Opinion
Guest Voices



John Fugelsang speaks at the 2016 Politicon at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, California. (Wikimedia Commons/Gage Skidmore)



by John Dear

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This week on "The Nonviolent Jesus Podcast," John Dear speaks with John Fugelsang, actor, comedian, talk show host and author of the new bestseller, *Separation of Church & Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds* (Simon and Schuster).



John Fugelsang is pictured in an undated photo. (CNS/PBS/Jennifer Summer)

The son of a former Franciscan brother and a nun, Fugelsang acted on "CSI," has appeared on MSNBC and CNN, and has hosted many television shows and podcasts, including VH1 shows with Paul McCartney and the final public appearance of George Harrison. He has debated Jerry Falwell and David Duke, been picketed by the Westboro Baptist Church, and hosted the radio series "Tell Me Everything" on SiriusXM. His PBS road trip film on the American Dream, called "Dream On," was named best documentary at the New York Independent Film Festival. He currently hosts "The John Fugelsang Podcast."

"I wrote this book as a guide for everybody who was raised Christian in America, for all the Christians who are tired of their religion being hijacked," he said. "This book is a guide for any believer who has to deal with a Christian nationalist. I've learned that we don't have to hate or fight them; we just share the words of God and Jesus with them. Let them argue with God, with the Gospel."

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"I was raised when tele-evangelists didn't tell me to love my enemies; instead told me who my enemies are," Fugelsang continued. "Christian nationalism is just about power. It's about their club being on top and imposing their version of Christianity on us all. They use Jesus as camouflage. Why should I listen to [President Donald] Trump and Stephen Miller and reject the words of Jesus? Jesus is breaking every cycle of violence. Love is the only religion that works. We don't get to use violence to solve our problems."

At one point in the conversation, he reflected on Charlie Kirk, the far right Christian nationalist who was recently assassinated in Utah, who had challenged him.

"Charlie Kirk never got to grow old, see how wrong he was, and change his position. I have."

Listen to the full episode here.

This story appears in the **The Nonviolent Jesus Podcast** feature series. View the full series.