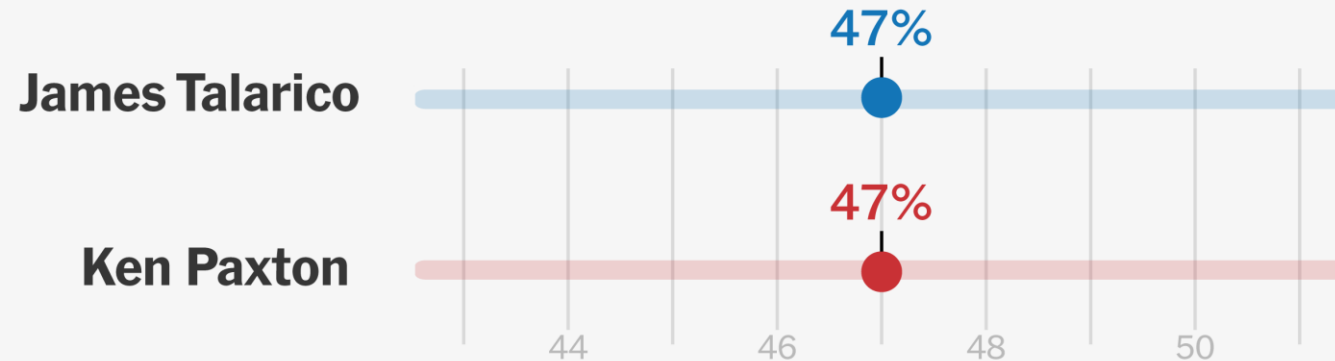
James Talarico's Message is Popular in Texas

THE NEW YORK TIMES/SIENA POLL

June 19-27

If this November's general election for U.S. Senate were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were

James Talarico and **Ken Paxton**?



Among likely voters in Texas. Shaded areas represent the margin of error.

SUMMARY

Christian Nationalism is a very strong political force in the U.S.

About 1/3 of Americans “adhere” or “sympathize” with CN

CN Nationalist Leaders want a Christian Constitution

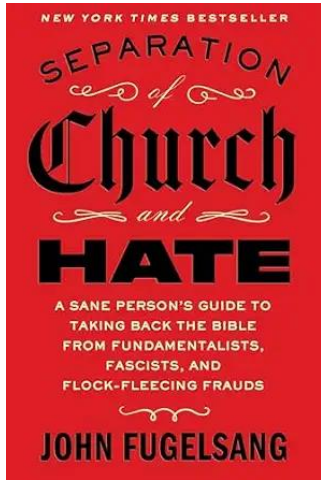
Alternatives to CN are showing up in the Texas Senate race

Jame Talarico’s message is popular in Texas

Is CN an attempt to consolidate power among straight, white, male Christians?

WHAT CAN WE DO

Learn more



[John Fugelsang](#)
Actor and comedian



Andra Watkins
Substack: Why Project 2025
Will Ruin Your Life

[Project 2025 Tracker – Home](#)
www.project2025.observer/en

TALARICO
★ FOR TEXAS ★

<https://jamestalarico.com/>

Email comments on
the Report for
Religious Liberty
to RLC@usdoj.gov.

Should we try to disarm the Christian Nationalists? If so how?