In God We Trust or Do We?

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

Do we live in a Christian nation? We should not answer too quickly. We cling to comforting myths: that religious language and “In God We Trust” on currency make us God’s favored nation. But in a truly Christian nation, what we tolerate would not exist.

In a Christian nation, life would be valued over profit. The poor would be cared for without suspicion. Justice would not be for sale. The stranger would be welcomed, and the marginalized would be lifted. These are not our dominant values.

Our real question must be: “How do we live as Christians in a capitalist society not shaped by God’s kingdom?”

Paul tells us, “Be not conformed to this world.” The world refers to value systems that are set against God’s purposes. Capitalism is not neutral with its values:

Capitalism rewards competition; the Kingdom calls for cooperation.
Capitalism elevates the individual, and the Kingdom emphasizes community. Capitalism measures worth by productivity, the Kingdom sees worth as intrinsic.

The danger is subtle. In capitalism, the mold says: You are what you own, buy, and produce. But God says: You are mine.

If this were truly a Christian nation, money would not be our primary god. Jesus said, “You cannot serve God and Mammon.” Yet our system treats wealth pursuit as the highest good, with policies protecting wealth, not people.

Look around:
Housing is an investment, not a basic need.
Healthcare is a profit center, not a sacred responsibility.
Education is for those who can afford it, not a universal right.

In God's kingdom, resources would be stewarded for all. In capitalism, the "bottom line" outweighs the vulnerable. If we mistake this system for God's kingdom, we baptize greed as blessing.

Paul calls us to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind." We must see differently, starting with how we measure success.

Capitalism measures success in profit margins. The Kingdom measures success in love, justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Capitalism asks: How much did you make?
God asks: How much did you give?
Capitalism asks: What did you gain?
God asks: Who did you serve?
Capitalism asks: How did you win?
God asks: How did you love?

Without mind renewal, we think like capitalists first and Christians second.

Living for God requires economic discipleship:
Does my spending honor God?
Does my earning align with God's justice?
Do my investments reflect God's priorities?

Economic discipleship means resisting consumerism. Scripture teaches, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Contentment is radical in capitalist culture. Generosity is revolutionary. Sharing is countercultural. These are part of the renewed mind refusing conformity to greed.

The myth of a "Christian nation" confuses earthly citizenship with heavenly citizenship. "Our citizenship is in heaven" doesn't disconnect us from national life, but means we aren't defined by it.

If our allegiance is to Christ, we must critique our nation when it falls short of kingdom values. Silence in the face of injustice isn't patriotism but idolatry.

If we claim to live in a Christian nation, the church loses its prophetic edge. Recognizing that we live in a capitalist society with opposing values clarifies why the church must differ.

The church should be where:
People are valued for who they are, not what they produce.
The poor are lifted up, not down.

Generosity expects no return.
Justice is pursued at cost.

Paul says transformation allows us to “prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” In capitalism, proving God’s will means showing a better way to live, rooted in love and mutual care.

Christians cannot blend in. We model another kingdom. The early church did this by caring for the sick, sharing possessions, and refusing to bow to Caesar. We must refuse to bow to profit, practice generosity, and put people before possessions.

Let us be clear: we do not live in a Christian nation. We live in a capitalist society that rewards what God calls sin. But we can live for God here if we refuse to conform and commit to transformation.

Living for God means:
Guarding against greed.
Measuring success by God’s standards.
Practicing generosity to resist consumerism.
Placing loyalty in Christ, not national identity.
Making the church a sign of an alternative kingdom.

The question isn’t whether the nation is Christian but whether the church will be. Not whether capitalism can be baptized, but whether we will be transformed.

Paul’s words are a command: Be not conformed but be transformed. That is how we live for God in any society and prove His will in our generation.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool