

701.Reiner & Partland

Guest: Rob Reiner & Dan Partland

VOXPOP:

TITLE IDEAS:

EPISODE DESCRIPTION:

Lorem Ipsum

SEG A

COLD OPEN

RS: Katelyn! Welcome back! I've missed you! No shade to Tyler Huckabee - I had fun podcasting with him - but I'm ready for a break from re-reading evangelical books of the 1990s.

KB: Thank you for doing that so the rest of us didn't have to. I listened to ApocryFUN! It was so fun I got a bit jealous. Esp. with the Wild at Heart episode.

RS: It was, in fact fun, and I'm excited we're going to keep it up monthly. But I'm ready to put away the books now and talk movies.

KB: Like Academy Award nominees?

RS: Like a documentary on Christian nationalism produced by Rob Reiner.

KB: Bring on the popcorn ... and maybe some wine.

Theme bounces in

RS From Religion News Service, this is Saved by the City!
 A podcast from two Christian women cozy on the couch in New York's winter.
 I'm Roxy Stone

RS And I'm Katelyn Beaty

TRANSITION

KB: I still can't really wrap my mind around the fact that Rob Reiner - the director of such classic favorites as Princess Bride and When Harry Met Sally - got involved with a documentary on

Christian nationalism.

RS: Inconceivable!

KB: He just wanted to ask: Can Christianity and patriotism just be friends?

RS: They can't. The Jesus thing always gets in the way.

KB: We're really playing to a niche audience here.

RS: Lol

KB: But, that is kind of what the documentary concludes right? That true Christianity - the Jesus following kind - doesn't mesh well with patriotism? Or, at least, not an extreme form of patriotism that says God wants Christians to have all the power in America.

RS: Spoilers! That is basically it ... but shall we back up? Give the people some context.

KB: Right, well, God & Country is a documentary that came out last week. It's directed by Dan Partland and produced by Rob Reiner. It includes a whole host of familiar experts — some of them who have been on this show, from Jemar Tisby to Anthea Butler to Kristen Kobes DuMez and William Barber.

RS: And David French and Rob Schenk and Phil Vischer and Skye Jethani and Doug Pagitt and Andrew Whitehead and and and and. They really got everybody who has ever talked critiqued Christian nationalism

KB: Well, not EVERYBODY. There were a few people left out who made a bit of a fuss about it online. But we won't get into that.

RS: Let's definitely not.

KB: The movie's project seems to mostly be twofold: One to show the clear and present danger of Christian nationalism. And two: to show how far afield Christian nationalism is from the heart of true Christianity.

RS: This is interesting, given that Reiner and Partland don't have a lot of stake in defending Christianity. Reiner is Jewish and Partland is unaffiliated. As we'll hear from both of them later in the show.

KB: Yeah, when we talked to them, they made it sound like that was actually something of a surprise to them. To discover in the process of making the show that not all Christians are Christian nationalists and that Christian teachings are not really compatible with nationalism.

[FORWARD PROMO]

Pull a quote that gets at the above statement

[END FORWARD PROMO]

RS: We'll hear more from Rob and Dan later in the show. But first A POP QUIZ.

[MUSIC]

VOXPOP

RS: Katelyn, this is a little something I'm importing from ApocryFUN. Every episode one of us had a little pop quiz to test the other person's depth of knowledge on the book. I know you felt left out. So I wanted to bring the fun to you.

KB: You know, I was worried this might happen. What am I being quizzed about? Because if it's how to define Christian nationalism, that's a trick question. Because NO ONE CAN AGREE.

RS: Right. More on that later. But, no no no, this pop quiz is to test your pop culture savvy when it comes to all things Rob Reiner!

KB:

[\[Link to secret Quiz Doc!\]](#)

RS: You did terrific.

KB: thanks...

NARRATIVE & DISCUSSION

RS: OK, so back to the topic at hand. And, yes, let's get into *how* to define Christian Nationalism.

KB: So the most concise definition of Christian nationalism I know of is the belief that America was ordained by God and should be governed according to Christian values.

RS: Right. And that seems straightforward enough. If a bit abstract or theological. Pew Research has done work on this and often asks three questions to get at people's level of buy-in to Christian nationalism.

They ask:

More than four-in-ten Americans think the U.S. should be a ‘Christian nation’

% who say ...

	The founders of America <u>originally intended</u> for the U.S. to be a “Christian nation”		The U.S. <u>is now a</u> “Christian nation”		The U.S. <u>should be a</u> “Christian nation”	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	%	%	%	%	%	%
All U.S. adults	60	37	33	64	45	51
All Christians	69	28	30	67	62	35
Protestant	73	24	27	69	68	28
White evangelical	81	17	23	75	81	18
White, not evangelical	70	26	32	62	54	40
Black Protestant	57	37	26	68	65	30
Catholic	62	35	34	64	47	49
White Catholic	68	29	36	61	56	40
Hispanic Catholic	54	42	31	66	36	60
All non-Christians	44	54	40	58	16	81
Jewish*	36	64	55	44	16	84
Religiously unaffiliated	45	53	38	60	17	80
Atheist	25	74	41	59	6	94
Agnostic	38	61	46	53	8	91
Nothing in particular	53	45	34	63	23	72
Republican/lean Rep.	76	22	29	69	67	31
Democrat/lean Dem.	47	52	39	59	29	69
Ages 18-29	50	49	34	66	23	76
30-49	55	42	33	65	39	57
50-64	63	34	31	65	56	40
65+	73	23	36	59	63	33

* The survey included 123 interviews with Jewish respondents who were asked these questions, with an effective sample size of 61 and a 95% confidence level margin of error

RS: [make some observations about who really buys into this: evangelicals, etc.]

SPEND TIME TALKING ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

-CN has a lot of subtle roots for evangelicals.

-We both grew up with American flags next to the pulpits of churches. Is that CN?

-Bob's distinctions between comfort food CN and more extreme CN

-What happened on Jan 6 (people carrying Bibles and shofars and Christian flags as they stormed the capitol)

-Has the bucket for CN has become so broad as to be meaningless. And has it become just a bogeyman for the left in the same way that CRT or "woke-ism" became for the right?

RS: Coming up, we'll hear from Dan & Rob ...

KB: And make sure to stick around until after the interview as we have plenty of our own thoughts about the documentary ...

Wrap it up.

Theme music comes up underneath, & transition to:

FORWARD PROMO B SEG.

SPONSOR SLOT

Theme music bounces in

Rs Religion News Service is an independent, award-winning source of global reporting on religion, spirituality, culture and ethics.

Kb From Anglicans to Zoroastrians, RNS has religion covered A-Z.

Rs And if you like what we're doing at Saved By the City - Let us know! Throw us a rating or a review - it goes a long way toward helping get the word out about the show. BUT FOR REAL....

Kb We also want to know what you want to hear this season. We have some great interviews and discussions already lined up ... but we're looking for more! Send us your ideas for guests, topics, questions we can answer as your advice columnists...let us know!

RS: You know what to do. Email us at sbtcpodcast@religionnews.com. We want to hear from you!

Theme fades

SEG B

GUEST INTRO & INTERVIEW

KB: Today's guests are director Dan Partland and producer Rob Reiner.

RS: ***The two worked together to create the new documentary God & Country, which had a limited release last Friday and explores Christian nationalism and its growing influence on America.***

KB: *Thanks for being here!*

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WRAP UP AND REFLECTION:

– Do you think the documentary succeeded in its two fold goal of making clear the threat of Christian nationalism and of saying it's not real Christianity?

-Who do think this documentary is for exactly? And what message will they get from it?

-What is missing? (reference Tyler's article)

-is this missing a real challenge for evangelicals and for how evangelicalism might have some CN baked in, at least as far as its been taught to and practiced by Americans?

-What other reactions did either of us have to the movie?

SEG C

WRAP IT UP:

[music]

RS Saved By The City is a Religion News Service production. The Producer is J Woodward and the Consulting Editor is Paul O'Donnell. We get production assistance from Julia Windom

KB Chaz Russo put together our look and Martin Fowler wrote our theme music.

RS We are Roxy Stone

KB and Katelyn Beaty

Rs&Kb Thanks for listening!!!

CUT NOTES

(RS: I added my cuts in boldface below. For some reason it seems like Katelyn and my time stamps are different/off, but hopefully you can figure it out based on context clues.)

17:53 - 18:27 - after Roxy says “they’ve been cast out,” can cut my commentary on the trailer, I think it might be too insular to Twitter

23:43 - 24:26 - we can cut Rob’s follow-up comment here after Dan’s answer

25:48 - 27:07: Let’s cut the first answer from Rob on the Russell Moore question. (it’s repetitive to the answer to the question right before it). Let’s just cut to Dan’s answer (and then we have Rob jumping in, so we will still have an answer from him)

27:06 - 27:25 “it’s really lost the Christian message” can end Dan’s answer here and pick back up when Rob jumps in

31:03 - 31:53: cut starting from “You know we have very robust...” (Dan ends a thought and then takes a deep breath. So just stop there at his breath). Then cut to Rob’s answer.

32:05 - 33:23 - I think we can cut Dan’s additional thoughts about democracy and separation of church and state

^^my timestamp is different, but I’m assuming this is where Dan chimes in again after Rob? If so, yes, let’s cut. But also this might be the same thing I just said to cut above. If that’s the case, I also think we should cut Dan’s second answer after Rob’s, when he goes into Sharia law (so easy for that to skew Islamophobic). So let’s end after Rob finishes his answer.

35:18 - 35:53 - can cut the first part of Dan’s answer, up to when he says “another component of what you were asking a minute ago”

38:36 - 42:46 - cut all this additional commentary from me, plus cut the question and answer about what gives them hope, it’s just not as interesting. This shaves off 4 minutes.

43:33 - 44:08: end with “by theocratic/autocratic rule” and then skip all the Donald Trump stuff in Rob’s answer. I don’t think it’s necessary. Start up again with “If you feel threatened, if you feel like you don’t have any power...”

45:13 - 47:50: End at Dan saying “I think that’s a huge piece of it...” (again, let’s cut Trump stuff, b/c I think it’s bigger than Trump). Then skip Katelyn’s question (what do you hope for about movie) and skip Rob’s answer and most of Dan’s. Pick back up with Dan saying: “We’re in this moment as a country where we’ve wobbled a little bit” and keep to the end of his answer/the interview.

I THINK that will work as a cut. But lemme know if it doesn't.

Rough timecode?? 57:17 - 57:45: Let's cut after I say "I convinced you haha" and then jump to Katelyn saying "Well, I wish we were ending on a positive note..."