

In preparation for today's NO KINGS rally I wanted to be able to answer the question "Why was I there." Turns out the explanation is longer than a 30 second sound bite.

In summary: A Stand Against Fascism, Authoritarianism, and Christian Nationalism

Let's begin by remembering an earlier Fight Against Fascism

During World War II, 400,000 American patriots gave their lives to stop the rise of fascism and authoritarianism in Europe and across the world.

That is patriotism.

It is the same patriotism that brings many of us here today: to take a stand against the same threats that our forefathers fought nearly a century ago. They were the original **anti-fascists**, and now, it's our time to take up the same fight.

Democracy is at Risk

America is still a democracy—for now.

We still have the power to elect our representatives.

But that power is being undermined.

Since the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision in 2010, corporations and special interest groups have had unlimited power to financially influence elections.

Billionaires—not voters—are shaping our political choices.

Consider this:

- Mark Zuckerberg owns Meta.
- Jeff Bezos owns Amazon **and** the Washington Post.
- Elon Musk owns X (formerly Twitter).
- The Murdoch family owns Fox News.
- And now fundings has been cut to PBS – opposing views are being silenced.

These billionaires own the media we consume—and the decisions we make at the ballot box. Unsurprisingly, the choices they promote benefit them, not us.

This leads us to the Wealth Divide: Wages and Taxation

Let's look at the numbers.

- **Minimum wage** has remained **\$7.25/hour** since 2012.
- Meanwhile:
 - Elon Musk's wealth grew from \$2 B to **\$495 B**
 - Jeff Bezos: \$18 B to **\$233 B**
 - Mark Zuckerberg: \$17 B to **\$245 B**

All while everyday Americans struggle with the rising costs of healthcare, housing, food, insurance—and we continue to pay for a ballooning national debt.

In this country, we **tax income, not wealth**.

And the billionaires have made sure it stays that way.

They've rigged the system by buying political influence.

While the working class is **taxed into poverty**,

the ultra-wealthy **hoard their untaxed fortunes**.

We are taxed on:

- Our wages
- Our purchases
- Our personal property such as homes and cars

But the rich are not taxed on their increasing wealth.

This isn't just unfair—it's **unsustainable**. And it's why we must stop electing politicians—of **any** party—who are no longer working in the best interest of the people.

We are kept Distractions by Culture Wars

While billionaires consolidate power and wealth,
they keep us fighting over **culture war issues**—like abortion and immigration.

Why? Because if we're divided, we won't unite to challenge them.
While we argue, **they profit**.

This manipulation is not accidental. It's **strategic**.
And it's time we started seeing through it.

Absolute Authority is Absolutely Dangerous

Recently, I had a conversation with someone I'd call a **Christian nationalist**—an evangelical fundamentalist who believes morality and truth are absolute, rooted only in the Bible.

But here's the reality:

- Christianity has never had a fully agreed-upon set of truths.
- There are over **450 English translations** of the Bible.
- More than **30,000 Christian denominations**.
- Centuries of theological disagreement, from the Great Schism to the Reformation.

So how can we possibly expect 340 million people—with different cultures, languages, and lived experiences—to all agree on a single, **rigid** definition of truth or morality?

The answer is: **we can't**.

Truth, morality, values, and even our understanding of God—these are **personal, individual, and contextual**. Attempts to impose “absolute” religious truths on everyone result in **division, not unity**.

And yet, Christian nationalism does just that—using religion not to bring people closer to God, but to **judge, shame, and exclude** those who are different.

That is **not** Christian love.
It's **not** the way of Jesus.

On to Christian Nationalism

Let's be clear:

The United States **has never been** a Christian nation.

Our founding fathers knew the dangers of merging church and state. That's why they kept them separate.

Christian nationalism today is not about Christ.

It's about **power, wealth, and control**—wrapped in the language of faith.

If we want to claim to be a Christian nation, we should start by living out **Matthew 25:40**:

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

That means:

- Caring for the poor
- Welcoming immigrants
- Supporting the sick
- Defending the vulnerable

None of which is being demonstrated by those pushing Christian nationalism today.

And what version of Christianity do they want to impose?

- The one that justified slavery?
- That denied women the right to vote?
- That persecutes LGBTQ+ people?
- That called Black Lives Matter "heresy"?
- That silenced women in ministry?

Christian nationalism in America is tied to **colonialism, racism, oppression, and white supremacy**.

It is **not Christ-like**.

It is **not humble**.

It is **not loving**.

And it is driving people **away** from the Church—not toward it.

We Need Something Better

We don't need Christian nationalism.

We don't need absolute religious authority that denies diversity and empathy.

What we need is a society where:

- Atheists, Agnostics, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians can work together,
- Where we respect our differences,
- Where we protect the vulnerable,
- And we build something stronger—rooted in compassion, not conquest.

That's the world I want to live in.

That's the country I am fighting for.

Some Final Thought

If we truly want to follow Christ, let's follow His example:

Not with domination, but with **service**.

Not with condemnation, but with **love**.

Not with greed, but with **generosity**.

Not with nationalism, but with **humility**.

The fight against fascism, authoritarianism, and fake religiosity is not new.

Our ancestors fought it before.

And now, **it's our turn**.