

JAMES COATES

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

James completed a Master of Divinity at The Master's Seminary in May 2010. Less than two months later, he received a call to pastor GraceLife Church of Edmonton, where he's pastored ever since. He also went on to complete a Doctor of Ministry in expository preaching at The Master's Seminary in May 2020.

He is married to Erin and together they have two wonderful boys.



CREDENTIALS

- Master of Divinity, The Master's Seminary (Los Angeles)
- Doctor of Ministry, The Master's Seminary
- Over a decade in pastoral ministry

AVAILABILITY

- Pastor Coates is widely available via Zoom or phone
- Mountain time zone (Edmonton, Alberta)

CLICK TO WATCH

Fox News' Tucker Carlson's coverage of Pastor Coates' arrest



CO-AUTHOR NATHAN BUSENITZ

Nathan Busenitz teaches historical theology at The Master's Seminary. He is also the Dean of Faculty and the school's Executive Vice President. Raised at Grace Community Church, Dr. Busenitz was trained in an expositional model of ministry not only by his pastor, John MacArthur, but also in his father, Irv Busenitz, who was an original faculty member and a vice president at TMS for nearly two decades. Dr. Busenitz has authored several books, including *Living a Life of Hope*, *Reasons We Believe*, and *Long Before Luther*.

Nathan is available for interviews. (Pacific time zone, Los Angeles, CA)

ONLINE

For more information, visit:

[Book site](#)

For more coverage of Pastor Coates' arrest in 2020:

[Newsweek](#)

[Christianity Today](#)

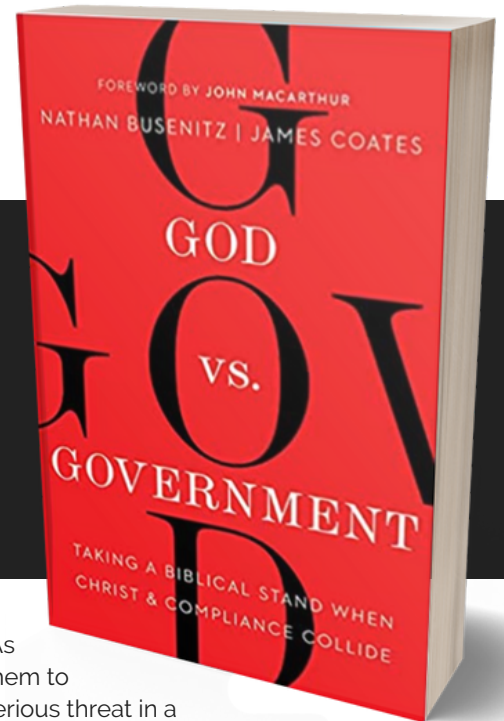
[Christian Post](#)

[Daily Wire](#)

TO BOOK AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT: JASON JONES, JONES LITERARY/JASON@JONESLITERARY.COM

GOD VS. GOVERNMENT

TAKING A BIBLICAL STANCE WHEN CHRIST AND COMPLIANCE COLLIDE



"Welcome to our peaceful protest." In the spring of 2020, government mandates forced churches across North America to close their doors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As societal fear and unrest increased, Christians were forced to grapple with how God wanted them to respond to these state-imposed restrictions. After all, didn't the closure of churches pose a serious threat in a time when people needed spiritual direction more than ever? **God vs. Government** follows two churches' courageous decisions to reopen despite orders to remain closed. Guided by the command in Hebrews 10:25 that churches not forsake meeting together, pastors John MacArthur and James Coates led their congregations to return to in-person meetings—and were swiftly met by unsympathetic governing authorities ready to shut them down again. The ensuing legal battles raised important questions about religious freedom, and more importantly, illuminated what it looks like to take a stand when Christ and compliance collide. **God vs. Government** tells two incredible accounts that affirm our need to be faithful to the Lord's commands no matter the circumstances.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, many churches and pastors chose different paths than you did. What convicted you to return to in-person meetings despite the stay-at-home orders?
- What kind of scrutiny—if any—did you face from your surrounding communities regarding your decisions? Have you received any pushback from within your congregations?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit's hand at work amidst the legal battles and conversations that occurred after you refused to follow the stay-at-home mandates?
- One of the words you use in **God vs. Government** is 'noncompliance'. What does that mean for western Christians in today's secular culture?

PUBLISHING INFO

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RELEVANCE

- With hostility toward Christ and the church increasing in the western world, the political climate has dramatically shifted. The church of Jesus Christ has enjoyed an extended time of peace in recent decades. All of that is about to change. **God vs. Government** is critical to equipping the church to navigate the turbulent times ahead.
- Christians overwhelmingly feel the gravity of their shrinking position within secular cultural but are often unclear on how to respond. This cultural pressure and corresponding lack of Christian clarity affects both the faith of individuals as well as our collective ability to be "salt and light" in culture.

FOREWORD FROM PASTOR JOHN MACARTHUR

"... In view of recent events, three basic biblical truths must be emphasized. First, the church is essential. Second, the church must gather regularly and corporately. Third, the church is duty-bound to obey Christ even when doing so violates governmental regulations and restrictions. Given the fundamental nature of these New Testament priorities, it's hard to believe they would prove controversial, especially among evangelicals. But here we are. There has been a great deal of both controversy and compromise, which is why **the message of this book is so necessary** ... It is past time for the church of Jesus Christ to confront the prevailing falsehoods of a depraved society and show hopeless people the way to true hope and abundant life. That, again, is why the message of this book is so necessary. We are the Lord's ambassadors, and we must stand confidently in that role, with joy and not fear, in bold unity—and all the more as we see the day of Christ drawing near (Hebrews 10:25) ..."

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