# Russell Vought On Christian Nationalism

**Highlights:**

* Russell Vought defended Christian nationalism.
  + Vought argued that Christianity should influence government policy.
  + Vought was influenced in his Christian nationalist views by extremist William Wolfe, an opponent of marriage equality and no-fault divorce.

## Vought Defended Christian Nationalism

### Vought Defended Christian Nationalism, Arguing Christianity Should Influence Government Policy

**Vought Said Christian Nationalism “Recognizes America As A Christian Nation” And Christianity Should Influence Government.** According to an op-ed by Russell Vought in Newsweek, “My own definition of ‘Christian nationalism’ would be this: An orientation for engaging in the public square that recognizes America as a Christian nation, where our rights and duties are understood to come from God and where our primary responsibilities as citizens are for building and preserving the strength, prosperity and health of our own country. It is a commitment to an institutional separation between church and state, but not the separation of Christianity from its influence on government and society. It is a belief that our participation in the political system can lead to beneficial outcomes for our own communities, as well as individuals of all faiths.” [Newsweek, Op-ed – Russell Vought, [3/22/21](https://www.newsweek.com/there-anything-actually-wrong-christian-nationalism-opinion-1577519)]

**Vought Said Christian Nationalism Was “A Rather Benign And Useful Description.”** According to an op-ed by Russell Vought in Newsweek, “This debate is important, though—once stripped of its superimposed liberal scar tissue, ‘Christian nationalism’ is actually a rather benign and useful description for those who believe in both preserving our country's Judeo-Christian heritage and making public policy decisions that are best for this country. The term need not be subjected to such intense scorn due to misunderstanding or slander.” [Newsweek, Op-ed – Russell Vought, [3/22/21](https://www.newsweek.com/there-anything-actually-wrong-christian-nationalism-opinion-1577519)]

### Vought Was Influenced In His Christian Nationalist Views By Extremist William Wolfe, An Opponent Of Marriage Equality And No-Fault Divorce

**Vought Has Had A Close Relationship With Christian Nationalist William Wolfe.** According to Politico, “Vought has a close affiliation with Christian nationalist William Wolfe, a former Trump administration official who has advocated for overturning same-sex marriage, ending abortion and reducing access to contraceptives.” [Politico, [2/20/24](https://www.politico.com/news/2024/02/20/donald-trump-allies-christian-nationalism-00142086)]

**Wolfe Influenced Vought’s Christian Nationalist Beliefs.** According to Politico, “Vought’s beliefs over time have been informed by his relationship with Wolfe. The two spent time together at Heritage Action, a conservative policy advocacy group. And Vought has praised their yearslong partnership. ‘I’m proud to work with @William\_E\_Wolfe on scoping out a sound Christian Nationalism,’ he posted on X, then Twitter, in January 2023.” [Politico, [2/20/24](https://www.politico.com/news/2024/02/20/donald-trump-allies-christian-nationalism-00142086)]

**Wolfe Called For Ending Sex Education, Surrogacy, And No-Fault Divorce.** According to Politico, “Wolfe, who has deleted several posts on X that detail his views, has a more extreme outlook of what a government led by Christian nationalists should propose. In a December post, he called for ending sex education in schools, surrogacy and no-fault divorce throughout the country, as well as forcing men ‘to provide for their children as soon as it’s determined the child is theirs’ — a clear incursion by the government into Americans’ private lives.” [Politico, [2/20/24](https://www.politico.com/news/2024/02/20/donald-trump-allies-christian-nationalism-00142086)]