

Our Nation Under God: A Modern Application of Biblical Law

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This paper observes the practice of theonomy throughout the ages, instances where the state looked to God's law as the model for contemporary government. Holding to the comprehensive values of religion, nations modeled their legislation after the religious precepts of Christianity, reflecting the original Israelite civil and moral law to various degrees. Originally understood as religious in nature, civil legislation gradually transformed into a secular concept. This prompted several thinkers such as Greg Bahnsen, Mark Rushdoony, and Gary North to revisit the idea of religious involvement in government and to reclaim biblical sovereignty (especially of the civil and moral law) over legislation. Because of this sovereignty, Christians should recognize the legitimacy of the timeless moral principles of Old Testament civil law and strive to implement them in modern legislation.

Forsaking neither the gospel's supreme importance nor the tool of evangelism for conveying the gospel, Christians should pursue theonomy as an act of submission to God's Word. In this way, God's Word can shine throughout all the world, including within legislation.

