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Latest: Pastor Joel Webbon Says Christianity Is American at Texas Christ Is King Conference

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"We're done with equality. Christianity is American. Islam is not, Hinduism is not, Judaism is not."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Pastor Joel Webbon told hundreds of people at a Christian nationalist conference in Irving, Texas, on 12-14 November 2026 that different religions do not have an equal place in American identity, declaring: "We're done with equality. Christianity is American. Islam is not, Hinduism is not, Judaism is not." The three-day gathering, called "Christ Is King: America After Trump", was held at the Irving Convention Center near Dallas, and the remarks - which drew applause inside the hall - set off a storm of condemnation outside it, including from conservative Christians who called the message anti-Christian.

The conference was sponsored by NRX Studios, a media company Webbon runs, which describes itself as advocating Christian nationalism, patriarchy, "race realism" and American sovereignty. Tickets cost $250 a person.

The crowd was made up of the online movement sometimes called "theobros" - young, mostly male pastors and influencers who fuse Reformed Christian theology with a hard-edged politics of nation, race and gender. Webbon was the host and the headliner. But the moment that travelled furthest came from a surprise guest nobody had announced.

On Saturday, the final day, white nationalist commentator Nick Fuentes took the stage as the unannounced closing speaker. Fuentes tore into Vice President JD Vance and former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy for what he called their "message of inclusive populism".

He objected to Turning Point USA's statement that "ethical monotheism is the foundation of America" - a line the crowd booed - and insisted instead on an explicitly Christian identity for the nation. "God has a name," Fuentes said. "His name is Jesus Christ." The audience rose to its feet, applauded and chanted the conference's name: "Christ is King."

The words matter because of who said them, and where. Fuentes is described by Religion News Service as a known white supremacist, and his presence at a conference of pastors was itself the story for many watching from outside.

He urged his followers to move beyond online activity and organise ahead of the 2028 election - telephone campaigning, door-knocking, taking part in the Iowa caucuses. This was not a sermon. It was a strategy session, dressed in the language of the faith.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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