"More, however, is demanded. The infidel demands that the government should be conducted on the principle that Christianity is false. The atheist demands that it should be conducted on the assumption that there is no God, and the positivist on the principle that men are not free agents. The sufficient answer to all this is, that it cannot possibly be done."



= it's impossible → chaos

"The Demands of Infidels are Unjust. The demands of those who require that religion, and especially Christianity, should be ignored in our national, state, and municipal laws, are not only unreasonable, but they are in the highest degree unjust and tyrannical."



= it's tyranny → oppression

- **What about "Christian Nationalism"?**

    - Hard to define…
    - Some in the CN movement clearly are *not* Christians
    - Legitimate debate about *godly* aims & methods…
    - Nations *should* be Christian

Conclusion

- Next week = **given where we are, what are Christian people to do now?**

- Exhortation: **keep the Gospel in perspective** – only *Christ* can save people… and form Christian families, churches and nations

Nations – what can hold a nation together?

Deuteronomy 6:1-15

Questions

- What does it mean to be English (as opposed to Welsh… or Italian... or…)?

Acknowledgements

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1. Inadequate: a shared set of "values"

- **What?**
  e.g. "British Values" = democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

  = a "propositional" or "creedal": low-level beliefs, voluntary membership

  = most modern western democracies… AND *very, very new*

- **Why?**
  = "coping mechanism for social and cultural fragmentation caused by… demographic transformation (not to mention the sheer population growth and size that pushes the boundary of national identity)" Joe Rigney

- **Evaluation**
  Stems from hatred of own nation, shared culture, & family/church/nation

  Wrong tolerance? what about people who disagree with these values? – e.g. progressives, Muslims

  Weakness? it cannot "glue" a people together

2. Necessary: common story & culture = a sense of "us"

- **= includes shared history** (both the good and the bad)
  e.g. Deuteronomy 6:12

- **= and a shared culture**

  What about language?

  What about multiculturalism?

3. Christ… and a Christian nation

- **Why?**
  Christ is Lord of all… and says we must love Him with our all (Deut. 6:5)

- **What?**
  a national life and culture
  = rituals…

  lifestyle…

  stories…

  catechisms

  … built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and the Word of God

- **Result?**
  Unity… and Diversity… and Peace

  Warning: no perfectly Christian nation this side of glory

- **Illustration: it's a Christian nation… OR it's chaos / oppression**

Charles Hodge (d. 1878) – Princeton Seminary, USA

> *"When Protestant Christians came to this country they possessed and subdued the land. They worshipped God, and his Son Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world, and acknowledged the Scriptures to be the rule of their faith and practice. They introduced their religion into their families, their schools, and their colleges. They abstained from all ordinary business on the Lord's Day, and devoted it to religion. They built churches, erected school-houses, and taught their children to read the Bible and to receive and obey it as the word of God. They formed themselves as Christians into municipal and state organizations. They acknowledged God in their legislative assemblies. They prescribed oaths to be taken in his name. They closed their courts, their places of business, their legislatures, and all places under the public control, on the Lord's Day. They declared Christianity to be part of the common law of the land."*

⟹ = recognisably Christian nation

> *"In the process of time thousands have come among us, who are neither Protestants nor Christians. Some are papists, some Jews, some infidels, and some atheists. All are welcomed; all are admitted to equal rights and privileges. All are allowed to acquire property, and to vote in every election, made eligible to all offices*, and invested with equal influence in all public affairs. All are allowed to worship as they please, or not to worship at all, if they see fit. No man is molested for his religion or for his want of religion. No man is required to profess any form of faiths or to join any religious association. More than this cannot reasonably be demanded."*

* Note: in 1776 some US States did have religious tests for office

⟹ = Considerable toleration. But…