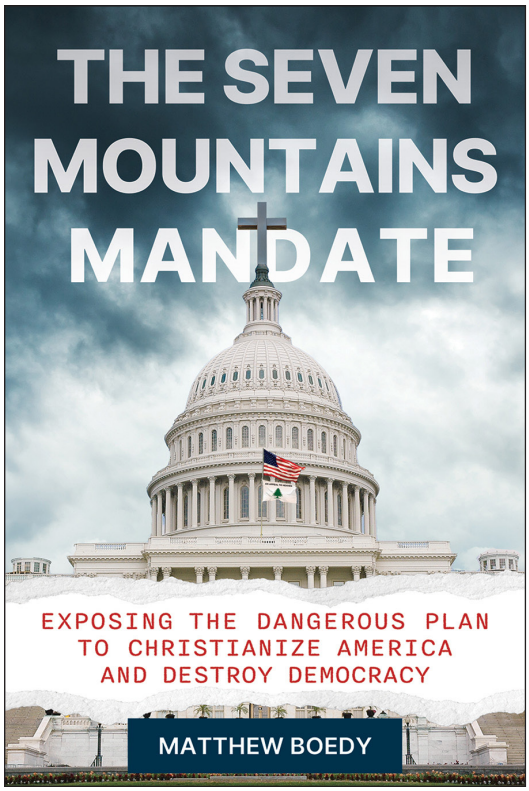
Book Club Questions for Matthew Boedy's *The Seven Mountains Mandate*



1. When did you first become aware of the religious right or efforts by Christian conservatives to influence the political and social landscape of the nation? What has been your exposure to Project 2025 and the movement's specific goals for Trump's second term?
2. Christian nationalists tend to agree with statements like "The U.S. was founded as a Christian nation" and "Christian values should be privileged by the U.S. government." To what extent do you think religious values should shape the laws of the United States?
3. Do you think religious belief is central to Charlie Kirk's adoption of the seven mountains mandate? Why or why not?
4. What stands out to you about the movement's use of Scripture? In your mind, do any of the verses or stories used by movement leaders justify their goals and actions?
5. Several chapters discuss the movement's opposition to "humanism." What is your definition of humanism? Do you think it is necessarily at odds with Christianity?
6. Have you seen evidence of the strategies described on pages 35-39 (teacher watchlists, "school choice" or voucher initiatives, changes to curriculum) being used to challenge public education in your area? What organizations or ideologies are behind these strategies? What do they hope to accomplish?
7. Do you think public schools used to be neutral about religion or are neutral today? If a change occurred, when and how do you think it happened?
8. At the beginning of chapter two, Boedy describes a conversation between Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Charlie Kirk regarding a "civil war" or "national divorce" between red states and blue states. (See pp. 43-45.) What do you think of this idea?
9. Mandate supporters talk about the "tyranny" of government and their desire to overthrow democratic government, violently if necessary. What do you think the seven mountains mandate's definition of tyranny is? What is your definition of tyranny? Is there any circumstance in which you would consider participating in violence to overthrow the government?

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More Questions for *The Seven Mountains Mandate*

10. Turning Point and other organizations in the movement want more pastors to preach and teach about being a "Christian nation" and practicing "Christian citizenship." Have you heard pastors preaching about the intersections of faith and government? What do you think churches opposed to Christian nationalism should be doing to combat it?

11. Conquering the mountain of family, to mandate advocates, means enshrining a household structure in which the husband is considered the leader of his wife and children. What is the impact of this vision on women and children? What about households with single parents, same-gender couples, and adults without children?

12. Much of evangelicals' efforts to enforce "traditional" gender roles and oppose LGBTQ+ rights center on the idea of protecting children. (See pp. 79, 92-93.) Do you think this concern is genuine or an excuse to advance their worldview?

13. What is the impact of prosperity theology on people who struggle financially? What is the impact on people who are wealthy? Do you see evidence of prosperity theology in U.S. laws and policy?

14. Even as mandate leaders aim to influence business leaders with coaching and seminars, the mandate movement itself is highly influenced by business principles. What evidence of this do you see? What do you make of this chicken-and-egg situation?

15. On page 116, Boedy writes, "A conspiracy mindset is what unites these people. But it is also what destroys democracy because it removes them from any broader community conversation." Where have you seen evidence of conspiracy theorists' impact on civil discussion in your life or community?

16. Boedy cites a study that says 67 percent of White evangelical Republicans believed in the conspiracy of a liberal "Deep State" pulling the strings in Washington, compared to 52 percent of White Republicans of other or no religious affiliations. Why do you think evangelical Christians are more likely to believe in such theories?

17. On page 129, Boedy quotes Andrew Brietbart saying "politics is downstream from culture." What do you think this means? Do you agree?

18. How does our culture's tendency to reduce political discourse (and everything else) to entertainment, requiring everything to be amusing or memeable, do damage to democracy? How could reforming our relationship to entertainment save democracy?

19. Several chapters discuss the idea of neutrality. Mandate supporters seem to consider those who support their perspectives "neutral," while accusing those who disagree of bias. Do you think this is simply human nature, or are certain groups more guilty of this than others?

20. Do you think the movement has fully conquered any of the seven mountains? In what arena do you feel most compelled to take action toward restoring a democratic society?

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