

Twitter Thread by [Philip Gorski](#)

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[@GorskiPhilip](#)



1/ Further thoughts on [@DavidAFrench's](#) important essay on [#ChristianNationalism](#).

It's great to see a leading evangelical thinker publicly engaging the topic.

But....

2/ It would be even better if [@DavidAFrench](#) would engage with work on [#ChristianNationalism](#) by scholars and journalists like:

[@ndrewwhitehead](#) [@socoftthesacred](#) [@praxishabitus](#) [@sarahposner](#) [@kathsstewart](#) [@AntheaButler](#) [@Nicholef](#) and yours truly [@GorskiPhilip](#)

Also...

3/ With the work of black theologians such as:

Willie Jennings, [@JemarTisby](#) [@stewartdantec](#) [@esaumccaalley](#) to name just a few.

If he did, then....

4/ He'd know that there are much better and more nuanced definitions of [#ChristianNationalism](#) than the one offered by [@ThomasSKidd](#), who is a smart guy, but not a scholar of the subject.

Plus...

5/ He'd know that the phenomenon is, in fact, much more widespread than he implies, not just amongst white evangelicals but also amongst non-evangelical white Protestants and white Catholics....See "Taking America Back for God" for the receipts.

So, why do I keep saying "white"?

6/ Because, as all this work shows, #ChristianNationalism in the US must be understood as *White* #ChristianNationalism. White Supremacism has left a deep and enduring impression on American Christianity that exerts effects even in the absence of racial prejudice.

How so?

7/ An example: Christian libertarianism.

As many scholars have shown, including [@praxishabitus](#) and I, conservative evangelicals were NOT economic conservatives 100 years ago. They were economic progressives!

What happened?

8/ Basically, the New Deal and the Civil Rights Movement.

How could you push back against social and economic policies that might've helped Black folks? And without screaming the "n-word"? Replace it with the "m-word": MARKETS!

This was a completely conscious strategy, too.

9/ To be clear: I am NOT suggesting that [@DavidAFrench](#) is some kind of racist. I know the very opposite to be the case. Unlike many of his co-religionists, he recognizes that systemic racism is not some fiction cooked up in the seminar room. It's real.