

*Christian America?*, by Christian Smith

Books in the [May 24, 2000](#) issue

Armed with data from surveys and interviews, Smith skewers the notion that all conservative evangelicals are deeply uncomfortable with American pluralism and eager to impose a fundamentalist Christian worldview. Smith acknowledges that people who answer to the terms evangelical or fundamentalist tend to be more sympathetic than other Americans are to the causes of the Religious Right, but he contends that conservative Protestants exhibit a wide range of opinions on political issues. Furthermore, most of them do not identify with the Religious Right, are uneasy with preachers in politics, and don't want prayer returned to public schools. Their apparently exclusivist theology is frequently joined to a "live and let live" practical philosophy.