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FINAL THOUGHT

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The Book Your Church Doesn't Want You to Read *Truth Seeker Company Incorporated*

An enlightening anthology by world-renowned theologians, historians and researchers that exposes and challenges misrepresentations and age-old beliefs. With an introduction by ABC Radio Talk Show Host Bill Jenkins.

The Book The Church Doesn't Want You To Read *Namaste Pub*

The Book Your Church Doesn't Want You To Read By Tim C. Leedom This book is

delivered to you with the hope that that fires will ignite in your mind. The Editor and authors who have spent years of study, research and investigation share in a general point of view - the view that the religious beliefs held by many people in the United States and other countries, are totally unfounded. The foundation of the book is the spirit of free inquiry, from the ancient Greeks - Pythagoras, Socrates and others . This book is an enquiry into crucial issues of today. These issues need examination, for we are now all villagers in the global electronic village of the world, of which social commentator Marshall McLuhan spoke of 30 years ago. This is not an anti-religious book. The search for the meaning of life started long before Moses and, Jesus, Mohammed or

organised religion. This book is a reference guide that is meant to be challenging and informative. Book Size 6" x 9"

The Plain Truth About God 101 *Allan W Janssen*

Allan W. Janssen has published: "The Plain truth About God-101 (what the church doesn't want you to know)." God-101 presents a fascinating insight into how the original "cult" teachings of Jesus were altered by Greek philosophy, Pagan beliefs and Pauline thought to become the sayings of "The Christ" and the basis of our modern Bible. God-101 gives an analysis of how the "priesthood" has corrupted Christianity and the other major religions. It shows how "Dogma" has led to the polarization

of different sects within the same religion, (Catholic/Protestant - Shiite/Sunni) and how religious strife affects society as a whole, including the upcoming world - wide clash between Christianity and Islam! The book can be reviewed at <http://www.God-101.com> or <http://groups.msn.com/God-101>

A Church that Can and Cannot Change

The Development of Catholic Moral Teaching *Erasmus Institute Books*

Noonan's analysis of the development in Catholic moral teaching on usury, contraception, religious freedom, slave-holding, and divorce.

One Size Doesn't Fit All

Bringing Out the Best in Any Size Church *Revell*

Different churches grow in different ways. This book will help you figure out your church's orientation and show the way to healthy growth.

Taking Your Church to the Next Level**What Got You Here Won't Get You There** *Baker Books*

All local churches experience a predictable life cycle of growth and decline. But if a church is on a downward trend, how can it turn around? Taking Your Church to the Next Level explains the impact of age and size on churches and outlines the improvements that must be made at each point for a church

to remain fruitful and faithful to its mission. McIntosh deftly describes the cycles of fruitfulness and the importance of continual improvement to diminish destructive forces that keep a congregation from its mission. Church leaders, pastors, and all who care about the church and desire to see it experience biblical growth will benefit from the sage wisdom offered in these pages.

The Book Your Church Doesn't Want You to Read**Or Synagogue, Temple, Mosque...**

Sterling & Ross Pub Incorporated

The Book Your Church* Doesn't Want You To Read presents a rare and honest look at one of the most controversial

issues of all time: religion. Packed with essays from world-renowned theologians, historians, and researchers, this ground-breaking anthology exposes misrepresentations, challenges age-old beliefs, and seeks to reveal the whole truth to anyone who has ever been told what to believe. It discloses the shocking origins and frail histories of the worlds' major religions and answers questions you never even knew you had. But more than anything, *The Book* urges and inspires readers to think for themselves. Book jacket.

There's Hope for Your Church

First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth *Baker Books*

A startling 85% of churches in the US are

plateaued or declining, a trend that has been building for the past fifty years. In the face of shrinking attendance and lagging spiritual growth, pastors and church leaders are understandably discouraged and demoralized. But the first step to turning things around is hope. Church health expert Gary McIntosh offers this hope by showing church leaders the first things they need to do to make a new start for their church. God can and does restore churches to new life, even as he restores individuals. The street-smart ideas and step-by-step instructions found in this book are ones that pastors and church leaders can put to use immediately in their churches to bring about solid growth and renewed hope for the future.

What the Church Doesn't Want You to Know. *CreateSpace*

Stop lying - the Bible doesn't teach that! The reason I wrote this book is because I am tired of the many lies, false and manipulative teachings that continues to be disseminated within our churches, especially in small local churches. With that said I present to you not what I believe but what the Bible says and teaches. Who am I? I am no one. I am simply an individual who grew up in the Catholic Church, at the age of 17 converted to Pentecost and through the years I have been a Sunday school teacher, a Preacher, a youth Pastor, a Deacon, an Elder of the church, a musician and I even was the unofficial Pastor of a small church who had difficulties with a rogue Pastor. By this I

mean to say that I have seen a lot, done a lot, experienced much and I am not surprised by the lies, deceits, and false teachings many present to the body of Christ. If you are here looking to find a scathing contemptuous "tells-all" book about the church and God's people - you will not find it here. What I will present to you is a few insightful truths about what many teach from the pulpit compared to what I have found to be in the Bible. I will speak about how ignorance is used to keep God's people in bondage, like slaves and why knowledge can set you free if you allow it. Again, let me make myself clear - as clear as I can possibly be: I am a Bible thumping, God fearing, Holy Roller - I believe the word of God and I only challenge the teachings of those who would seek to pervert it for

their own personal gain or ego. If you are truly interested in what I have to say, in what I want to share – please, read on. Because God has an order to things and many are taking advantage of good honest sincere people who want to, need to and whole heartedly believe in God.

Why Church Matters

Discovering Your Place in the Family of God *Multnomah*

"Christians belong in churches--the only places where we can thrive and grow spiritually. In *Why Church Matters*, Joshua Harris makes this case with wisdom, clarity, and graciousness." -- Charles W. Colson Church isn't where we go. It's who we are. We were never meant to live our faith in isolation. The

church is the place God uses to grow us, encourage us, and use our gifts for His glory. In this honest, personal, and practical book, Joshua Harris shows you why it's time to say yes to church and how to find the right one for you--the place where you can fall in love with the family of God. Includes: What you miss when you miss church Ten questions to ask before you join How to get more out of the best day of the week What Readers are Saying: "This book shows the place of great honor that church holds in Christ's heart and encourages us to value what He values. I've bought multiple copies to give away." --Mike Neglia; Cork, Ireland "Josh Harris does an excellent job of addressing our impulse to church hop." --Garrett Watkins; Atlanta, Georgia "When our family was in

the midst of a transition, Why Church Matters helped us find the right local church. It will do the same for you." -- Andrew Hall; Ilderton, Ontario Previously published as Stop Dating the Church

Sustainable Youth Ministry

Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do about It *ReadHowYouWant.com*

You're looking for a youth pastor. Again. What goes wrong? Why do youth ministries crumble? And what is the cost to students, parents, volunteers and church staff? Is a sustainable youth ministry possible, even after a youth pastor leaves? Youth ministry expert Mark DeVries knows the answer is yes, because he helps build sustainable youth

ministries through his coaching service called Youth Ministry Architects. So take heart; No matter what state the youth ministry at your church is in-in need of a leader and volunteers, full of battles and stress, large or small in number-it can be built to survive and to last for the long haul. Based on his own experience and on his many conversations and interviews with churches in crisis, DeVries pinpoints problems that cause division and burnout and dispels strongly held myths. He then provides the practical tools and structures pastors and church leaders need to lay a strong foundation for your ministry so that it isn't built on a person or the latest, greatest student ministry trend. His accessible guidance helps senior pastors and search committees create a realistic

job description for a youth pastor provides tips for making wise hiring decisions equips youth pastors to build a strong volunteer team offers creative solutions to help youth pastors set and keep boundaries gives a road map for navigating church politics and more Building a sustainable youth ministry is not easy, and it's not quick. But with commitment to the process, hard work and DeVries's guidance, you can put together a healthy youth ministry-one that fits your church and lasts for the long haul. Youth ministry can last. Here's how.

99 Prayers Your Church Needs (But Doesn't Know It Yet)

Prayers for Unpredictable and

Unusual Times *Chalice Press*

When the unexpected comes and you can't find the words to pray, 99 Prayers Your Church Needs (But Doesn't Know It Yet) will provide the starting point that will help lead you to the prayer your congregation or pastor needs. From prayers for a family who has lost a loved one to addiction, to a prayer for the new pastor in a new congregation, these 99 prayers will help you respond to a multitude of unexpected prayer requests -- whether celebratory or grieving, or somewhere in between -- in the course of your congregation's life.

Bad Christian

For Everyone Who Loves Jesus, But Doesn't Fit in Church

Have you ever felt more judged than loved? For your sense of style, mode of speech or enjoyment of a certain type of music? Because you didn't have a fish decal on your car or a cross around your neck? Ever feel like you checked all the boxes, yet it didn't result in the life that was promised? This book is for everyone who has experienced the difference between belonging to a group and being in a relationship with God. It is for the seekers, artists, pragmatists, disenfranchised, mystics and skeptics who love Jesus, but just don't match the church subculture. Welcome to the tribe.

The Unstuck Church

Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health *Thomas Nelson*

Acclaimed church leader, blogger, founder and chief strategic officer of The Unstuck Group, Tony Morgan unpacks the lifecycle of a typical church, identifies characteristics of each phase, and provides practical next steps a church can take to move towards sustained health. Think about your church for a moment. Is it growing? Is it diminishing? Is it somewhere in between? Acclaimed church leader, blogger, and founder and chief strategic officer of The Unstuck Group, Tony Morgan has identified the seven stages of a church's lifecycle that range from the hopeful and optimistic days of launch, to the stagnating last stages of life support. Regardless of the stage in which you find your church, it carries with it the world's greatest mission—to

"go and make disciples of all the nations . . ." With eternity at stake the Church should be doing most everything within its power to see lives changed forever. The Church should strive for the pinnacle of the lifecycle, where they are continually making new disciples and experiencing what Morgan refers to as "sustained health." In *The Unstuck Church*, Morgan unpacks each phase of the church lifecycle, and offers specific and strategic next steps the church leader can take to find it's way to sustained health . . . and finally become unstuck. *The Unstuck Church* is a call for honest an assessment of where your church sits on the lifecycle, and a challenge to move beyond it.

The Christian Atheist

When You Believe in God But Live as if He Doesn't Exist *Zondervan*

Growing up, all my friends would have described my family as a Christian family. I assumed all my friends were Christians as well. We all believed in God. We occasionally attended church. We were good people. Even though we believed in God, we didn't know his word, didn't understand the gospel, and didn't pursue his will. We believed in God, but we lived as if he didn't exist. After pastoring for eighteen years, I've noticed a large percentage of people in my church living similar lives. Some seem to be Christian in name only without a lot of visible spiritual fruit. Others boldly claim Christ is Lord while living lives diametrically opposed to the teachings in scripture. The more I looked,

the more I found Christian Atheists everywhere. While it is often easy to spot the hypocrisy in others, it is generally more difficult to see in the mirror. One day in an honest moment, I painfully admitted that although I unquestionably believed in God, I was leading the church as if he didn't exist. I wrongly depended more on my own abilities than on his Spirit. Sadly, I dangerously cared more what people thought about me than what God thought about me. And although I preached about putting your whole faith in God, I still lived as if everything was up to me. The book *Christian Atheism* reflects my personal journey toward a more authentic God-honoring life.

Church of Cowards

A Wake-Up Call to Complacent Christians *Simon and Schuster*

What Would You Surrender for God? Christians in the Middle East, in much of Asia, and in Africa are still being martyred for the faith, but how many American Christians are willing to lay down their smartphones, let alone their lives, for the faith? Being a Christian in America doesn't require much these days. Suburban megachurches are more like entertainment venues than places to worship God. The lives that American "Christians" lead aren't much different from those of their atheist neighbors, and their knowledge of theology isn't much better either. Matt Walsh of *The Daily Wire* exposes the pitiful state of Christianity in America today, lays out the stakes for us, our families, and our

eternal salvation, and invites us to a faith that's a lot less easy and comfortable—but that's more real and actually worth something. The spiritual junk food we're stuffing ourselves with is never going to satisfy. As St. Augustine said over a millennium ago, our hearts are restless until they rest in Him. Only God Himself can make our lives anything but ultimately meaningless and empty. And we will never get anywhere near Him if we refuse to take up our cross and follow Jesus. This rousing call to the real adventure of a living faith is a wake-up call to complacent Christians and a rallying cry for anyone dissatisfied with a lukewarm faith.

Church Sucks

But It Doesn't Have to Stay That Way

While “Church Sucks” might be an unusual title for a book, it certainly captures the way many people feel. Church was created to be a place of acceptance, healing, growth, and service. However, many times it becomes a place of tradition, busyness, obligation, selfishness, legalism, and hypocrisy. When that occurs, there is no better description than to say, “Church Sucks!” Pastor/Author Scott Oldenburgh does more than present a description of the bad state of the contemporary church; he provides a way to return church to what it should be. Using his own experience as a starting point, he offers very workable solutions to improve the current condition of the

church. As you read this book, you will not only discover steps to help make a difference in your church, but you will be encouraged that change is possible. The point of the book is that church does not have to "suck" and Scott offers guidance in how that can be experienced. This book is for pastors, church leaders, church members, and anyone else who belongs to a church – in other words, all Christians will benefit from these words.

Deep Church

A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional *InterVarsity Press*

If you feel caught between the traditional church and the emerging church, read Jim Belcher. He paints a picture of an alternate, "deep" church--a

missional church committed to both tradition and contemporary culture, valuing innovation in worship, arts and community but also adhering to creeds and confessions.

Love Your Church

8 Great Things about Being a Church Member *The Good Book Company*

How to grow in love for your church. God calls us to be "devoted to one another in love" (Romans 12:10). What does this look like for us today? How can we be the kind of church member who makes a real difference? This engaging book by Tony Merida explores what church is, why being part of it is exciting, and why it's worthy of our love and commitment.

He sets out eight privileges and responsibilities of a church member: to belong, to welcome, to gather, to care, to serve, to honour, to witness and to send. As we see how wonderful it is to belong to God's family and be a part of his amazing witness to both the earthly and the heavenly realms, we'll grow in our love for and commitment to our local church. This is a great book for every churchgoer to read, whether they're new or have been attending for some time but need re-energising with God's vision for the local church. With a discussion guide at the end of the book, *Love Your Church* is also a great resource for small groups.

So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore

An Unexpected Journey *Windblown Media*

Jake Colsen, an overworked and disillusioned pastor, happens into a stranger who bears an uncanny resemblance (in manner) to the apostle John. A number of encounters with John as well as a family crisis lead Jake to a new understanding of what his life should be like: one filled with faith bolstered by a steady, close relationship with the God of the universe. Facing his own disappointment with Christianity, Jake must forsake the habits that have made his faith rote and rediscover the love that captured his heart when he first believed. Compelling and intensely personal, *SO YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO CHURCH ANYMORE* relates a man's rebirth from performance-based

Christianity to a loving friendship with Christ that affects all he does, thinks, and says. As John tells Jake, "There is nothing the Father desires for you more than that you fall squarely in the lap of his love and never move from that place for the rest of your life."

Revitalize

Biblical Keys to Helping Your Church Come Alive Again *Baker Books*

Church health is measured by more than just numbers, but declining membership is often a key symptom of a church in crisis. The pastor of a dying church doesn't need to be told it is dying; he needs to find the way forward--and he needs hope. Author and pastor Andrew Davis offers readers the lessons he's

learned in his own journey of leading church transformation, including - keeping Christ's ownership of the church central - being humble - choosing your battles wisely - empowering godly men to join in leadership - making prayer a priority - focusing on the Word - and more Church decline is not inevitable. Revitalize gives pastors the spiritual support they long for and the practical advice they need to turn their churches around and position them for greater health in the future.

Don't Fire Your Church Members

The Case for Congregationalism *B&H Publishing Group*

Church membership is not just a status, it's an office. Leaders shouldn't fire

members from the responsibilities given to them by Jesus—they should train them! When members are trained, the church grows in holiness and love, discipleship and mission. Complacency and nominalism are diminished. Jesus gives every church member an office in the church's government: to assume final responsibility for guarding the what and the who of the gospel in the church and its ministry. Similarly, Jesus gives leaders to the church for equipping the members to do this church-building and mission-accomplishing work. In our day, the tasks of reinvigorating congregational authority and elder authority must work together. The vision of congregationalism pictured in this book offers an integrated view of the Christian life. Congregationalism is

biblical, but biblical congregationalism just might look a little different than you expect. It is nothing less than Jesus' authorization for living out his kingdom rule among a people on mission.

That Old-Time Religion *Book Tree*

This book proves there is nothing new under the sun regarding many of our modern religious beliefs. This includes Christianity, and how many of its beliefs could be far older than what we have suspected. It gives a complete run-down of the stellar, lunar, and solar evolution of our religious systems and contains new, long-awaited, exhaustive research on the gods and our beliefs.

Autopsy of a Deceased Church

12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive *B&H Publishing Group*

Presents twelve lessons on keeping a church alive, discussing the consistent themes the author found in dying churches.

The Post-Quarantine Church**Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation** *Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.*

A trustworthy and respected guide for pastors and church leadership in the post-quarantine world, providing hope and vision for the future of your congregation. From thousands of surveys of church leaders and in-person consultations, Thom Rainer and his

Church Answers team have gathered the essential wisdom you will need to face the challenges and opportunities that the quarantine crisis creates for the local church, including: New and better ways to lead the gathered church A wide-open door for growing the digital church A moment to rethink the facilities New strategies for church growth . . . and much more! This book is, in effect, your personal church consultant, helping you plan and prepare for the future. In the midst of heartbreak, tragedy, and struggle due to Covid-19, here's hope, wisdom, encouragement and vision. This book is valuable for those looking for local church and pastor resources to enhance church leadership, grow your church, and serve digital and online church communities in the post-

quarantine world. As a former pastor and founder of Church Answers, Thom S. Rainer is intimately familiar with the ever-present demands that pastors face. He has spent a lifetime committed to the growth and health of the local church.

Book of Mormon

Family Heritage Edition *Covenant Communications*

Bonded-leather with over 70 breathtaking images and gift box 50% discount.

At Your Best

How to Get Time, Energy, and Priorities Working in Your Favor *WaterBrook*

"An influential podcaster and thought leader provides time, energy, and priority management tactics to help you crush it at work and thrive at home"--

Stop Dating The Church!

Fall In Love With The Family Of God *Multnomah*

God designed us to build our lives around a local church. Bestselling Joshua Harris reveals how and why to fall in love with, and stay committed to, the church.

How to Change Your Church Without Killing It

If you sense that your church's best days are ahead, use this book's guidelines for deciding where and what kind of change to implement. Then tackle Mellado,

Appel, and Nelson's strategy for wise planning and team building so your goals will find rich fulfillment. The authors authoritatively cover the elements of initiating change in a church body, addressing such topics as: Examining what motivates you Getting below the skin of improvement Honoring past traditions while developing new ones Understanding the emotional side of change Identifying opinion leaders in your church Determining where you want to go as a body Creating a transition plan Sailing the "leader ship" Making conflict work for you Enjoying the benefits of improved ministry Though many American churches are fading in number and effectiveness, yours can stay on course. Take advantage of others' experience: How to Change Your

Church (Without Killing It) contains many success and crash-and-burn stories, as well as pointed lessons about how to guide your church through innovation with the least pain possible. Embark on the journey through church change with these able guides and make your local church body irresistible to believers and seekers alike.

The Purpose Driven Church

Growth Without Compromising Your Message and Mission *Zondervan*

Every church is driven by something. Tradition, finances, programs, personalities, events, seekers, and even buildings can each be the controlling force in a church. But Rick Warren believes that in order for a church to be

healthy if must become a purpose driven church by Jesus. Now the founding pastor of Saddleback Church shares a proven five-part strategy that will enable your church to grow. . . - Warmer through fellowship - Deeper through discipleship - Stronger through worship - Broader through ministry - Larger through evangelism. Discover the same practical insights and principles for growing a healthy church that Rick has taught in seminars to over 22,000 pastors and church leaders from sixty denominations and forty-two countries. The Purpose Driven Church® shifts the focus away from church building programs to emphasizing a people-building process. Warren says, "If you will concentrate on building people, God will build the church."

Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore

And How 4 Acts of Love Will Make Your Church Irresistible *Group Pub Incorporated*

Thom and Joani Schultz expose the church practices that are driving people away and thwarting spiritual growth. Yet they also reveal what can bring them back--the four keys to reaching the "unchurched" and the "dechurched."-- Publisher description.

The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ *Open Road + Grove/Atlantic*

A thought-provoking retelling of the Gospel story from an atheist perspective. Upon its hardcover

publication, renowned author Philip Pullman's *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* provoked heated debates and stirred a frenzy of controversy throughout the clerical and literary worlds alike with its bold retelling of the life of Jesus Christ. In this remarkable piece of fiction, famously atheistic author Philip Pullman challenges the events of the Gospels and puts forward his own compelling and plausible version of the life of Jesus. Written with unstinting authority, *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* is a pithy, erudite, subtle, and powerful book by a beloved author, a text to be read and reread, studied and unpacked, much like the Good Book itself. "The erudite fantasy author, Philip Pullman, makes explicit his complaint against

Christian dogma with [this] challenging deconstruction of the Gospels." —Entertainment Weekly "Inspiring . . . Again and again, [Pullman] displays a marvelous sense of the elemental power of Jesus's instructions and parables." —The Washington Post

The Book No Pope Would Want You to Read *Eworld*

This book is an all in one expose of the Catholic Church and their leaders who have lied, cheated their parishioners and the world for 2000 years...this expose names names and takes no prisoners...gets past the infallibility claims and public relation campaigns that still go on...for Catholics, ex-Catholics and the world. The mafia, the drugs, weapons, molestations are not

the work of the holy...but the work of criminals.

Matrix of Power

How the World Has Been Controlled by Powerful People Without Your Knowledge *Book Tree*

Who really runs the world? Who controls the money, the politics, and almost every facet of life without you knowing a thing about it? Is such a thing possible? Maxwell grew up in a family that had high-ranking insiders in international politics and religion, so had access to information that few people could imagine. He continued with a lifetime of investigation and is now considered the world's foremost authority on ancient religions and modern conspiracies. He

has appeared on three CBS television specials and countless radio shows. His work on the true meaning of symbols in politics, religion, and major corporations is also covered in this highly illustrated book. Explore this fascinating subject with a man who has devoted a lifetime of study to uncovering our hidden masters.

Healing Your Church Hurt

What To Do When You Still Love God But Have Been Wounded by His People *Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.*

If you've been part of a church, you have probably suffered a "church hurt"—or know someone who has. Maybe the pastor had an affair or the congregation fought over money or the leaders were

disguising gossip as “prayer.” Stephen Mansfield knows how it feels. Though he is now a New York Times bestselling author, he was a pastor for more than 20 years, and he loved it—until he learned how much a church can hurt. Yet he also learned how to dig out of that hurt, break through the bitterness and anger, stop making excuses, and get back to where he ought to be with God and his people. If you’re ready to choose the tough path to healing, Mansfield will walk you through it with brotherly love, showing you how you can be better than ever on the other side of this mess—if you’re willing to start *Healing Your Church Hurt*. Previously published as *ReChurch*.

Gospel Fluency

Speaking the Truths of Jesus into the Everyday Stuff of Life *Crossway*

flu·en·cy / noun :the ability to speak a language easily and effectively Even if they want to, many Christians find it hard to talk to others about Jesus. Is it possible this difficulty is because we're trying to speak a language we haven't actually spent time practicing? To become fluent in a new language, you must immerse yourself in it until you actually start to think about life through it. Becoming fluent in the gospel happens the same way—after believing it, we have to intentionally rehearse it (to ourselves and to others) and immerse ourselves in its truths. Only then will we start to see how everything in our lives, from the mundane to the magnificent, is transformed by the hope

of the gospel.

The Book of Longings

A Novel *Penguin*

“An extraordinary novel . . . a triumph of insight and storytelling.” —Associated Press “A true masterpiece.” —Glennon Doyle, author of *Untamed* An extraordinary story set in the first century about a woman who finds her voice and her destiny, from the celebrated number one New York Times bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Invention of Wings* In her mesmerizing fourth work of fiction, Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a

wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything. Their marriage evolves with love and conflict, humor and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas. She is sustained by her fearless aunt Yaltha, who harbors a compelling secret. When Ana commits a brazen act that puts her in peril, she

flees to Alexandria, where startling revelations and greater dangers unfold, and she finds refuge in unexpected surroundings. Ana determines her fate during a stunning convergence of events considered among the most impactful in human history. Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers.

Church Discipline

How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus *Crossway*

More and more church leaders, pastors, and members are looking for guidance on how to practice church discipline in a biblical way. Here is a contemporary and concise how-to guide that provides a theological framework for understanding and implementing disciplinary measures in the local church, along with several examples of real-life situations. Drawing on both Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 5, this brief hardback helps leaders face the endless variety of circumstances and sins for which no exact scriptural case study exists, sins which don't show up on any list and need a healthy framework to be corrected appropriately in love. This volume is part of the 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches

series. Look for upcoming, quick-read formats of the following marks of a healthy church: expositional preaching, biblical theology, the gospel, conversion, evangelism, church membership, discipleship and growth, and church leadership.

Your Church Is Too Safe

Why Following Christ Turns the World Upside-Down *Zondervan*

“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.” That was the startled cry, circa 50 AD, from a hastily assembled mob in Thessalonica. These men who have turned the world upside: their description of Paul and Silas. Holy vandals on the loose, anointed marauders running amok, men

out ransacking Roman cities with the gospel. You’d think they were heralding the arrival of Barbarian hordes, fierce Berserkers descending on poorly fortified villages, not two hungry men with no more than a fire in their bellies and a wildness in their eyes. These were just two ordinary men. But, as Paul says to the Corinthians, he was a man who preached “with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,” a man whose weapons were not of the world but had “divine power to demolish strongholds.” Two simple, ordinary men, walking in the power of God. A whole town in uproar because of them. It’s been a while since we’ve seen the likes of this. Your Church Is Too Safe is an ebook based on a simple idea: that God meant his church to be both good news and bad news, an

aroma and a stench – a disruptive force to whoever or whatever opposes the Kingdom of God, and a healing and liberating power to those who seek it. That the church has not always lived this mandate is well-documented. That the church needs to recover this mandate is much touted. *Your Church Is Too Safe* is a plea, a celebration, and a manifesto. It's an attempt to call the church to be the church. It is a tribute to the many churches that seek to be this. And it is a roadmap to become this. Above all, *Your Church Is Too Safe* is a biblical reflection and exhortation on why we should be

this. Its main narrative is rooted in the story of how the early church, for all her failings and heresies and squabbles, managed to turn the world upside down. And its principal claim is that the modern church, for all her failings and heresies and squabbles, has every advantage they had, and maybe more, and faces no more challenges than they did, and maybe fewer.

The World's Sixteen Crucified Saviors Paperback

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