

# How Christianity Became an Imperial Instrument

In the first few centuries after Yahushua, believers were a persecuted minority inside the Roman Empire.

But everything changed in the 4th century.

When Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity (Edict of Milan, 313 AD), and later when Emperor Theodosius made Nicene Christianity the official state religion (380 AD), Christianity moved from persecuted faith... to imperial institution.

And once a faith becomes tied to empire power, it changes.

## What Changed?

When Christianity became state-aligned:

- Doctrine became enforced by law
- Religious disagreement became political rebellion
- Bishops gained civil authority
- The state defended “orthodoxy”

Faith and empire merged.

And when faith merges with empire, coercion becomes possible.

## Documented Historical Outcomes

Across centuries especially in medieval Europe and during colonial expansion Christianity was sometimes used to justify:

- Forced conversions
- Suppression of rival religions
- Destruction of temples and sacred sites
- Expulsion of Jewish communities (especially during Crusades)

- Colonization framed as “mission work”
- Forced baptisms of Indigenous populations
- Justifications for slavery under “civilizing” language

These events are documented in mainstream historical records.

But here is the key distinction:

Not every Christian participated in this.

Not every believer supported this.

But empires used religious authority to legitimize power.

## **The Pattern of Empire**

When religion merges with political power, it can become:

- A unifying state ideology
- A tool for social control
- A justification for conquest
- A mechanism for cultural replacement

This is not unique to Christianity.

It has happened with many state religions across history.

But in Europe and the colonial world, Christianity became the dominant imperial framework.

## **Important Clarification**

This is not an attack on individuals.

Many sincere believers have:

- Opposed injustice
- Protected minorities
- Defended the oppressed
- Preserved Scripture faithfully

The issue is not personal faith.

The issue is state-controlled religion.

## **The Messiah vs Empire**

The Messiah did not build an army.

He did not conquer territory.

He did not force belief.

He taught:

- Repentance
- Obedience
- Transformation of heart

Empires, however, operate through:

- Law
- Force
- Territory
- Power

And when empires used His name, they did so through their own political logic —not His original teaching method.

“The Messiah never spread truth by the sword but empires sometimes used His name to justify it.”

That line is historically grounded and responsible.

## **If You Want To Strengthen This Further**

For credibility, you could reference:

- Theodosius I (state Christianity)
- The Crusades (1095 onward)
- The Spanish Inquisition
- Doctrine of Discovery (15th century papal bulls)
- Colonial missionary expansion

When you anchor your message in documented historical markers, you protect yourself from being dismissed.