

One Nation Under the God We Trust?

“**In God We Trust**”: let’s take this apart since it’s almost a summary of an American Gospel, like a scripture, esp. for Christian Nationalists. . .

-**Whose God** are we speaking of? Why not Gods? Why preference Monotheism?

-**Who are the “We”**? Christians? One privileged sect of Christians?

(What about Hindus who trust in Brahma, Krishna, Vishnu or Shiva, Buddhists who trust in Buddha, Native Americans who trust in the Great Spirit, Wiccans who trust in a Goddess, Muslims who trust in Allah?

And, of course, **what about secular Americans** who trust in the Constitution (“We the People”), reason and the separation of religion and state?)

-**What does it mean to “trust”** in a deity? To believe this deity is in charge of your life, your nation, your world? How does that work in practice?

What if the divinity you trust, that you have confidence and faith in, commands you to harm others, to discriminate, to ignore Science, disobey the rule of law, or dismiss rational thinking?

-*Let’s be honest*, those who demand this in schools, courthouses and currency, are really saying: **In OUR God WE trust, so trust US.**

-*Personal question*: Do you trust a person because they say they trust in a supernatural divinity? Does that trust-claim make them a **trustworthy** judge, teacher, preacher, politician or president?

“**One Nation Under God**”: inserted into the Pledge (*dividing* “One Nation” and “Indivisible”) in the 1950’s, as a kind of litmus test to prove you’re not a Communist, that you’re a true blue American patriot by reciting a statement of faith, primarily the (Protestant? Evangelical?) **Christian faith.**

Similar to “In God We Trust,” serious questions should be asked:

-One nation under **whose** God? Why not Gods? Why preference Monotheism?

-Why **one** nation? **Only** one nation?

-How is religious faith, or any specific faith, a **unifying factor in a pluralistic country?**

-Do you trust, or believe, that anyone repeating this phrase in a public setting is **truly pledging or proving their patriotic citizenship, or sincere faith in the same God, or any God?**

-What does it mean to be **“under”** God? The **rule and reign** of one deity, **one central Authority or Law-Giver?**

-How does a **nation of over 330 million people** put that into **practice?**

-If every law was enacted to affirm “under God,” what would that look like? If “biblical laws,” then **which ones and interpreted by whom?**

Again, for serious reflection:

—“Under God,” one of the most divisive notions, was forced into the most unifying phrase in the loyalty oath, expected to be repeated in rote rituals by generations of school children and adult citizens to show faith and faithfulness to the Fatherland.

—How is this appropriate in a secular democracy?

—How does this contrast with the First Amendment of the Constitution that prohibits an “establishment of religion”?

—How does this pledge, promote and protect “liberty and justice for all,” religious or non-religious?

Instead of defining America or a “Real American” theologically,
a better alternative may be our historic national motto:

E Pluribus Unum
(out of many, one)

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