

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY: ATTITUDES TOWARD DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

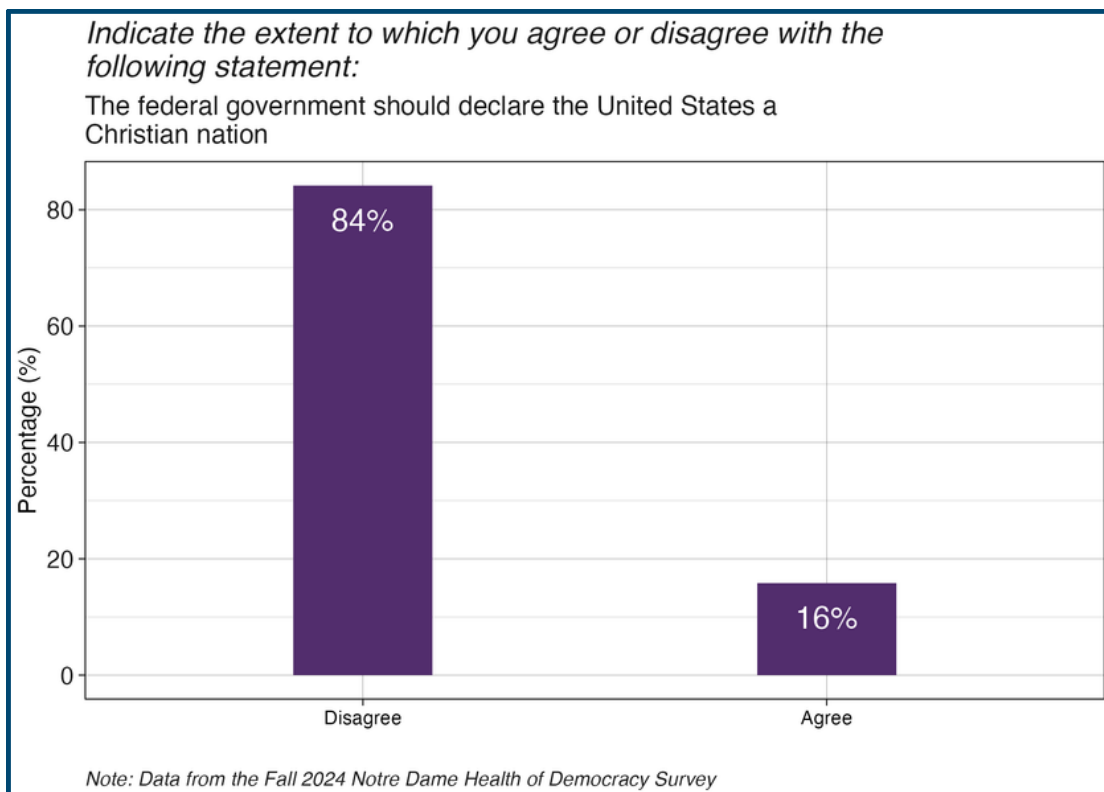
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Christian nationalism, or the idea that the United States should be declared a Christian nation, is a growing ideology in American politics. Its increasing influence raises important questions about how Christian Nationalists view key democratic principles. In this report, we examine the attitudes of Christian Nationalists—Americans who support the notion that the U.S. should be declared a Christian nation—toward two fundamental democratic norms: universal voting rights and respect for democratic representation.

The Prevalence of Christian Nationalists

Christian nationalism represents a defining belief for 16% of our sample—**nearly one in six Americans—who believe that the United States should be declared a Christian nation**. While the majority (84%) of respondents reject this view, the presence of a sizable minority supporting Christian nationalism suggests a growing divide in the way Americans envision the role of religion in public life.

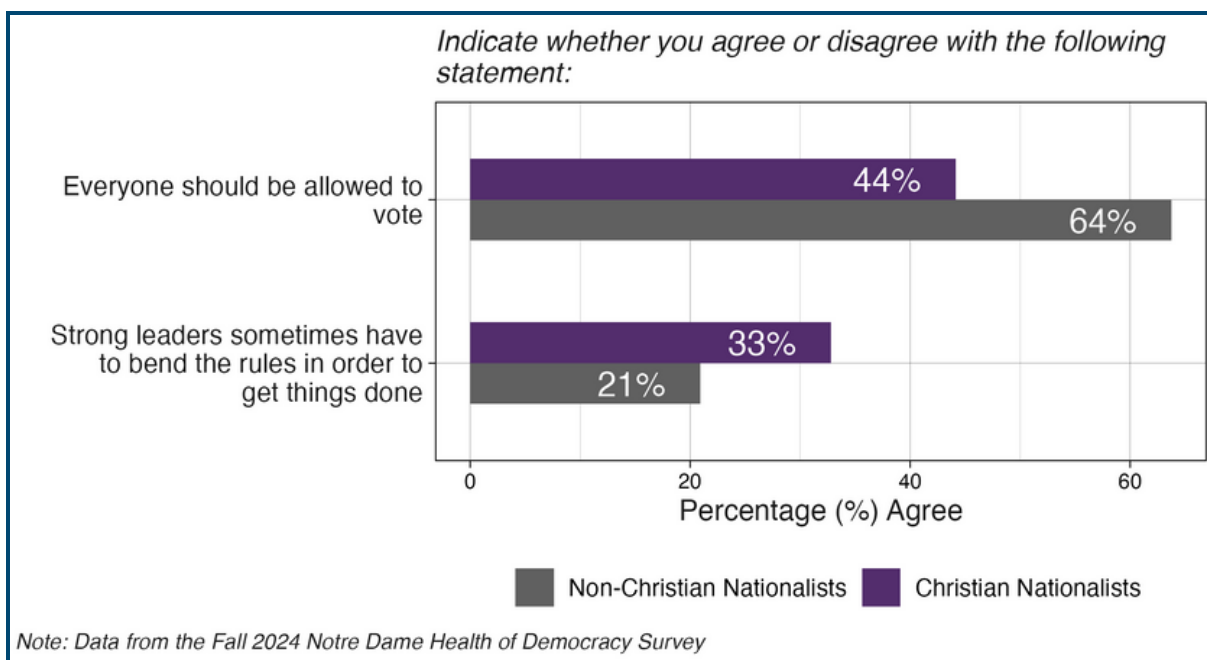


As we explore next, Christian Nationalists' beliefs have profound implications for the future of democracy. Their views on democratic principles contrast sharply with widely accepted norms of inclusion, representation, and pluralism.

Christian Nationalists' Anti-Democratic Attitudes

When asked about the fundamental democratic principle of universal suffrage, a notable divide emerges between Christian Nationalists and non-Christian Nationalists. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the statement that "everyone should be allowed to vote." Among Christian Nationalists, **only 44% agreed with this democratic norm**, revealing a significant gap compared to the **64% of non-Christian Nationalists who support universal voting rights**. Christian Nationalists may be less inclined to support broad democratic participation, raising questions about their commitment to inclusive democratic practices.

A second key indicator of democratic attitudes taps into respondents' feelings toward the violation of democratic representation. **33% of Christian Nationalists support a strong leader bending the rules to get things done**, while only **21% of non-Christian Nationalists support this breach of democratic representation**. Christian Nationalists' higher tolerance for bending democratic norms in favor of a strong leader signals a potential acceptance of authoritarian practices. In contrast, non-Christian nationalists show greater alignment with democratic principles that emphasize checks on power and respect for democratic processes.



The insights from the Fall 2024 Health of Democracy Survey highlight a concerning trend: Christian Nationalists not only advocate for a distinct vision of America's religious identity but also exhibit anti-democratic tendencies that challenge fundamental democratic norms, such as inclusivity in voting and respect for democratic leadership processes. While most Americans continue to support democratic values, the significant minority that espouses Christian nationalism may present challenges to democratic norms, particularly in areas of voter inclusion and leadership accountability. Understanding the views of this group and how they diverge from broader democratic principles is essential for assessing the future of democratic health in the United States.