

# Interim Ministry Resources

## Chapter 13 Identity

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## Resources

### Grace and Graciousness » Alban

Embracing the “I’m not okay, you’re not okay” approach takes honesty, courage, and vulnerability. It enables us to acknowledge that it is not us, but God, who is righteous. God is perfect, and through the process of redemption, he is perfecting us by his perfect love. This approach invites us into an open and honest redeeming relationship with Christ in which we are allowed to be ourselves. There is no “bait and switch” here. We do not offer grace at first and then judgment later. We offer grace to get people in the door and to keep them growing in the warmth of God’s love. This grace is offered throughout a person’s life and spiritual journey.

#### [Alban at Duke Divinity School » Grace and Graciousness](#)

<http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=4648>

[Images for Grace and Graciousness » Alban](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Honest-God-Church-Pathway/dp/156699344X>

[Images for Honest-God-Church-Pathway](#)

<https://alban.org/category/worship/>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/alban-weekly/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

### Happy and Sad Danes unite – The Lutheran

In Ringstead, Iowa: A tale of emotions, dancing, disagreements, fire and mold

In 1941, *The Des Moines [Iowa] Register* featured a story about the Happy Dancing Danes who in the 1940s put Ringsted, Iowa, on the map. In July, the congregations that split 113 years ago over theology and dancing finally reunited.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=6728](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=6728)

[Images for Happy and Sad Danes unite - The Lutheran](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<http://www.ourstorymn.com/ringsted/>

### How to Identify Our Church's Unstated Assumptions | The Parish Paper

Review these ten assumptions about the right way to run a church. Do any of them guide our congregation’s behaviors?

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue/how-identify-our-church%E2%80%99s-unstated-assumptions>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>

<http://www.wisconsinumc.org/ministries/worship-witness/communications/parish-paper> January 2009 - "How to Identify Our Church's Unstated Assumptions"

[Images for How to Identify Our Church's Unstated Assumptions | The Parish Paper](#)

<http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/church-management/parish-paper/>

<http://www.hcucc.org/the-parish-paper>

<https://www.theparishpaper.com/back-issue-index> Back Issue Index | The Parish Paper

### Nice is not enough - The Lutheran Magazine

When someone who hasn’t participated in church life comes into a congregation, they usually are not looking to see if the people there would make good friends. Their underlying question isn’t “Are the people here nice?” but rather “Is God clearly a part of this place?” If the answer they perceive is “yes,” they then ask the next question: “Do the people seem to notice God’s presence here?”

Visitors want to know if this is a place where people have a **vibrant and growing faith** life. If so, they find hope that they, too, might find a vibrant and growing faith.

Once the God questions and the vibrant faith questions are answered, then people ask: “Are these people I would want to hang around with?” Here, being nice is helpful.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=12651](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12651)

[Images for Nice is not enough - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

[Images for vibrant and growing faith](#)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

### Setting the Welcome Thermostat » Alban

Three attributes enhance this church’s appeal: it is “flexible while honoring the importance of commitment”; it is “welcoming but not desperate”; and it is “overt about theology while making room for doubt.”

#### [Alban at Duke Divinity School » Setting the Welcome Thermostat](#)

<https://albanroundtable.wordpress.com/2010/05/17/resources-and-comments-in-response-to-setting-the-welcome-thermostat/>

[Images for Setting the Welcome Thermostat » Alban Three attributes enhance this church’s appeal](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/church-for-the-under-forty-crowd-attracting-younger-adults-to-congregational-life/>

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566993876/Holy-Clarity-The-Practice-of-Planning-and-Evaluation>

## Why YOUR Church Isn't THE Church (And 5 Liberating Truths about That Fact) – Carey Nieuwhof

I've come to believe that local churches function much the way individual people do within the body of Christ. *Together* we make up the body. Individually, we are *parts* of the body. As Paul famously said, a body is comprised of feet, ears, eyes and even elbows.

So, it is that God weaves all of us together to be the body of Christ. I think local churches function the same way.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/03/why-your-church-isnt-the-church-and-5-liberating-truths-about-that-fact/>

Images for Why YOUR Church Isn't THE Church (And 5 Liberating Truths about That Fact) – Carey Nieuwhof

## Wisdom from Lyle E. Schaller: The Elder Statesman of Church Leadership by Lyle E. Schaller (Author), Warren Bird (Editor)

17. How Can a Church Learn to See Itself More Accurately?

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<http://www.amazon.com/Wisdom-Lyle-Schaller-Statesman-Leadership/dp/1426749104>

Images for Wisdom from Lyle E. Schaller: How Can a Church Learn to See Itself More Accurately?

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<https://www.amazon.com/Warren-Bird/e/B002BLN1V6>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85146.Warren\\_Bird](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/85146.Warren_Bird)

Images for Warren Bird, author

## 1) Abusive Church

### Authority Abusers: Toxic Leadership and Its Effects in Homes, Churches, and Relationships (New and Expanded) by George G. Bloomer

We would be living in a world of complete chaos if there were no one in authority. Godly authority in homes, churches, and relationships is meant to lead, protect, and preserve us. Authority abuse shatters lives, destroys marriages, and does great harm to individuals.

As surely as the absence of authority produces chaos, the abuse of authority produces destruction. Tragically, it's inside the church--where salvation and love should abound--that some of the worst authority abuse takes place. God's design for authority has been misunderstood, twisted, and manipulated, leaving innocent people as victims and prisoners of controlling, abusive situations. Wake up! This is not God's design for the church--or authority. Bishop George Bloomer will show you the key to breaking free from the bondage of spiritual abuse.

Church was never meant to hurt so much. The wounded and weak have been preyed upon. Hurting souls have been frightened into submission by leaders who use people to improve their own self-esteem and advance their careers. Tragically, this has all happened within the church where salvation, healing, freedom, and love should abound. In George Bloomer's wake-up call for the church, you will learn: God's true design for authority, Why people abuse authority, How to recognize improper use of authority, God's restorative plan for the abused and the abuser.

<https://www.amazon.com/Authority-Abusers-Expanded-BLOOMER-GEORGE/dp/1603740465>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3380871-authority-abusers>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/authority-abusers-george-g-bloomer/1009076251>

<https://www.christianbook.com/authority-abusers-george-bloomer/9781603740463/pd/740463#CBD-PD-Description>

<http://www.thebookco.com/leadership-5/>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=ico1PwAACAAJ&source=gbs\\_book\\_similarbooks](http://books.google.com/books?id=ico1PwAACAAJ&source=gbs_book_similarbooks)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eApNp0JT1sM> Authority Abusers Book – YouTube

<https://livestream.com/accounts/2181780/events/1836492>

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<http://bethelfamily.org/about-bishop>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6f-hf2jemY> Bishop George G. Bloomer and Bethel Family Worship Center Church on Demand.rm

<https://twitter.com/bishopbloomer?lang=en>

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<https://www.facebook.com/GGBloomer/>

<https://www.amazon.com/George-G.-Bloomer/e/B000APV2I4>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/193719.George\\_G\\_Bloomer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/193719.George_G_Bloomer)

[Images for George G. Bloomer, author](#)

[Images for Authority Abusers: Toxic Leadership and Its Effects in Homes, Churches, and Relationships \(New and Expanded\) by George G. Bloomer](#)

**Broken Trust: ...a practical guide to identify and recover from toxic faith, toxic church, and spiritual abuse (The Overcoming Series: Spiritual Abuse, Book 4) by F. Remy Diederich (Author)**

If you have suffered spiritual abuse from a toxic church, toxic organization, or toxic leader, your trust has been broken. You entrusted your life to someone you thought would care for you: someone who initially inspired you to know God, only to reject you in the end. Now you are left wounded and disillusioned, wondering if you can ever trust others, yourself, or possibly even God, again.

Have You Been Hurt by Spiritual Abuse?

Most people don't understand the devastating impact of spiritual abuse. Many suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of experiencing it. If you think your spiritual community might be abusive, or you have just left an abusive congregation, then this book could give you the direction you are looking for.

In "Broken Trust," F. Remy Diederich relates his personal experiences of toxic faith and spiritual abuse along with the experiences of other survivors. But this isn't just another tell-all story of abuse; it's a guide that will help you to first identify spiritual abuse, and then offer you a practical plan for recovery. Diederich is convinced that God is the God of resurrection and restoration. He believes you can begin again.



<https://www.amazon.com/Broken-Trust-practical-spiritual-Overcoming-ebook/dp/B073491BLN>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35525178-broken-trust>

[www.readingremy.com/](http://www.readingremy.com/)

<http://www.mikeuslan.com/blog/2017/10/broken-trust-book-by-remy-diederich/>

<https://libertyforcaptives.com/2017/09/18/book-review-of-broken-trust-by-f-remy-diederich/>

<https://libertyforcaptives.com/resources/>

<https://www.themindrenewed.com/interviews/2019/22-interviewnotes/1269-int164n>

<https://www.facebook.com/F-Remy-Diederich-732235690199412/>

<https://www.amazon.com/F.-Remy-Diederich/e/B006FJ0KIW>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5771892.F\\_Remy\\_Diederich](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5771892.F_Remy_Diederich)

[Images for F. Remy Diederich \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Broken Trust by F. Remy Diederich \(Author\)](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Complete-Overcoming-comprehensive-self-help-Behavioral-ebook/dp/B009NY1V1G>

<https://www.littlebrown.co.uk/titles/peter-cooper-2/the-complete-overcoming-series/9781472106414/>

[Images for Overcoming Series](#)

**Captive Hearts, Captive Minds: Freedom and Recovery from Cults and Abusive Relationships [Madeleine Landau Tobias, Janja Lalich]**

In America today, an estimated 5,000 cults have affected over 10 million people. Whether their focus is religion, politics, therapy or self-improvement, cults exact an inestimable cost, both emotionally and financially, from those who join. Sensitively written by two former cult members, this book provides the hands-on help ex-cultists need to recover from manipulation and mind control.

<http://www.amazon.com/Captive-Hearts-Minds-Recovery-Relationships/dp/0897931459>

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<https://culteducation.com/books.html> Cults

<https://www.transformation.dk/www.raven1.net/mcf/books.htm>

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<https://list.ly/list/5eM-cults-a-list-of-cult-books>

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Images for Madeleine Landau Tobias, author

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<https://enacademic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/4429785>

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Images for Janja Lalich, author

Images for *Captive Hearts, Captive Minds* [Madeleine Landau Tobias, Janja Lalich]

Images for *Freedom and Recovery from Cults and Abusive Relationships*

### Churches That Abuse: Help for Those Hurt by Legalism, Authoritarian Leadership [Ronald M. Enroth]

This book warns and informs readers about the fringe churches and groups that operate with abusive styles, creating emotional and spiritual perils for their adherents.

A look at churches that practice authoritarian leadership, manipulation, excessive discipline, and spiritual intimidation warns and informs readers about such organizations, naming names and offering advice on identifying a fringe church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Churches-That-Abuse-Ronald-Enroth/dp/0310532922>

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<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/c51.html> "Churches That Abuse"

<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/a08.html> The Power Abusers: When follow-the-leader becomes a dangerous game

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vqr-PgoUlw> Let's Talk about Sects 2: The Charismatic Leader - YouTube

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Images for Ronald M. Enroth

Images for *Help for Those Hurt by Legalism, Authoritarian Leadership* [Ronald M. Enroth]

### Recovering from Churches That Abuse [ENROTH RONALD]

When Ronald Enroth wrote the best-selling book *Churches That Abuse*, he touched a nerve with many people who had experienced the pain inflicted by fringe churches and religious groups having authoritarian or other hurtful styles. In this book, Enroth points the way toward spiritual and emotional healing for those who have come out of these groups. This book will help the victims of spiritual abuse and their families cope with reentry into the Christian mainstream, and it will prove invaluable to counselors and pastors who are helping these people to find their way. Specific topics, presented through the narrative style of the book, include dispelling emotional confusion, restoring relationships, regaining independence and making other life adjustments, coping with disorientation, returning to reality, and renewing a wholesome personal relationship with God.

This book is a healing balm for those who have been spiritually abused. This excellent SHORT book brings home poignantly the plight of the vulnerable spirit who is searching for answers in a religious system where members find value and spiritual

worth based on their own works. Clear and concise, the author provides evaluative questions and practical advice for bringing the seeker back to God's grace.



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<https://www.pinterest.com/WOSNYS/spiritual-abuse/>

#### **Damaged Disciples: Casualties of Authoritarian Churches and the Shepherding Movement [Ron Burks, Vicki Burks, David A. Seamands]**

*Damaged Disciples* is the account of Ron and Vicki Burks' search for a meaningful faith. Unfortunately, the nontraditional church they found trapped them in a branch of the charismatic movement that taught them to be subject to their spiritual "masters" in every area of life. Vicki was taught to submit herself to her husband where she was to be sustained by his spiritual life which, in essence, allowed none for her. This is also the chronicle of the beginning of their journey back to faith and wholeness.

The authors were part of the generation that, in the sixties, searched for nontraditional ways to express faith in God. Unfortunately, they became virtual prisoners of a charismatic movement that robbed them of their personhood. This is the powerful story of how they broke free.

<http://www.amazon.com/Damaged-Disciples-Casualties-Authoritarian-Shepherding/dp/0310576113>  
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Images for David A. Seamands, author  
Images for *Damaged Disciples: Casualties of Authoritarian Churches and the Shepherding Movement* [Ron Burks, Vicki Burks, David A. Seamands]

#### **Grace Plus Nothing by Jeff Harkin (Author)**

Join the ever-increasing army of Christians who are learning to relate to God on the biblical basis of grace alone. Find out how the grace of God imparts godly character to you and in you, day after day and year after year. Find out how and why legalism imparts only ungodliness. *Grace Plus Nothing* is filled with Scripture and practical examples leading to the conclusion that godly character comes about through grace alone.

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Images for Jeff Harkin (Author) *grace plus nothing*  
Images for *Grace Plus Nothing* by Jeff Harkin (Author)

### Exposing Spiritual Abuse: How to rediscover God's love when the church has let you down by Mike Fehlauer (Author)

To all those who love God but who do not want to be abused in God's name by their church leaders, you'll love this book. If you've ever felt you've given your best and you didn't run at the first sign of trouble in a church, but there came a point when you had been stripped of so much inside that you had to go, yet you were talked about from the pulpit as if you had given up on God, this book is for you! Don't use it as an excuse to not submit to your church leaders, because clearly God tells us we should. Don't use it to justify leaving a church because the leaders didn't listen to you about changing the songs the choir sings or because the pastor didn't come visit you in the hospital. That's not what it's about. Use it as a guideline to see when the things that you're being pressured to submit to cross the line from godly submission to man's manipulation and control. For those who would try to tell you that this book is not from God, remember this-David had a submissive attitude to Saul, when he was in Saul's house and afterwards. But when Saul tried to kill David because of his own emotional demons, DAVID RAN and GOD BACKED DAVID! So, don't let church leaders tell you that you're wrong to leave a church in which abuse is being justified in God's name.

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Images for Mike Fehlauer (Author)

[Images for How to rediscover God's love when the church has let you down by Mike Fehlauer \(Author\)](http://www.amazon.com/Exposing-Spiritual-Abuse-Mike-Fehlauer/dp/0884197689)

### Healing Spiritual Abuse: How to Break Free from Bad Church Experience [Ken Blue]

Are you a victim of Spiritual Abuse?

Are you discouraged from questioning the decisions or teachings church leaders make?

If you do little or no volunteer work for the church, do you feel like a second-class Christian?

Does your pastor insist on being addressed by a title such as "Dr." or "Pastor"?

Do you hear many broad, vague appeals to "surrender fully," "yield completely" or "lay it all on the altar"?

Are public reports about various ministry activities sometimes exaggerated?

Do church members feel safe talking only about past victories, not present struggles?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be a victim of spiritual abuse. Many of us have gone through bad church experiences that have left us feeling like failures. Blaming ourselves, we asked for God's forgiveness, but felt distant from the church and sometimes from God too. Often, however, the fault is not ours but that of Christian leaders who abuse spiritually. How can we recognize the signs of spiritual abuse? What can we do to gain healing from the wounds we have experienced? With clarity and refreshing honesty, Ken Blue answers these questions and offers hope and healing to the victims of spiritual abuse. In addition, he shows Christian leaders how to avoid abusive patterns and instead offer Christ's gospel of grace to every casualty of bad church experiences.

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[Images for Ken Blue, author](#)  
[Images for How to Break Free from Bad Church Experience \[Ken Blue\]](#)

### **Recovering from Religious Abuse: 11 Steps to Spiritual Freedom by Jack Watts (Author), Robert S. McGee (Foreword)**

Jack Watts confronts one of Christianity's deepest secrets and shares his own story of religious abuse, revealing the lifelong self-destructive behavior it produced—now in paperback.

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### **Recovering from Spiritual Abuse - Davis - LocalWiki**

The primary purpose of this page is to allow those of us who have left Grace Valley Christian Center (GVCC) or another abusive church to share how we have, by God's grace, moved on and continued with our lives. It will include some basic accounts of events leading up to our departure as well as activities and resources that have helped in the healing process.

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### **Recovery from Spiritual Abuse (Life Recovery Guides) by Juanita Ryan (Author), Dale Ryan (Author)**

*Recovery from Spiritual Abuse* is part of a 15-title series, Life Recovery Guides, in which Christian counselors Juanita and Dale Ryan provide help and encouragement for people hurt by life in one way or another.

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[Images for Juanita Ryan \(Author\), Dale Ryan \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for \(Life Recovery Guides\)](#)



## Signs of Spiritual Abuse - YouTube

You or someone you know may be the victim of spiritual abuse. Find out what signs to look for in order to avoid spiritual manipulation and control. Abuse is deadly and something we should never submit to. Jesus is the head of the church. We should never allow an individual to control areas that are only His to control. What behavior do we submit to and what behavior do we run from? The scripture teaches submission to Christ, not to abuse. This will help you to stay in the healthy balance of proper biblical submission. Ephesians [1:22](#) -And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DHx6kXhWww>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbhBo01wGXw> 8 More Signs of an Abusive Church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk0x2iGCZPE> 9 Signs of Spiritual Abuse – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCt3lau87qk> 10 Ways to Spot Spiritual Abuse - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hdt6OkwaXnk> Understanding the Cycle of Spiritual Abuse - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scEi4nprnuo> Healing from Spiritual Abuse: Part 1 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pSHvpm4QnE> Exposing Spiritual Abuse in Church Leadership | Healing from Church Hurt

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BAWpXWT2OI> Spiritually Abusive Churches - Personal Testimony - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNRiDY18PPo> The abusive church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NScg2qPxsB4> Are You a Victim of Spiritual Abuse? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MLGTVqShY> Everything I Didn't Know About Spiritual Abuse – YouTube

## 6 Warning Signs of Spiritual Abuse — Charisma News

We must recognize the warning signs of spiritual abuse—and be willing to challenge unhealthy leadership practices before they lead to tragedy. Here are six ways spiritual abuse operates:

<http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/52762-6-warning-signs-of-spiritual-abuse>

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## The Heresy of Mind Control Recognizing Con Artists, Tyrants, and Spiritual Abusers in Leadership [Stephen Martin]

Could you fall for mind control? Suppose you move to a different area and are keeping your eyes open for a good group to belong to. You visit one such group where the people are very friendly, loving, and give you individual attention. The group has a variety of programs: a rehabilitation program for drug addicts, services, and nursing homes for the elderly, help for the poor, and free clinics. The leader inspires the disillusioned, the disenchanting, and those who have been rejected elsewhere. He is well-known and respected in the area, and the mayor gave him a position as director of the City Housing Authority. Would you join this group? If you answered “yes” to the first situation, you joined the church led by Jim Jones who led over 900 of his followers into a mass suicide murder.

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[Images for The Heresy of Mind Control Recognizing Con Artists, Tyrants, and Spiritual Abusers in Leadership \[Stephen Martin\]](#)

### The Honest to God Church: A Pathway to God's Grace [Doug Bixby, Author]

Doug Bixby knows that many of us have had enough of the liberal vs. conservative battles in the church. In *The Honest to God Church*, Bixby demonstrates how these extremes have distracted us from our true calling as conduits for God's grace--both individually and as congregations. Many churches see themselves as "okay," while everyone outside the church is "not okay." **These churches embrace an ethic of perfection rather than love.** Often, they are very judgmental and rigid; little room exists for grace after a person is converted. Legalism, rather than love, becomes the primary defining characteristic; people pretend to be perfect even though they are not. In reaction to this approach, many churches have replaced judgmentalism with an ethic of tolerance. But tolerating someone is not the same thing as loving them. Tolerance demands only that we give people space. Love is deeper and more significant and demands that we enter into their space. Besides, if on our own we are okay, then why do we need God and one another? Bixby recommends we embrace the teaching of Martin Luther that we all are saints and sinners simultaneously. Churches that do this raise disciples who readily admit their sin and brokenness and see God's grace as the only means for straightening out their lives. Bixby encourages all congregations to live this way--authentically and transparently--so that we do not have to pretend that we are okay when we are not. Bixby challenges us to respond to Jesus's call to come as we are, not as we think we ought to be.



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[Images for Doug Bixby, Author honest to god church](#)  
[Images for The Honest to God Church: A Pathway to God's Grace \[Doug Bixby, Author\]](#)

### The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse: Recognizing and Escaping Spiritual Manipulation and False Spiritual Authority within the Church [David Johnson, Jeff VanVonderen]

In a breakthrough book first published in 1991, the authors address the dynamics in churches that can ensnare people in legalism, guilt, and begrudging service, keeping them from the grace and joy of God's kingdom. Written for both those who feel abused and those who may be causing it, *The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse* shows how people get hooked into abusive systems, the impact of controlling leadership on a congregation, and how the abused believer can find rest and recovery.

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### Top 10 Signs of a Spiritually Abusive Church | Elizabeth Esther

This entry was posted in My Videos, Recovering Fundamentalist on June 21, 2012.

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### Toxic Churches: Restoration from Spiritual Abuse [Marc Dupont]

Spiritual abuse devastates its victims perhaps more than any other form of violation, because it targets those who are most unprepared and vulnerable. In *Toxic Churches*, Marc Dupont reaches out to those who have given their time, money, and talents to the Body of Christ, only to find themselves hurting, frustrated, and confused. He also writes to Christian leaders who may have inadvertently hurt the flock of God entrusted to their care.

This book explores all aspects of spiritual abuse in the church. With care and tenderness, Dupont offers help and hope to those caught in abusive situations-people who might even be blaming themselves. He provides a healing balm to those with residual pain from past abuse. And he warns those engaging in abusive behavior, flagging telltale signs of warped and broken patterns. Those who have been used or abused by church leaders will find a deeper understanding of God's healing grace-both for themselves and for those who hurt them.

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[Images for Toxic Churches](#)

### Toxic Faith: Experiencing Healing from Painful Spiritual Abuse [Stephen Arterburn, Jack Felton]

When religion becomes a means to avoid or control life, it becomes toxic. Those who possess a toxic faith have stepped across the line from a balanced perspective of God to an unbalanced faith in a weak, powerless or uncaring God. They seek a God to fix every mess, prevent every hurt, and mend every conflict.

*Toxic Faith* distinguishes between a healthy faith and a misguided religiosity that traps believers in an addictive practice of religion. It shows how unbalanced ministries, misguided churches, and unscrupulous leaders can lead their followers away from God and into a desolate experience of religion that drives many to despair. *Toxic Faith* shows readers how to find hope for a return to genuine, healthy faith that can add meaning to life. In the words of the author, "I want to help you throw out that toxic faith and bring you back to the real thing."

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### Twisted Scriptures [Mary Alice Chrnalogar]

For Someone Else If You're Concerned. For Yourself If You've Ever Wondered. You joined your church because of its intensity for God. Like no other place, it's helped you discover the meaning of obedience. Of teachableness. Of death to self. If there's one problem, it's the confusion that sometimes comes from your own carnal thinking. But God has given you leaders who can lovingly correct a doubting, independent spirit and help you choose God's best for your life. How can you go wrong with a church like that? Easily. What you've just read actually fits the profile of many **abusive churches**. *Twisted Scriptures* reveals in depth how the Bible can be distorted in ways that rob you of the liberty Jesus died to give you. You might be shocked at what you discover. This book uncovers the subtle but powerful techniques by which, in the name of truth, controlling leaders manipulate and intimidate countless believers. It also supplies tools for overcoming persuasive, deceptive teachings and practices. Thousands of Christians have already moved from struggle to true freedom and hope through *Twisted Scriptures*. If you truly want to grow in everything God made you to be, you owe it to yourself to read this book.

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Images for Mary Alice Chrnalogar  
Images for Twisted Scriptures [Mary Alice Chrnalogar]

### What is spiritual abuse? | GotQuestions.org

Spiritual abuse happens when a spiritual authority, such as a cult leader or abusive pastor, seeks to control individuals and ensure obedience.

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<http://pureprovender.blogspot.com/2013/02/a-compendium-of-spiritual-abuse.html>

## 2) Activity Driven Congregation

### Death by Church Activities - Sharefaith Magazine

Even though activities can do some good, they can also do some bad—totally without your suspecting it. I call it “death by church activities.” Let me explain.

<http://www.sharefaith.com/blog/2011/06/death-church-programs/>  
Images for Death by Church Activities

### The Activity Driven Church - ThomRainer.com

Churches doing activities for activities' sake have created an insulated membership and stifled community involvement.

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### 12 Reasons Why Your Church Doesn't Produce Spiritual Growth

3. You're more concerned about **activity** than growth. – "Increased church activity does not lead to spiritual growth."

<https://tonymorganlive.com/2012/06/20/12-reasons-why-your-church-doesnt-produce-spiritual-growth/>  
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### 3) Addicted Church

#### Kicking Habits Upgrade Edition: Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches by Thomas G. Bandy (Author)

An upgrade to the ground-breaking book that has shown thousands of congregations how to overcome the destructive attitudes and systems that prevent them from focusing on their true mission: making disciples of Jesus Christ.

In this upgraded edition, Bandy continues to explore the meaning of walking with Jesus in the 21st century. Drawing on the stories of exciting new congregations that have arisen within the last few years, he sharpens his portrayal of the thriving church system, demonstrating its essential concern for savvy awareness of the larger culture and fidelity to the core of the gospel.

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[Images for Thomas G. Bandy \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for Kicking Habits Upgrade Edition: Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches by Thomas G. Bandy \(Author\)](#)

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Page 18

#### Some Folks Need to Break Their Addiction " To Church

Some people become churchaholics, going to four and sometimes five meetings a week for church-related events. Some feel compelled to do this. Others feel it's their calling. Some serve or attend out of guilt. Some will do so while neglecting other areas of life. Perhaps some attend this many church functions but still find they are living a balanced life. Everyone is different. If you attend this many church meetings, I'm not saying you are doing something wrong. I am saying that some people do confuse all these meetings with living the Christian life.

<https://ethicsdaily.com/some-folks-need-to-break-their-addiction-to-church-cms-13950/>

[Images for Some people become churchaholics, going to four and sometimes five meetings a week for church-related events.](#)

### 4) Agnostic

#### Agnostic Quotes - BrainyQuote

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## Agnosticism - Wikipedia

Agnosticism is the view that the [existence of God](#) or the [supernatural](#) is unknown or [unknowable](#).<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

According to the philosopher [William L. Rowe](#), "agnosticism is the view that human reason is incapable of providing sufficient rational grounds to justify either the belief that God exists or the belief that God does not exist".<sup>[2]</sup> Agnosticism is a [doctrine](#) or set of [tenets](#)<sup>[4]</sup> rather than a [religion](#).

English biologist [Thomas Henry Huxley](#) coined the word "agnostic" in 1869. Earlier thinkers, however, had written works that promoted agnostic points of view, such as [Sanjaya Belatthaputta](#), a [5th-century BCE Indian philosopher](#) who expressed agnosticism about any [afterlife](#);<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> and [Protagoras](#), a [5th-century BCE Greek philosopher](#) who expressed agnosticism about the existence of "the gods".<sup>[8]</sup> The [Nasadiya Sukta](#) in the [Rigveda](#) is agnostic about the [origin of the universe](#).<sup>[9][10][11]</sup>

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[Images for Agnosticism](#)

## Best 20+ Agnostic quotes ideas on Pinterest

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## 5) American Religious Life

### American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us by Robert D. Putnam (Author), David E. Campbell (Author)

Unique among nations, America is deeply religious, religiously diverse, and remarkably tolerant. In recent decades, however, the nation's religious landscape has undergone several seismic shocks. *American Grace* is an authoritative, fascinating examination of what precipitated these changes and the role that religion plays in contemporary American society.

Although there is growing polarization between religious conservatives and secular liberals today, at the same time personal interfaith ties are strengthening. Interfaith marriage has increased, and religious identities have become more fluid. More people than ever are friendly with someone of a different faith or no faith at all. Putnam and Campbell show how this denser web of personal ties brings greater interfaith tolerance, despite the so-called culture wars.

Based on two of the most comprehensive surveys ever conducted on religion and public life in America (and with a new epilogue based on a third survey), *American Grace* is an indispensable book about American religious life, essential for understanding our nation today.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_E.\\_Campbell\\_\(academic\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_E._Campbell_(academic))  
<http://politicalscience.nd.edu/faculty/faculty-list/david-campbell/>  
[https://politicalscience.nd.edu/assets/171531/cv\\_july\\_2015.pdf](https://politicalscience.nd.edu/assets/171531/cv_july_2015.pdf)  
<https://www.amazon.com/David-E.-Campbell/e/B001JS7QYU>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/76632.David\\_E\\_Campbell](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/76632.David_E_Campbell)  
Images for David E. Campbell (Author)  
Images for American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us by Robert D. Putnam (Author), David E. Campbell (Author)

### America's Changing Religious Identity - PRRI

#### I. Executive Summary

The American religious landscape is undergoing a dramatic transformation. White Christians, once the dominant religious group in the U.S., now account for fewer than half of all adults living in the country. Today, fewer than half of all states are majority white Christian. As recently as 2007, 39 states had majority white Christian populations. These are two of the major findings from this report, which is based on findings from PRRI's 2016 American Values Atlas, the single largest survey of American religious and denominational identity ever conducted. This landmark report is based on a sample of more than 101,000 Americans from all 50 states and includes detailed information about their religious affiliation, denominational ties, political affiliation, and other important demographic attributes.

<https://www.prrri.org/research/american-religious-landscape-christian-religiously-unaffiliated/>

Images for America's Changing Religious Identity

### America's Changing Religious Landscape | Pew Research Center - Pew

May 12, 2015 - The Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the share of Americans who do not identify with any organized religion is growing.

[Religion in Latin America | Pew Research Center - Pew Research Center](#)

Nov 13, 2014

[Jul 16, 2014 How Americans Feel About Religious Groups – Pew Research Center](#)

Jul 16, 2014

[Religious Groups' Views on End-of-Life Issues | Pew Research Center](#)

Nov 21, 2013

[\(2009\). A religious portrait of African Americans. - Pew Research Center](#)

Jan 30, 2009

[More results from www.pewforum.org](#)

<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

<http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/>

Images for America's Changing Religious Landscape | Pew Research Center - Pew

### Politics, Religion, and the Common Good: Advancing a Distinctly American Conversation about Religion's Role in Our Shared Life [Martin E. Marty]

The future of America, in many ways, depends upon an understanding of the proper role of religion in our shared life as a republic. Discussions and debates on the topic have too often generated noise, platitudes, stereotypes, name-calling, and the distortion of vitally important issues, instead of constructive conversation among citizens---until now. Of all the voices commenting about American religion today, none is more credible or better known than that of historian Martin E. Marty. A respected scholar, author, editor, and media commentator, he has--perhaps better than anyone else in the field--a deep grasp on the complex issues surrounding public religion.

<http://www.amazon.com/Politics-Religion-Common-Good-Conversation/dp/111855440X>

<http://astore.amazon.com/interimini06-20/detail/0787950319>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-7879-5031-6> Nonfiction Book Review

<https://onbeing.org/programs/martin-marty-americas-changing-religious-landscape-2/>  
<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/08172007/profile2.html>  
<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2015/02/20/martin-marty-on-why-you-should-read-a-non-lutherans-book-on-luther-on-the-christian-life/>  
<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/publications>  
<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/martin-e-marty>  
<http://www.illuminos.com/>  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Martin-E-Marty>  
<http://biography.yourdictionary.com/martin-e-marty>  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/martin-e-marty>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_E\\_Marty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_E_Marty)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Martin-E.-Marty/e/B001IQXOT4>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/3994.Martin\\_E\\_Marty](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/3994.Martin_E_Marty)  
Images for Martin E. Marty, author  
Images for Politics, Religion, and the Common Good: Advancing a Distinctly American Conversation about Religion's Role in Our Shared Life [Martin E. Marty]

### Religious Life Quotes - BrainyQuote

[https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/religious\\_life](https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/religious_life)  
<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/religion>  
Images for american religious life quotes  
[www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/religious-life.html](http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/religious-life.html)

### Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors edited by Norman B. Bendroth

#### American Civil Religion

The postwar boom of mainline churches was actually an anomaly. The end of the war, a flourishing economy and rising middle class, the threat of godless communism, and a set of shared values that weren't necessary Christian fueled the ascendancy of church. Social theorists call the melding of Christian and American values "American civil religion." The term "civil religion" was coined by sociologist Robert Bellah to describe the set of rituals, doctrines, and beliefs that develop around nations, which become the sacred myth that binds citizens in common allegiances.9

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566997518>

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Images for American Civil Religion

<https://www.amazon.com/Transitional-Ministry-Today-Successful-Strategies/dp/156699750X>  
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<https://alban.org/2015/03/06/norman-bendroth-transitional-ministry-today/>  
[http://www.pts.edu/Transitional\\_Ministry1](http://www.pts.edu/Transitional_Ministry1)  
<http://www.pts.edu/UserFiles/File/continuing/2016%20Pittsburgh%20Week%20II%20letterIIa.pdf>  
Images for Transitional Ministry Today: Successful Strategies for Churches and Pastors edited by Norman B. Bendroth

## 6) Analysis

### Diagnostic Analysis From Vital Church Ministry For Churches In Crisis

VitalChurch's proprietary diagnostic assessment is one of the primary **tools** we **use** in the revitalization of churches. Through this analysis, we provide churches with an accurate understanding of the current realities within the church, confirming what is working well and what needs attention.

<https://vitalchurchministry.org/diagnostic-analysis>

Images for Diagnostic Analysis From VitalChurch Ministry For Churches In Crisis

### PEST analysis - Wikipedia

PEST analysis (political, economic, socio-cultural and technological) describes a framework of macro-environmental factors used in the environmental scanning component of strategic management. It is part of an external analysis when conducting a strategic analysis or doing market research, and gives an overview of the different macro-environmental factors to be taken into consideration. It is a strategic tool for understanding market growth or decline, business position, potential and direction for operations.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEST\\_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEST_analysis)

Images for political economic social and technological (pest) analysis

### SWOT analysis - Wikipedia

SWOT analysis (or SWOT matrix) is a strategic planning technique used to help a person or organization identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to business competition or project planning.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT\\_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT_analysis)

Images for strengths weaknesses opportunity threats (swot)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT\\_Analysis](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWOT_Analysis)



## 7) Assets

### [PDF] Asset Mapping for Congregations

Asset mapping is a group activity to understand or “map” the resources around us, as well as the resources present in the neighborhood and community. It focuses on the strengths and capacities— the “assets”—of the citizens and institutions (e.g., hospitals, government agencies) and associations/organizations (e.g., YMCA/YWCA, churches, women’s clubs, farmers markets) in the neighborhood or community.

<http://www.qbophb.org/assets/1/7/Asset-Mapping-Template-6-15.pdf>

[Images for Asset Mapping for Congregations](#)

<http://calledtotransformation.org/asset-mapping/congregation-asset-map/>

[http://www.mike-green.org/wkshop2/Q\\_Mapping%20Assets\\_mike.pdf](http://www.mike-green.org/wkshop2/Q_Mapping%20Assets_mike.pdf) [PDF] Asset Mapping - Mike Green

<https://visualchurchleader.wordpress.com/2010/04/06/asset-mapping-leveraging-your-congregations-gifts/>

#### Begin with Assets Activity

- Take a jar that is bigger at the bottom than at the top.
- First, put foam balls in the jar (about the size of a golf ball). Seven foam balls represent things in the congregation that are not helpful (i.e. – we never did it that way before, we are small, we don’t have enough people, you are asking us to change, etc.)
- Second, put handfuls of small wrapped candy (such as individually wrapped lifesavers or tootsie rolls) in the jar. Candy represent assets that a congregation has (i.e., people, building, gifts, God, etc.)
- Fill jar with the candy and put lid on jar.
- What went in first? Things which are not helpful. What went in second? Assets.
- Pour everything out of the jar.
- Now put in the candy first. What are the assets that we named?
- Then put in the foam balls. The foam balls will not all fit and if they do, you cannot put the lid on.
- Conclusion – start with assets, focus on assets and then there is no room for those things which are not helpful.
- When we begin to plan a ministry or activity in the congregation, always start with what we have, not with what we don’t have. This is called asset-based thinking.

#### Discovering Assets Activity

Questions: (*Hint: Do not use all of these questions...depending on the time allotted for the activity 7-8 questions is plenty.*)

What is your most significant gift?

What is your most significant skill?

What is your most significant passion?

What is your most significant artistic ability?

What is your most significant spiritual gift?

What is something you like to do?

What is something you used to like to do?

What is something others say you’re good at?

What is a material asset you can share?

What do you have a lot of?

What musical instrument can you play?

What is it that you know well enough that you could teach to someone?

Who is a person outside your congregation who owes you a favor or would do you a favor if you ask (what is their skill/experience)?

What is invisibly good about this congregation?

What is an asset of your church building?

Provided by Pastor Nancy Nyland, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod at a *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Your Congregation* event as one of the resources that she has implemented effectively in small membership congregation settings over the years. 317-253-3522 ext. 318 [nnyland@iksynod.org](mailto:nnyland@iksynod.org)

[Images for Discovering Assets Activity](#)

[Images for Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Your Congregation](#)

### Discovering the Other: Asset-Based Approaches for Building Community Together [Cameron Harder]

What is God’s mission? Simply put, says theologian and field educator Cameron Harder, God’s mission is to form communities that reflect and embody the life of the Trinity. *Discovering the Other* is an introduction to two tools that community builders have found helpful: appreciative inquiry and asset mapping. These tools help congregations see that all of life is saturated by the sacred and give them energy to begin living as if it were so. Instead of asking, ‘What’s wrong?’ appreciative inquiry asks, ‘What’s right?’ Asset mapping asks, ‘What resources do you have personally that we could bring to our future together?’ Out of these questions can arise a sense that every congregation is rich in history, people, and resources. Ideas emerge as people, inspired by the Spirit, listen and talk to each other. The leader’s task is to facilitate, coalesce, and connect ideas, to catalyze and stimulate the development of vision. The creative connections lead to programs and projects that will enrich your congregation’s mission. But most importantly, in the process they will engage you with others, with their stories, their hopes, their gifts - to build community. This book looks for God, not only through the lens of such tools, but in the tools themselves. It is an effort to understand how processes like appreciative inquiry and asset mapping reflect the character and community-building style of the God whom Christians worship as Divine community.

<http://www.amazon.com/Discovering-Other-Asset-Based-Approaches-Community/dp/1566994292>  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566995108>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995108>  
<http://missioncommunities.org/discovering-the-other/>  
[http://www.usask.ca/stu/luther/people\\_harder.html](http://www.usask.ca/stu/luther/people_harder.html)  
Images for Cameron Harder, author discovering the other  
Images for Discovering the Other: Asset-Based Approaches for Building Community Together [Cameron Harder]

### The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts [Luther K. Snow]

Asset mapping isn't a new system or theory. It's a way of thinking, a doorway into an "open-sum" perspective rooted in the Bible and common experience. *The Power of Asset Mapping*, by long-time community developer Luther K. Snow, shows congregational leaders how to help a group recognize its assets and the abundance of God's gifts and to act on them in ministry and mission. Congregations will find the book easy to read and immediately useful. Leaders can begin with the tested Quick and Simple Asset Mapping Experience to strengthen and inspire any group in the congregation in as little as an hour. Further tips, techniques, stories, and lessons drawn from the experience of diverse congregations will help readers discover how asset mapping works. Finally, Snow provides lessons about why asset mapping strengthens faith and community.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Power-Asset-Mapping-Congregation/dp/156699294X>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/725060.The\\_Power\\_of\\_Asset\\_Mapping](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/725060.The_Power_of_Asset_Mapping)  
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566996709/The-Power-of-Asset-Mapping-How-Your-Congregation-Can-Act-on-Its-Gifts>  
[https://alban.org/uploadedFiles/Alban/Bookstore/pdf/resources/Asset\\_Mapping/resource2.pdf](https://alban.org/uploadedFiles/Alban/Bookstore/pdf/resources/Asset_Mapping/resource2.pdf)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566996708>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Power\\_of\\_Asset\\_Mapping.html?id=KeRhAwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Power_of_Asset_Mapping.html?id=KeRhAwAAQBAJ)  
<http://luthersnow.com/publications.html#power-of-asset-mapping>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/snow-the-power-of-asset-mapping.html>  
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<http://www.luthersnow.com/asset-mapping-title-page.html>  
<http://luthersnow.com/publications.html>  
[http://luthersnow.com/uploads/PDF\\_File\\_63479385.pdf](http://luthersnow.com/uploads/PDF_File_63479385.pdf)  
<https://insightccd.org/past-archives/mission-vision-values/insight-center-team/board-of-directors/luther-k-snow/>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0578139960>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0578139960>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/385603.Luther\\_K\\_Snow](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/385603.Luther_K_Snow)  
Images for Luther K. Snow, author the power of asset mapping  
Images for The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts [Luther K. Snow]

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## 8) Atheist

### Atheism - Wikipedia

Atheism is, in the broadest sense, the absence of [belief](#) in the existence of [deities](#).<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup> Less broadly, atheism is the rejection of belief that any deities exist.<sup>[5][6]</sup> In an even narrower sense, atheism is specifically the position that there are no deities.<sup>[1][2][7][8]</sup> Atheism is contrasted with [theism](#),<sup>[9][10]</sup> which, in its most general form, is the belief that [at least one deity exists](#).<sup>[10][11][12]</sup>

The [etymological](#) root for the word *atheism* originated before the 5th century BCE from the ancient Greek [ἄθεος](#) (*atheos*), meaning "without god(s)". In antiquity, it had multiple uses as a pejorative term applied to those thought to reject the gods worshiped by the larger society,<sup>[13]</sup> those who were forsaken by the gods, or those who had no commitment to belief in the gods.<sup>[14]</sup> The term denoted a social category created by orthodox religionists into which those who did not share their religious beliefs were placed.<sup>[14]</sup> The actual term *atheism* emerged first in the 16th century.<sup>[15]</sup> With the spread of [freethought](#), [skeptical inquiry](#), and subsequent increase in [criticism of religion](#), application of the term narrowed in scope. The [first individuals](#) to identify themselves using the word *atheist* lived in the 18th century during the [Age of Enlightenment](#).<sup>[16][15]</sup> The [French Revolution](#), noted for its "unprecedented atheism," witnessed the first major political movement in history to advocate for the supremacy of human [reason](#).<sup>[17]</sup>

Arguments for atheism range from philosophical to social and historical approaches. Rationales for not believing in deities include arguments that there is a lack of [empirical evidence](#),<sup>[18][19]</sup> the [problem of evil](#), the [argument from inconsistent revelations](#), the rejection of concepts that cannot [be falsified](#), and the [argument from nonbelief](#).<sup>[18][20]</sup> Nonbelievers contend that atheism is a more [parsimonious](#) position than theism and that everyone is born without beliefs in deities;<sup>[1]</sup> therefore, they argue that the [burden of proof](#) lies not on the atheist to disprove the existence of gods but on the theist to provide a rationale for theism.<sup>[21]</sup> Although some atheists have adopted [secular](#) philosophies (e.g. [secular humanism](#)),<sup>[22][23]</sup> there is no ideology or code of conduct to which all atheists adhere.<sup>[24]</sup>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheism>

[Images for atheism](#)

#### **Atheist Quotes - BrainyQuote**

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/atheist>

[Images for atheist quotes](#)

[www.askatheists.com/atheist-quotes](http://www.askatheists.com/atheist-quotes)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/atheism>

[www.argumentsforatheism.com/quotes.html](http://www.argumentsforatheism.com/quotes.html)

<http://commonsenseatheism.com/?p=343>

<http://www.atheistrepublic.com/gallery>

[www.atheistapologist.com/p/my-favorite-atheist-quotes.html](http://www.atheistapologist.com/p/my-favorite-atheist-quotes.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/DailyAtheism/>

[www.notable-quotes.com/a/atheism\\_quotes.html](http://www.notable-quotes.com/a/atheism_quotes.html)

<https://jamesbishopblog.com/2015/09/07/26-brutally-honest-atheist-quotes-worth-a-read/>

[Images for brutally-honest-atheist-quotes](#)

<http://listverse.com/2007/12/07/top-15-quotes-by-famous-atheists/>

[Images for quotes-by-famous-atheists](#)

[https://www.salon.com/2014/02/11/20\\_amazing\\_quotes\\_from\\_atheists\\_that\\_prove\\_religion\\_isnt\\_necessary\\_for\\_a\\_meaningful\\_life\\_part\\_ner/](https://www.salon.com/2014/02/11/20_amazing_quotes_from_atheists_that_prove_religion_isnt_necessary_for_a_meaningful_life_part_ner/)

[Images for amazing\\_quotes\\_from\\_atheists\\_that\\_prove\\_religion\\_isnt\\_necessary\\_for\\_a\\_meaningful\\_life](#)

#### **Best 20+ Atheism ideas on Pinterest**

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/atheism/>

[Images for atheism pinterest](#)

<https://www.pinterest.com/moosician/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/kachinas/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/joseodiaz/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/cdpmommy/atheism/>

[https://www.pinterest.com/dee\\_wight/atheism/](https://www.pinterest.com/dee_wight/atheism/)

<https://www.pinterest.com/kellythrower/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/marniefoss/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/boldatheism/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/moosician/atheism/>

[https://www.pinterest.com/raymond\\_bourget/atheism/](https://www.pinterest.com/raymond_bourget/atheism/)

<https://www.pinterest.com/jossijossi/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pinoceansouth/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/lightwading/atheist/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jhigh99/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/geniusman123/atheist-quotes/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pinterest305/atheism/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/atheist-quotes/>

#### **What Does the Bible Say About Atheism? - OpenBible.info**

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/atheism>

[Images for bible and atheism](#)

<http://biblereasons.com/atheism/>

<http://mainsailministries.org/index.php/q-a-a-god-bible-theology-culture/84-what-are-the-best-scriptures-to-witness-to-an-atheist-friend.html>

[Images for -best-scriptures-to-witness-to-an-atheist-friend](#)

<https://www.godvine.com/bible/category/atheism>

[www.dummies.com/religion/atheism/atheism-and-the-bible/](http://www.dummies.com/religion/atheism/atheism-and-the-bible/)

<https://bible.org/article/blind-faith-atheism>

#### **What is Atheism? | American Atheists**

Atheism is not an affirmative belief that there is no god, nor does it answer any other question about what a person believes. It is simply a rejection of the assertion that there are gods. Atheism is too often defined incorrectly as a belief system. To be clear:

Atheism is not a disbelief in gods or a denial of gods; it is a lack of belief in gods.

<https://www.atheists.org/activism/resources/about-atheism/>

[Images for What is Atheism? | American Atheists](#)

## 9) Attractive Church

### Attractive Church by Zach Williams (Author)

What would happen if our churches were attractive to God? Having an attractive church--the kind that pleases God--is not about the aesthetics of the facilities; nor is it about the pastor, musicians, or church staff. Here is the simple yet profound truth: The church is neither a building nor a platform for her leaders. Becoming an attractive church is about the ministries, the mission, and above all else--the heart. These core components determine whether or not a church is attractive. And when the local church is attractive, the incredible happens. People discover the heart of the Jesus and find redemption and restoration. People are freed, and God is worshiped.

<https://www.amazon.com/Attractive-Church-Zach-Williams/dp/0997886145>

[Images for Attractive Church by Zach Williams \(Author\)](#)

### Should The Church be Attractive or Attractional? - Living Theologically

What is the difference between an attractive gospel and an attractional ministry? One preaches a gospel about Jesus who is truly beautiful, the other feels pressure to portray in him the best possible light.

<https://livingtheologically.com/2017/07/24/should-the-church-be-attractive-or-attractional/>

[Images for Should The Church be Attractive or Attractional? - Living Theologically](#)

<https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/the-difference-between-attractional-and-attractive-ministry>

[Images for the-difference-between-attractional-and-attractive-ministry](#)

### Traits of an Attractive Church | CT Pastors - Christianity Today

Therefore, I am increasingly convinced that the two indispensable preconditions to vigorous, sustained church growth are a pastor who wants the church to grow and a congregation of people who want the church to grow — and both are willing to pay the price.

[www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/books/magneticfellowship/ldlib15-1.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/books/magneticfellowship/ldlib15-1.html)

[Images for Traits of an Attractive Church | CT Pastors - Christianity Today](#)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1991/fall/9114116.html> LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE THE CHURCH ATTRACTIVE | CT

Pastors - Christianity Today

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/archives/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/leadership-journal-archives/>

### What Makes a Church "Attractive?" | A Doug's Life

For the early church, they were "attractive" because of the transformational community of the believers. People saw the change that Christ can make in a life, and they saw the true love of God between the believers. That's what makes a church attractive — real change & real love.

<https://dougmatlock.wordpress.com/2015/06/05/what-makes-a-church-attractive/>

[Images for What Makes a Church "Attractive?"](#)

## 10) Attrition

### Addressing the Church's Attrition Problem - Crisis Magazine

But all of this means nothing if we haven't conveyed the fundamental truth at the *heart* of our Faith: that we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord in the Eucharist at every Mass, through an unbroken 2,000-year chain stretching back to Christ Himself. Any attempt to address the attrition problem that doesn't begin here will fail before it has begun.

<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2011/addressing-the-churchs-attrition-problem>

[Images for Church's Attrition Problem](#)

### Church Attrition - Church Marketing Sucks

Every church experiences attrition to one degree or another.

<http://www.churchmarketingsucks.com/2006/08/church-attrition/>

[http://bobfranquiz.typepad.com/bobfranquizcom/2006/08/growing\\_to\\_rema.html](http://bobfranquiz.typepad.com/bobfranquizcom/2006/08/growing_to_rema.html)

[Images for church attrition](#)

### church attrition rate | Thinking Out Loud

Coincidentally, The Pew Research Forum has just released a report on the [religious life of Canada](#), my home and native land.

The charts and graphs all speak for themselves — two are reproduced below — but the message is clear that an attrition is taking place in the church as we've not seen before.

<https://paulwilkinson.wordpress.com/tag/church-attrition-rate/>

[Images for church attrition rate](#)

### Four Kinds of Church Members Your Church Will Always Lose – ThomRainer.com

The reason I am stating the obvious is to help you church leaders understand the impact of such losses. The impact is measured by a number we call the *Natural Attrition Rate (NAR)*.

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/four-kinds-church-members-church-will-always-lose/>

[Images for Four Kinds of Church Members Your Church Will Always Lose – ThomRainer.com](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/10/seven-key-reasons-people-choose-church/> Christopher says October 5, 2016 at 8:20am

[Images for Natural Attrition Rate \(NAR\) Thom Rainer](#)

### THE HIGH-TURNOVER SMALL CHURCH | CT Pastors

The normal attrition rate for church members is 10 percent per year. Ours was 35 percent.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/1993/winter/9312103.html>

[Images for HIGH-TURNOVER SMALL CHURCH | CT Pastors](#)

[Images for attrition rate for church members](#)

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/archives/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/leadership-journal-archives/>

## 11) Audience

### Five Audiences: Identifying Groups in Your Church (Creative Leadership Series) [Warren J. Hartman]

*Five Audiences* is a helpful reminder that churches are made up of individuals with individual needs and expectations. How and how much church leaders should respond to each set of needs and expectations are questions that must be addressed.

<http://www.amazon.com/Five-Audiences-Identifying-Creative-Leadership/dp/0687130522>

<http://www.tms.edu/JournalBookReview.aspx?ID=97>

[Images for Five Audiences: Identifying Groups in Your Church \(Creative Leadership Series\) \[Warren J. Hartman\]](#)

[Images for \(Creative Leadership Series\)](#)

### How Pastors Can Define Their Preaching Audience

Defining your preaching audience is critical for pastors in order to maintain focus in leading and teaching their churches.

<http://seniorpastorcentral.com/2974/defining-preaching-audience/>

[Images for How Pastors Can Define Their Preaching Audience](#)

### Targeting your audience - Ministry Magazine

In the same way, discovering a specific target audience and aiming for that target can greatly increase the effectiveness of your ministry. It will help you to discover what type of people live in your community and what your church can do to attract them to your services.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1995/12/targeting-your-audience>

[Images for Targeting your audience - Ministry Magazine](#)

<http://www.umcom.org/learn/who-is-my-churchs-target-audience-and-where-do-i-find-them>

[Images for who-is-my-church's-target-audience-and-where-do-i-find-them](#)

<https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/256763-three-target-audiences-church-cant-ignore.html>

[Images for three-target-audiences-church-cant-ignore](#)

<https://www.concordiatechnology.org/blog/2017/06/determining-your-church-audience-part-1>

[Images for determining-your-church-audience](#)

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-problem-with-target-audience-churches/>

<https://www.group.com/refresh-the-church/blog/church-marketing-101-know-thy-audience/#.WusDUogvyUk>

[Images for church-marketing-101-know-thy-audience](#)

## 12) Authentic

### A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Culture [Rick Barger]

In a postmodern culture shaped by consumerism, it's little wonder that there is confusion about what the church is supposed to be in the 21st century. In *A New and Right Spirit*, Rick Barger argues passionately for congregations to reexamine what it means to be an "authentic church" in a culture where authenticity is hard to come by. He demonstrates the pitfalls of technical solutions to congregational problems and shows the way to making adaptive change. Recognizing the spiritual needs of a success-oriented society, he exhorts leaders to turn away from the story of our culture and to return to the story of the church that is grounded in Christ and the resurrection.

<http://www.amazon.com/New-Right-Spirit-Creating-Authentic/dp/1566993067>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1516871.A\\_New\\_and\\_Right\\_Spirit](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1516871.A_New_and_Right_Spirit)

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566994590/A-New-And-Right-Spirit-Creating-An-Authentic-Church-In-A-Consumer->

[http://www.transformingchurch.com/resourcetoolbox/2005/10/a\\_new\\_and\\_right.php](http://www.transformingchurch.com/resourcetoolbox/2005/10/a_new_and_right.php)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566994594>

<https://wyoming.missional.world/index.php/congregations/upscale-congregations/>

<http://www.tlsohio.edu/about-trinity/introduction/barger-rick-bio>

<http://www.tlsohio.edu/faculty/faculty-profiles/295-barger-rick-profile>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/rick-barger/>

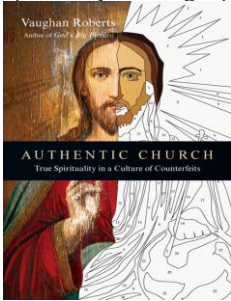
[Images for Rick Barger, author a new and right spirit](#)

[Images for A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Culture \[Rick Barger\]](#)

### Authentic Church: True Spirituality in a Culture of Counterfeits by Vaughan Roberts (Author)

The church today faces challenges on every front. Christians are captivated by consumerism, seduced by celebrity, distracted by technology and overwhelmed by media. Religious and secular rivals are increasingly prominent, vying for our allegiance and

worship. What does authentic Christian spirituality look like in such an era? Vaughan Roberts finds direction for today's church in Paul's prophetic letter of 1 Corinthians. Ancient Corinth was a similarly confusing cultural landscape, and the Corinthian church likewise struggled to remain true to Christ in a world of many idols. Paul's vision is clear--Christians must choose certain things and not others. We must focus on the cross of Christ, not on human wisdom. Our leaders should be faithful, not flashy. And in contrast to lives of moral permissiveness, we must live lives of holiness and love. Following the way of Christ may look like foolishness to the world, but therein is the path of true wisdom. With a Bible study in each chapter, this book will help you choose the true spirituality of the gospel of Christ, and become the authentic church God intends you to be.



<https://www.amazon.com/Authentic-Church-Spirituality-Culture-Counterfeits/dp/0830837981>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11919262-authentic-church>  
<https://www.ivpress.com/authentic-church>  
<https://covbooks.com/products/authentic-church>  
<https://gospelbooks.net/removed/authentic-church-true-spirituality-culture-counterfeits.html>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Authentic\\_Church.html?id=fHSnuQAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Authentic_Church.html?id=fHSnuQAACAAJ)  
[https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/authentic\\_church](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/authentic_church)  
<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/authentic-church-true-spirituality-in-a-culture-of-counterfeits-P005479354>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaughan\\_Roberts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaughan_Roberts)  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/vaughan-roberts/226035/>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/apps/easyfind?Ntk=author&Ntt=Vaughan%20Roberts>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Vaughan-Roberts/e/B001KIA37Q>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/114489.Vaughan\\_Roberts](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/114489.Vaughan_Roberts)  
[Images for Vaughan Roberts \(Author\) authentic church](#)  
[Images for Authentic Church: True Spirituality in a Culture of Counterfeits by Vaughan Roberts \(Author\)](#)

**The Suburban Church: Practical Advice for Authentic Ministry by Arthur H. DeKruyter (Author), Quentin J. Schultz (Author)**

Over half of all North Americans live in the suburbs. In *The Suburban Church*, retired pastor Arthur H. DeKruyter encourages Christians to "go where the people congregate" and illustrates how to plant, grow, and renew suburban congregations. Throughout this book, DeKruyter relies on forty-five-plus years of pastoral ministry experience in which his own congregation grew from five families to more than five thousand members. He dispels myths about suburbia and demonstrates how to minister successfully, fit historic preaching and worship to suburban needs, finance church programs, recruit and support volunteers, connect international missions to local church growth, and more. Each chapter concludes with questions for discussion, making the book ideal for pastors and church committees.

<https://www.amazon.com/Suburban-Church-Practical-Authentic-Ministry/dp/0664232949>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664236685>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Suburban\\_Church\\_Practical\\_Advice\\_for.html?id=y05q34-7mlwC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Suburban_Church_Practical_Advice_for.html?id=y05q34-7mlwC)  
<http://www.deepintheburbs.com/book-the-suburban-church-by-arthur-h-dekruyter/>  
[http://www.ppcbooks.com/perspectives/spring\\_08/page6.html](http://www.ppcbooks.com/perspectives/spring_08/page6.html)  
<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorId=24853>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Arthur-H.-DeKruyter/e/B001JS8OPU>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/706022.Arthur\\_H\\_DeKruyter](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/706022.Arthur_H_DeKruyter)  
[Images for Arthur H. DeKruyter \(Author\)](#)  
<http://www.pcusastore.com/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorId=64151>  
<http://www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/authors/quentin-j-schultze/302>  
<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/147086/quentin-j-schultze>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Quentin-J.-Schultze/e/B001JS9ZX0>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/36875.Quentin\\_J\\_Schultze](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/36875.Quentin_J_Schultze)  
[Images for Quentin J. Schultz \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for The Suburban Church: Practical Advice for Authentic Ministry by Arthur H. DeKruyter \(Author\), Quentin J. Schultz \(Author\)](#)

**What Does the Bible Say About Authenticity? - OpenBible.info**

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/authenticity>  
[Images for bible and authenticity](#)  
<https://www.authenticmanhood.com/3-characteristics-of-biblical-authenticity/>  
[Images for characteristics-of-biblical-authenticity](#)  
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2012/september/keeping-it-real-truth-about-authenticity.html>

<https://relevantmagazine.com/god/god-our-generation/being-authentic-more-just-being-honest>  
Images for being authentic more than just being honest  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-2-authentic-christianity-colossians-13-8>  
<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/women/take-your-masks-off-the-value-of-authenticity-11559579.html>  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/has-authenticity-trumped-holiness-2/>  
Images for has-authenticity-trumped-holiness

### 13) Bible

#### Biblical Images of the Church - Bible Tidbits

Today we are going to talk about Biblical symbols that 'are often used to convey the revelation of the kingdom [of God] and similarly the inner nature of the church.'

<http://bibletidbits.blogspot.com/2011/08/biblical-images-of-church.html>

Images for Biblical Images of the Church

<https://www.amazon.com/Images-Church-New-Testament-Library/dp/0664227791>

[www.patheos.com/blogs/markroberts/series/what-is-a-church/](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markroberts/series/what-is-a-church/) What is a Church? Biblical Basis for Christian Community - Mark D. Roberts - Patheos

<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/4584/> Images of Church in the New Testament - PowerPoint | Saint Mary's Press

#### Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study [Diane L. Jacobson, Stanley N. Olson, Mark Allen Powell]

*Opening the Book of Faith* is an invitation to experience the Bible as a book of faith. It provides an introduction to the Bible and Lutheran perspectives that guide understanding of Scripture. This book explores four methods of Bible study, then applies each method to four Scripture texts. Two assessment tools also aid reflection and discussion about Bible usage, needs, and hopes.

For more information, visit the [Book of Faith](#) Web site

<http://www.amazon.com/Opening-Book-Faith-Lutheran-Insights/dp/0806680563>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4727806-opening-the-book-of-faith>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8220/Opening-the-Book-of-Faith-Lutheran-Insights-for-Bible-Study>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/5408/Stanley-N-Olson>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/695/Diane-L-Jacobson>

<http://nwsowalkingtogether.com/2014/03/book-of-faith-open-scripture-join-the-conversation/>

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=djacobson](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=djacobson)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/diane-l-jacobson/>

<http://store.afcanada.com/store/contributor/695/Diane-L-Jacobson>

<https://www.amazon.com/Diane-L.-Jacobson/e/B001JSDMAM>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/799814.Diane\\_L\\_Jacobson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/799814.Diane_L_Jacobson)

Images for Diane L. Jacobson, author

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1968160.Stanley\\_N\\_Olson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1968160.Stanley_N_Olson)

Images for Stanley N. Olson, author

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\\_Allan\\_Powell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Allan_Powell)

<http://tsohio.edu/faculty/20-faculty/faculty-profiles/41-powell>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-powell>

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/introducing-the-new-testament/264690>

<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Allan-Powell/e/B001IU2SLK>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5888.Mark\\_Allan\\_Powell](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5888.Mark_Allan_Powell)

Images for Mark Allen Powell, author

Images for *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* [Diane L. Jacobson, Stanley N. Olson, Mark Allen Powell]

#### What Does the Bible Say About Identity? - OpenBible.info

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/identity>

Images for Bible and Identity

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Identity/>

<https://connor.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Bible-says-about-Identity.pdf>

<http://storylineblog.com/2013/04/25/identity-in-jesus/>

Images for identity in jesus

<https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/identity-in-christ>

<https://www.soulshpherd.org/identity-in-christ-verses-in-the-bible/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-our-identity-in-christ/>

<https://unlockingthebible.org/2015/04/four-ways-our-identity-in-christ-changes-our-lives/>

<https://www.faihandhealthconnection.org/scripture/identity-in-christ-scriptures/>

<https://www.onlygirl4boyz.com/17-bible-verses-that-will-remind-you-of-your-identity-in-christ/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/7-identity-christ>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/session-10-corporate-aspects-identity-christ>

<https://www.rosilindjukic.com/10-bible-verses-identity-christ-war-room/>

Images for identity in christ

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/identity-and-desire>

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/life-and-relationships/identity/who-am-i-a-new-way-to-define-identity.html>  
<http://www.hopefortheheart.org/identity-who-are-you/>

## 14) Bi-vocational

### Academy debuts to raise up part-time local pastors

A bold initiative launched this month to enhance pastoral leadership for smaller churches in the Oklahoma Conference.

The Academy for Part-Time Local Pastors seeks to recruit and equip 150 full-time working laypeople to become new **bi-vocational clergy in smaller or rural churches.**

[www.okumc.org/newsdetail/33545](http://www.okumc.org/newsdetail/33545)

[Images for new bi-vocational clergy in smaller or rural churches](#)

### Bi-vocational and Small Church Leadership Network

Advancing Bivocational and Small Church Ministries

<http://www.bivosmallchurch.net/>

[Images for Bi-vocational and Small Church Leadership Network](#)

### Bi-vocational Church Planters: Uniquely Wired for Kingdom Growth

The experiences of bi-vocational pastors, whether in their role by choice or by financial necessity, can benefit all pastors and church staff in managing the challenges of leadership. They also can serve as an inspiration for those exploring a call to ministry.

*Bi-vocational Church Planters: Uniquely Wired for Kingdom Growth*, which tells the inspirational stories of 16 bi-vocational pastors, is offered as a free resource on request by the NAMB Church Planting Group.

<http://bcmd.org/bivocational-church-planters-uniquely-wired-for-kingdom-growth>

[Images for Bi-vocational Church Planters: Uniquely Wired for Kingdom Growth](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Bivocational-Church-Planters-Uniquely-Kingdom/dp/B0027YVTZC>

[Images for Bivocational-Church-Planters-Uniquely-Kingdom](#)

### Bi-vocational Ministry

Many pastors now graduate from seminary with massive debt as a result of their education. Frequently they are called by small congregations that can pay them only a minimum salary. Rising health costs and a shaky economy complicate the picture further.

The growing reality is that some smaller congregations can't afford to support a full-time pastor. Ministry options, such as several congregations yoking to share a pastor or congregations supporting a bi-vocational pastor, need to be considered.

<http://www.revwriter.com/revwriter-resource/bivocational-ministry/>

[Images for Bi-vocational Ministry](#)

### Bi-Vocational Ministry Resources - Sand Bur Consulting

[A Different Kind of Bread](#)

[Pastoral Options](#)

[Reduction of Pastoral Compensation - for COM's](#)

[Downsizing Pastoral Terms](#)

[Tentmaker Guidance](#)

[Pastoral Expectations](#)

[Negotiating Contracts](#)

[Supplemental Covenant with a Tentmaker](#)

[Tentmaking Workshop Outline](#)

<http://www.sandburconsulting.com/bivocational.html>

[Images for Bi-Vocational Ministry Resources](#)

[http://www.wichurches.org/sitecontent/pdf\\_files/programs/Beyond\\_Survival\\_Franklin.pdf](http://www.wichurches.org/sitecontent/pdf_files/programs/Beyond_Survival_Franklin.pdf)

### Carol Howard Merritt: A Bivocational Minister Warns Against Bivocational Ministry

I am bi-vocational. I love it. I feel called to it. I know what people say in support of it. I know that many of our African American and immigrant pastors have been bi-vocational for a long time. But I want to raise a red flag against the model as a path to our vital future, for the following reasons:

[https://day1.org/articles/5d9b820ef71918cdf20036c9/carol\\_howard\\_merritt\\_a\\_bivocational\\_minister\\_warns\\_against\\_bivocational\\_ministry](https://day1.org/articles/5d9b820ef71918cdf20036c9/carol_howard_merritt_a_bivocational_minister_warns_against_bivocational_ministry)

[Images for Carol Howard Merritt: A Bivocational Minister Warns Against Bivocational Ministry](#)

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2013-08/bi-vocational-minister-warns-against-bi-vocational-ministry>

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2012-07/should-bivocational-ministry-be-new-normal>

<http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-12/young-clergy-crisis-part-two> #3

<http://www.carolhowardmerritt.org/>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/carol-howard-merritt>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/carol-howard-merritt>

<https://twitter.com/carolhoward?lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/authorcarolhowardmerritt/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Carol-Howard-Merritt/e/B001JRXF9Q>



[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/948561.Carol\\_Howard\\_Merritt](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/948561.Carol_Howard_Merritt)  
[Images for Carol Howard Merritt, author](#)

### **Developing Leadership Teams in the Bi-vocational Church [Terry W. Dorsett]**

Despite the rise of mega-churches in North America, the vast majority of churches remain small. It is often necessary for pastors of small churches to work another job in addition to serving their church, leaving them in danger of burnout if some of their duties are not delegated to others. Leadership teams working in partnership with pastors can truly make pastors healthier and ministry more effective. In *Developing Leadership Teams in Bi-vocational Churches*, Dr. Terry W. Dorsett provides concise and effective guidance for small-church congregations and pastors looking to build and strengthen their leadership teams. Using New Testament church leadership principles, Dr. Dorsett offers lessons, exercises, and worksheets to train lay people to help their pastors with two of the most important and time-consuming ministry duties—preaching and pastoral care. Six fun, easy-to-use, and successfully tested training sessions show pastors how to confidently empower students to fill the pulpit and make pastoral visits when needed. *Developing Leadership Teams in Bi-vocational Churches* is written by a small-church, bi-vocational pastor for small-church, bi-vocational pastors. Ministry does not have to be done alone. By learning how to work together on a pastoral leadership team, lay leaders and pastors alike can more effectively share the Gospel with their community and can assure the maximum long-term health of their church.

<http://www.amazon.com/Developing-Leadership-Teams-Bivocational-Church/dp/1615072527>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/27509951-developing-leadership-teams-in-the-bivocational-church>  
<https://drterrywdorsettbooks.wordpress.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Developing-Leadership-Teams-in-the-Bivocational-Church/167401199941334>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1615072527>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=110516263X>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Dr.-Terry-W.-Dorsett/e/B00405U4NY>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4356886.Terry\\_W\\_Dorsett](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4356886.Terry_W_Dorsett)  
[Images for Terry W. Dorsett, author](#)

[Images for Developing Leadership Teams in the Bi-vocational Church \[Terry W. Dorsett\]](#)

### **Eight Reasons Why Some Fulltime Pastors and Staff Should Go Bi-vocational – ThomRainer.com**

Without a doubt, many churches will always need full-time vocational pastors and church staff. I am not suggesting all of you, even the majority of you, should go bi-vocational. But I do believe more of you should consider this path. Allow me to offer eight reasons why:

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/01/eight-reasons-fulltime-pastors-staff-go-bivocational/>  
[Images for Eight Reasons Why Some Fulltime Pastors and Staff Should Go Bi-vocational – ThomRainer.com](#)  
<https://slasherpastor.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/benefits-of-bivocational-ministry-via-thom-rainer/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/02/bivocational-pastors-church-staff-rainer-leadership-096/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2016/01/eight-characteristics-of-the-new-bivocational-pastor/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/08/10-reasons-bivocational-ministry-matters/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/01/marketplace-bivocational-ministry-featuring-jimmy-scroggins-rainer-leadership-294/>  
<https://factsandtrends.net/2016/10/04/6-benefits-of-bivocational-ministry/>  
<https://factsandtrends.net/secondshift/> 6 Benefits of Bivocational Ministry – Thom Rainer  
<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/pastor-bivocational-minister-demands-benefits>  
<http://chucklawless.com/2019/08/update-12-reasons-i-affirm-bivocational-ministry/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom\\_S\\_Rainer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer)  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

### **The Bi-vocational Pastor: Two Jobs, One Ministry [Dennis Bickers]**

Bi-vocational ministers face unique challenges. Often times, you are called to lead smaller churches with few resources, many of which have plateaued or are in decline. Many bi-vocational pastors have little or no formal theological training. Bi-vocational ministry is looked at by some as a “second-class” ministry performed by people who do not have the opportunity to serve a larger church. Along with your family and church responsibilities, your second job also requires a large amount of time each week. But you have a special calling, as both of your jobs can provide opportunities for ministry. In his new book, Dennis Bickers provides solid advice to help you succeed in bi-vocational ministry.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Bivocational-Pastor-Jobs-Ministry/dp/0834121301>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1045635.The\\_Bivocational\\_Pastor](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1045635.The_Bivocational_Pastor)  
[https://centerforcongregations.org/system/files/ResourceGuide\\_Bivocational\\_Pastors.pdf](https://centerforcongregations.org/system/files/ResourceGuide_Bivocational_Pastors.pdf)  
<http://bivocationalministry.blogspot.com/>  
<https://vimeo.com/160091316> 2016 Pastors Conference - Keynote Address: Dennis Bickers  
<https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1267&context=dmin> Page 163

<https://www.thefoundrypublishing.com/the-art-and-practice-of-bivocational-ministry-9780834130951.html>

<https://twitter.com/dennisbickers>

<https://www.facebook.com/dennis.bickers>

<http://www.ethicsdaily.com/the-key-to-successful-leadership-in-small-churches-cms-22484>

<https://www.amazon.com/Dennis-W.-Bickers/e/B001JS7ICU>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1335619.Dennis\\_Bickers](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1335619.Dennis_Bickers)

[Images for Dennis Bickers, author](#)

[Images for The Bi-vocational Pastor: Two Jobs, One Ministry \[Dennis Bickers\]](#)

### **The Tentmaking Pastor: The Joy of Bi-vocational Ministry [Dennis W. Bickers]**

Real-world guide to the challenges, rewards, and advantages of bi-vocational ministry. Excellent for individuals and churches exploring pastoring options.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Tentmaking-Pastor-Bivocational-Ministry/dp/0801090997>

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[Images for The Tentmaking Pastor: The Joy of Bi-vocational Ministry \[Dennis W. Bickers\]](#)

### **The Work of the Bi-vocational Minister (The Work of Series) [Dennis B. Bickers]**

- What is bi-vocational ministry?

- Why choose it?

- Where can you find it?

- Who is the bi-vocational minister?

Veteran bi-vocational minister and author Dennis Bickers answers these basic questions in establishing the work of bi-vocational ministry. Simply defined, it is the professional ministry of any pastor or salaried church leader who also has other sources of income. Traditionally, it is a ministry that has been treated as second-class and less than ideal, but Bickers celebrates its benefits and rewards, even as he acknowledges its challenges.

- What makes bi-vocational ministry challenging?

- What makes it rewarding?

- What might a week in the bi-vocational life look like?

Bickers also explores how bi-vocational ministry can work for the local church—and how it is gaining credibility and appreciation in various Christian denominations. Finally, he shares some practical tools to aid the bi-vocational minister in the common challenges of sermon planning, compensation, and goal setting.

[http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product\\_id=11680](http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=11680)

<http://www.amazon.com/Work-Bivocational-Minister/dp/0817015108>

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### **What are the challenges and opportunities of bi-vocational ministry? - YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfLnXMwOVtA>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEfdjzrxQ7c> Bi-vocational Ministry: The Key to Sowing - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt6RHlqY-yo> Bi-Vocational Preachers | Paul Tripp - YouTube

## **15) Blessed Congregation**

### **Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power [N. Graham Standish]**

Pastor and author N. Graham Standish describes how a church that is open to God's purpose, presence, and power can claim God's blessing. Standish shares the story of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania, and its journey to become a spiritually deep congregation, one that is inwardly and outwardly healthy: spiritually, psychologically, physically, and relationally. *Becoming a Blessed Church* will help you discern God's purpose and the path God is calling your congregation to walk. This book will help you find Christ in your midst and become aware of the many ways the blessings of God's Spirit flow through your congregation.

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[Images for N. Graham Standish, author](#)

[Images for Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power \[N. Graham Standish\]](#)

### The Blessed Church: The Simple Secret to Growing the Church You Love [Robert Morris]

How can I help my church stay focused on its purpose?

What would a culture of generosity look like for my church?

What part does rest play in a healthy church?

Whether you are a pastor, a volunteer, or a church member, you want your church to grow well. After all, there's no better place to experience God than in the loving, healthy community of a church. But what does an effective church look like? Is it possible to grow and be healthy at the same time?

Pastor Robert Morris has experienced firsthand the spiritual and relational excitement of a growing, dynamic church. In *The Blessed Church*, Pastor Morris brings you practical wisdom for cultivating real growth by nurturing true and Biblical health in your spiritual community.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Blessed-Church-Growing-ebook/dp/B0080Z5I0Y>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYUru8eltPA> The Blessed Church Book Trailer – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsJppQCliq-c> The Person of Prayer - Pastor Robert Morris – YouTube

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[Images for Robert Morris, author blessed church](#)

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### What Does the Bible Say About Being Blessed? - OpenBible.info

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<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/bible-answers/theology/what-does-it-mean-to-be-blessed.html>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Being-blessed>

<http://biblereasons.com/being-blessed/>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-does-it-really-mean-to-be-blessed>

## 16) Breakout Congregation

### Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap [Thom S. Rainer]

What does it take for your church to break out of mediocrity? In search of answers, Thom Rainer and his research team conducted a landmark study on the church. Unfolding the findings of that study, *Breakout Churches* furnishes both principles and examples to show how you as a pastor or church leader can help your church break out of the status quo into unprecedented fruitfulness. Of the thousands of churches examined in the study, thirteen met the criteria for a breakout church. All of them experienced both a period of struggle and a time of sustained breakout growth under the same pastor's leadership. Transitioning from mediocrity to excellence over several years, they grew to have an impact on the entire community. *Breakout Churches* tells the story of these churches and their pastors. And, using a statistical approach, it identifies key patterns and characteristics common to churches that experienced turnarounds.

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 Images for Thom S. Rainer, author  
 Images for Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap [Thom S. Rainer]

## 17) Breakthrough Congregation

### Breakthrough Congregations | UUA.org

That is the idea behind the Breakthrough Congregation initiative. Created seven years ago, it was an effort to identify those congregations that had achieved significant and sustained numerical growth and give them an opportunity to share at General Assembly what they've done, and how they've done it. Why not look to the experts—those lay and professional leaders who have already “cracked the nut” around growth—and give them the opportunity at general assembly to share their wisdom?

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<http://www.uuworld.org/articles/breakthrough-harmony-landen>

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QukI5bQ8\\_1g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QukI5bQ8_1g) Breakthrough Congregations 2005: White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6AA6cELbNM> Breakthrough Congregation - YouTube

Images for Breakthrough Congregation - YouTube

<http://www.cerquua.org/cerqingforward/?tag=growth>

<http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdlibrary/books/357/index.html>

## 18) Building Blocks

### Building Blocks: An Anthropological Approach to Congregational Size

Ever since Arlin J. Rothauge published *Sizing Up a Congregation for New Member Ministry*<sup>1</sup> in 1983, mainline Protestants have been using the terms *family*, *pastoral*, *program*, and *corporation* to identify congregations by size, starting with the smallest.<sup>2</sup> A sociological axiom underlying this typology is that size determines organization. Each type of congregation has its own unique leadership structure and relationship style that match its numerical size. I call this match *congruence in congregational size*<sup>3</sup> and believe it is necessary for a congregation to be healthy and effective. Thus, a congregation with the numerical size of a pastoral church will be dysfunctional with the leadership structure or relationship style of a family church.

<https://alban.org/archive/building-blocks-an-anthropological-approach-to-congregational-size/>

Images for Building Blocks: An Anthropological Approach to Congregational Size

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Basic **Building Blocks** of Congregations

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### Size Transitions in Congregations - Page 17 - Google Books Result Beth Ann Gaede - 2001 - Religion

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<http://link.upsem.edu/portal/Size-transitions-in-congregations-Beth-Ann/9BGJpgfiHzw/>

**The building blocks of congregations - SlideShare**

2008 presentation on theory of building blocks in congregational growth.

<http://www.slideshare.net/ncwp/the-building-blocks-of-congregations>

Images for building blocks of congregations - SlideShare

## 19) Center Church

**Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City** by Timothy J. Keller

Many pastors struggle to translate their theological beliefs into fruitful ministry in the places they are called to reach. It's not enough to simply know what to believe (theology) or, on the other hand, how to do ministry (methodology)---they need something in between. They need help thinking about ministry in a culture that no longer believes Christianity is a force for good, let alone the source of ultimate revealed truth in the person of Christ. Center Church, a collection of twelve essays by Timothy Keller, outlines a theological vision for ministry that is organized around three core commitments: \* Gospel-centered: The gospel of grace in Jesus Christ changes everything, from our hearts to our community to the world. It completely reshapes the content, tone and strategy of all that we do. \* City-centered: With a positive approach toward our culture, we learn to affirm that cities are wonderful, strategic and underserved places for gospel ministry. \* Movement-centered: Instead of building our own tribe, we seek the prosperity and peace of our community as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

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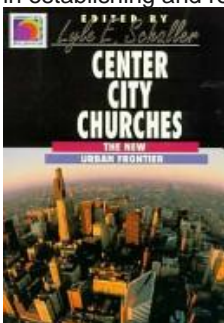
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Images for Timothy J. Keller, author

Images for Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City by Timothy J. Keller

**Center City Churches: The New Urban Frontier (Ministry for the Third Millennium Series)** by Lyle E. Schaller (Editor), Timothy J. Keller (Contributor)

If 26 of America's 40 largest churches are in the center city, then urban ministry is alive and well in North America. This book investigates high-performance churches that have a missionary motivation and offers 30 recurring themes to guide church leaders in establishing and revitalizing the new frontier.



<https://www.amazon.com/Center-City-Churches-Frontier-Millennium/dp/0687048028>

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### Central Lutheran Church | HISTORY

On March 12, 1940, after a gradual transition from Norwegian to English services, the congregation changed its name; "Mondovi Norwegian Lutheran Church" was not inclusive enough for people led by God's Spirit and guided by His Word. The congregation heeded the call to outreach, and chose to identify itself as, "Central Evangelical Lutheran Church".

<http://www.centralmondovi.org/index.php/about/>

[Images for central lutheran church mondovi wi](#)

### Central Lutheran Church: Home

Since 1919 Central has been a landmark center for worship, music, the arts and service to people in need in downtown Minneapolis.

<http://www.centralmpls.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/centrallutheranmpls/>

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### Central Lutheran Church | HOME

We are a group of people on the way of Jesus. If you are looking for the perfect church with the perfect kind of people, then we will probably disappoint you sometime along the way. But if you want to find a place that lives in grace, a place that is about walking with each other as you lose and find your way again and again, then come. This is Central. Welcome to it.

<http://central-lutheran.org/>

[Images for central lutheran church chippewa falls wi](#)

## 20) Change Resistant Congregation

### Five Types of Change Resistant Churches – ThomRainer.com

Church leaders should attempt to understand where their church fits on this scale.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/five-types-of-change-resistant-churches/>

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### How to Overcome Resistance to Change - ChurchLeaders.com

Both church name changes and switching bathroom soaps can face an eerily similar uphill battle over the status quo.

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-how-to/147590-overcoming-resistance-to-change.html>

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### Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition by James Emery White, Leighton Ford

Then come the late adopters, who also make up about one third of the church. These people are usually **resistant to change** until they are in the minority.

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Images for Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition by James Emery White, Leighton Ford

### 7 Signs Your Church Will Never Change - Carey Nieuwhof

How do you know when your church is simply so **resistant to change** that it isn't going to budge?

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/12/7-signs-your-church-will-never-change/>

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<http://orangeblogs.org/orangeleaders/tag/leading-change/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/product/leading-change-without-losing/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Leading-Change-Without-Losing-Revolutionize-ebook/dp/B00AAGM1KG?tag=vglnc5097-20>

<https://www.amazon.com/Carey-Nieuwhof/e/B003GJCLCM>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey\\_Nieuwhof](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey_Nieuwhof)

Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

### 10 Things I Have Learned Leading Church Change - Ron Edmondson

I share this knowing over fifty percent of the readers of this blog are in ministry. Hopefully some of what we've learned will help others.



<http://www.ronedmondson.com/2015/12/10-things-im-learning-leading-church-change.html>

Images for 10 Things I Have Learned Leading Church Change - Ron Edmondson

<https://twitter.com/ronedmondson>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2014/11/episode10/> CNLP 010: How to Rapidly Navigate Change in a Traditional Church Context – An

Interview with Ron Edmondson - Carey Nieuwhof

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/preach/author/ron-edmondson>

<https://www.facebook.com/RonAEdmondson/>

<http://churchleaders.com/author/ronedmondson>

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/authors/ron-edmondson-articles-641>

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/ron-edmondson>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ronedmondson>

<https://www.amazon.com/Mythical-Leader-Seven-Myths-Leadership/dp/0718089197>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7801137.Ron\\_Edmondson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7801137.Ron_Edmondson)

## 21) Character

### Bells, Tiffany windows give Iowa's oldest congregation character

Amber Caldwell, 23, of Dubuque, Iowa, plays "When the Saints Come Marching In" on the bells at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Dubuque. (Photo by Time Gallagher)

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/bells-tiffany-windows-give-iowa-s-oldest-congregation-character/image\\_9217da1e-d748-5dee-a0e5-0b26e29a554d.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/bells-tiffany-windows-give-iowa-s-oldest-congregation-character/image_9217da1e-d748-5dee-a0e5-0b26e29a554d.html)

Images for st luke's united methodist church in dubuque ia

[http://www.encyclopediadubuque.org/index.php?title=ST.\\_LUKE%27S\\_UNITED\\_METHODIST\\_CHURCH](http://www.encyclopediadubuque.org/index.php?title=ST._LUKE%27S_UNITED_METHODIST_CHURCH)

<http://www.stlukesumcdbg.com/>

<http://www.stlukesumcdbg.com/tiffany-windows/>

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g37853-d4938812-r207532275-St\\_Luke\\_s\\_United\\_Methodist\\_Church-Dubuque\\_Iowa.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g37853-d4938812-r207532275-St_Luke_s_United_Methodist_Church-Dubuque_Iowa.html)

### Congregation: Stories and Structures by James Hopewell - Page 111 - Google Books Result

There are several different ways to interpret to a congregation its particular **character**. A written history of the parish, if it can be propelled beyond dates names and dates, to explore the church's identity, can reveal the richness of character. So can vignettes that disclose certain congregational traits and dispositions.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451410352>

In a unique, full-scale study of congregational life, Hopewell shows that it is narrative-the oral tradition-that knits a congregation together.

<https://www.amazon.com/Congregation-Stories-Structures-James-Hopewell/dp/0800619560>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/603700.Congregation>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Congregation.html?id=q05wAueodqcC>

[www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=491&C=435](http://www.religion-online.org/showchapter.asp?title=491&C=435)

<http://www.religion-online.org/showbook.asp?title=491>

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/cong/articles.html>

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/488183> Book Reviews

<http://fortresspress.com/product/congregation-stories-and-structures>

<http://media.sabda.org/alkitab-2/Religion-Online.org%20Books/Hopewell,%20James%20F%20-%20Congregation%20-%20Stories%20and%20Structures.pdf>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/hopewell-congregation-stories-and-structures.html>

<https://psr.edu/when-our-reach-should-exceed-our-grasp-or-whats-a-heaven-for-rev-2110-225/>

<https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334002321/congregation>

<http://pitts.emory.edu/archives/text/mss080.html>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/327527.James\\_F\\_Hopewell](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/327527.James_F_Hopewell)

[Images for James Hopewell, author congregation and structures](#)

[Images for Congregation: Stories and Structures by James Hopewell](#)

### **The Character of Organizations: Using Jungian Type in Organizational Development [William Bridges]**

Based on an instrument called the Organizational Character Index (included in the book), this book applies to organizations the same categories of extraverted, introverted, intuitive, etc. that the Myers Briggs Type Inventory® applies to individuals. It helps you understand why a particular organization behaves as it does and what kind of "development" it needs.

An enormous consulting industry has sprung up promising to help organizations overhaul themselves to meet today's competitive pressures. Yet far too often, such change efforts fail. The solution, according to best-selling management author William Bridges, lies in identifying, understanding and working with what he calls organizational character. Just as people have personalities, Bridges explains, organizations - as well as their departments and teams - have characters. An organization's character shapes how decisions get made and new ideas are received, how employees are treated, and change is accepted or rejected - all factors that affect company performance. Using examples from McDonald's, Hewlett-Packard, GE and other companies, Bridges identifies 16 organizational character types using the framework of MBTI® personality types and shows how these influence an organization's growth and development. With a foreword by Sandra Krebs Hirsh and a new preface by the author, this updated edition of the time-tested classic includes the Organizational Character Index, Bridges' popular tool for assessing the character of your own organization or team.

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0891061495/williambridge-20>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/617598.The\\_Character\\_of\\_Organizations](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/617598.The_Character_of_Organizations)

<http://www.wmbridges.com/books/books.html>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0891062793>

<http://bookpage.com/reviews/1538-william-bridges-character-organizations-using-personality-type-organization-development#.VjzH3rerSUK>

<https://www.humansynergistics.com/blog/culture-university/details/culture-university/2016/03/08/organisational-culture-as-character-a-concept-worth-considering> Footnote 9

<https://www.cpp.com/en/mbtiproducts.aspx?pc=39>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Bridges\\_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bridges_(author))

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?pid=163419601>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-Bridges/e/B000AQ4MUS>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5111924.William\\_Bridges](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5111924.William_Bridges)

[Images for william bridges \(author\)](#)

[Images for The Character of Organizations: Using Jungian Type in Organizational Development \[William Bridges\]](#)

### **What Does the Bible Say About Character? - OpenBible.info**

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/character>

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/a\\_mans\\_character](https://www.openbible.info/topics/a_mans_character)

[Images for bible and character](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Character/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-character.html>

<https://www1.cbn.com/bible-verses-about-character>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Character>

[www.truthortradition.com/articles/the-importance-of-character](http://www.truthortradition.com/articles/the-importance-of-character)

[Images for importance-of-character](#)

[www.biblewise.com/bible\\_study/characters/](http://www.biblewise.com/bible_study/characters/)

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-character.html>

[Images for Christian-character](#)



## 22) Characteristics

### Characteristics of a Healthy Church - Leadership Transformations Inc.

The list of 10 characteristics of a healthy church we've compiled are the result of several years of field testing and two major surveys with over 2,000 churches and individuals. What will knowing the characteristics of a healthy church do for you? As a pastor or church leader, these ten traits will give you an approach that will revitalize your ministry!

<http://www.leadershiptransformations.org/characteristics-of-a-healthy-church.htm>

[Images for Characteristics of a Healthy Church](#)

### Characteristics of Effective Congregational Leader – Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices for leading congregations

The issues of leadership that were often raised in the Zacchaeus Project discussions led to initiation of the Emmaus Project.

Named for the man who got up in a tree to get a better view of Jesus, the Zacchaeus Project involved focus groups at over 250 congregations, including about 2000 participants in nine diverse dioceses.

The Emmaus Project picks up on the biblical theme that “we have met Jesus on the road,” and that encounter has turned us in a new direction. That direction examines leadership practices in congregations in four additional judicatories, seeking to learn more about what makes for effective leaders and teamwork in carrying out the mission of the church.

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/best-practices-of-ministry/characteristics-of-effective-congregational-leader/>

[Images for Characteristics of Effective Congregational Leader](#)

### Characteristics of Vital Congregations – Great Plains Conference

Great Plains Bishop Scott Jones and his Cabinet are evaluating ministry effectiveness based on eight characteristics of a healthy congregation.

<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/characteristicsofvitalcongregations>

[Images for Characteristics of Vital Congregations](#)

### How to Attract Young Adults: 7 Characteristics of Highly Successful Congregations | HuffPost

A new report analyzing the 2010 Faith Communities Today study of more than 11,000 congregations provides *insights* into what makes congregations with significant numbers of young adults distinctive. The profile by researchers Monte Sahlin of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership and David Roozen of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research explores the characteristics of the mere 16 percent of those congregations where 21 percent or more of participants are ages 18 to 34.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/millennials-religion\\_b\\_3743281.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-briggs/millennials-religion_b_3743281.html)

[Images for Characteristics of Highly Successful Congregations](#)

## 23) Christendom

### Christendom - Wikiquote

The conversion of Constantine ... was the effective beginning of “Christendom,” namely, of that particular form of the Christian religion that consists of a strong alliance of Christianity with political and social power, sometimes amounting to the practical identification of Christianity with the dominant forces of the society in which it finds itself.

- Douglas John Hall, "Where in the World Are We?" Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church, and Culture

<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Christendom>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christendom>

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christendom>

[Images for christendom](#)

### Is the Church in Exile?

**Christendom** is the term given to describe the religious culture that has dominated Western society since the fourth century when the Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. Post-Christendom refers to the time after Christendom, when the church lost its place of power and influence.

<http://www.releaseheape.com/is-the-church-in-exile/#.VbdjiPIVhBc>

[Images for Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.](#)

### Quotes About Christendom (22 quotes) - Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/christendom>

[Images for Christendom quotes](#)

[www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/christendom.html](http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/christendom.html)

<http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/christendom>

<https://www.facebook.com/Christendom-Quotes-162682443748883/>

### Reading the Bible After Christendom by Lloyd Pieterse (Author)

Lloyd Pieterse argues that for too long the Old Testament has been the primary source for Christian ethics and the letters of Paul for Christian discipleship. Without disparaging these sources, the author suggests that the church in a postmodern, post-Christian society needs to look at Scripture with a different focus.

This book seeks to examine what reading the Bible might look like in the current period when the church is no longer central, and the Christian story is not well known. Pietersen argues that, after Christendom, Jesus should be central to any Christian biblical interpretation.

<https://www.amazon.com/Reading-Bible-After-Christendom-Pieteren-ebook/dp/B00AAX12TA>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13801542-reading-the-bible-after-christendom>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Reading\\_the\\_Bible\\_After\\_Christendom.html?id=5XBQtQAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Reading_the_Bible_After_Christendom.html?id=5XBQtQAACAAJ)  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Reading\\_the\\_Bible\\_After\\_Christendom.html?id=cZYQ-zxD4oC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Reading_the_Bible_After_Christendom.html?id=cZYQ-zxD4oC)  
[http://www.heraldpress.com/StudyGuides/ReadingTheBibleAC/ReadingTheBibleAC\\_StudyGuide.pdf](http://www.heraldpress.com/StudyGuides/ReadingTheBibleAC/ReadingTheBibleAC_StudyGuide.pdf)  
<http://www.mhsbc.com/bookreviews/pietersen-after-christendom.pdf> Lloyd Pietersen. *Reading the Bible After Christendom*. With foreword by Walter Brueggemann.  
<http://www.anabaptistnetwork.com/node/547>  
<http://englewoodreview.org/lloyd-pietersen-reading-the-bible-after-christendom-featured-review/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Lloyd-Pietersen/e/B001HPTAKI>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17125864-reading-the-bible-after-christendom>  
Images for lloyd pieteren  
<https://www.christianbook.com/reading-the-bible-after-christendom-ebook/lloyd-pietersen/9781842277652/pd/38637EB>  
[http://store.mennomedia.org/cw\\_contributorinfo.aspx?ContribID=638&Name=Lloyd+Pieteren](http://store.mennomedia.org/cw_contributorinfo.aspx?ContribID=638&Name=Lloyd+Pieteren)  
<https://anabaptiststudies.wordpress.com/author/trsuog/>  
Images for Reading the Bible After Christendom by Lloyd Pieteren (Author)

### The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity by Douglas J. Hall (Author)

The thesis of this book is that the Christian movement can indeed have a significant future - one that will be faithful to the original vision of the movement and of immense service to our beleaguered world. But to have that future, Christians will have to stop trying to have the kind of future that sixteen centuries of official Christianity in the Western world has conditioned them to covet. Douglas John Hall examines the decline and fall of Christendom and looks at ecclesiastical responses to the end of Christendom. He proposes that the churches make their disestablishment work for good and describes how the Christian movement might serve dominant societies, classes, and institutions in a post-Christian era.



<https://www.amazon.com/End-Christendom-Future-Christianity/dp/1579109845>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197408.The\\_End\\_of\\_Christendom\\_and\\_the\\_Future\\_of\\_Christianity](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197408.The_End_of_Christendom_and_the_Future_of_Christianity)  
<https://wipfandstock.com/the-end-of-christendom-and-the-future-of-christianity.html>  
<https://www.bookdepository.com/End-Christendom-Future-Christianity-Douglas-John-Hall/9780852444214>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/end-christendom-and-the-future-christianity/douglas-hall/9781579109844/pd/10984X>  
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[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_End\\_of\\_Christendom\\_and\\_the\\_Future\\_of.html?id=RM1KAWAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_End_of_Christendom_and_the_Future_of.html?id=RM1KAWAAQBAJ)  
[https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=mth\\_theses](https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=mth_theses) Page 127  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us7HYOyFTJo> Interview with Douglas John Hall 0 – YouTube  
Images for Douglas John Hall - YouTube  
<https://www.globalconnections.org.uk/sites/newgc.localhost/files/papers/Global%20Interface%20christendom.pdf>  
[https://www.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/School\\_of\\_Christian\\_Vocation\\_and\\_Mission/Institute\\_for\\_Youth\\_Ministry/Princeton\\_Lectures/HalI-Where.pdf](https://www.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/School_of_Christian_Vocation_and_Mission/Institute_for_Youth_Ministry/Princeton_Lectures/HalI-Where.pdf)  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2010-08/cross-and-context>  
[https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=mth\\_theses](https://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=mth_theses) Page 127  
<https://www.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/IYM/YCCL/Hall-Finding.pdf> Page 215  
The Future of Christianity: Historical, Sociological, Political and Theological Perspectives from New Zealand  
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<http://www.mattcleaver.com/youthministry/book-review-the-end-of-christendom-and-the-future-of-christianity/>  
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<https://cep.anglican.ca/courses/christian-theology-after-christendom-engaging-the-thought-of-douglas-john-hall/>  
[http://thecresset.org/2013/Easter/Lott\\_E3013.html](http://thecresset.org/2013/Easter/Lott_E3013.html)  
<http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699864Intro.pdf>  
<https://homebrewedchristianity.com/2014/04/25/what-christianity-is-not-a-theology-of-the-cross-w-douglas-john-hall/>  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/27345>  
<http://www2.ptsem.edu/uploadedFiles/IYM/YCCL/Hall-Finding.pdf>  
<http://www.religion-online.org/showbook.asp?title=415>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\\_John\\_Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_John_Hall)  
[https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Douglas\\_John\\_Hall](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Douglas_John_Hall)  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/douglas-john-hall/234730/>

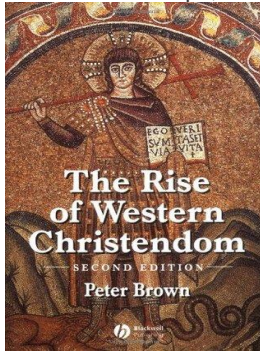
<http://fortresspress.com/author/douglas-john-hall>  
<http://store.afcanada.com/store/contributor/51/Douglas-John-Hall>  
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<https://www.logos.com/product/50057/select-works-of-douglas-john-hall>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Douglas-John-Hall/e/B001HOB7AK>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115008.Douglas\\_John\\_Hall](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115008.Douglas_John_Hall)

[Images for Douglas J. Hall \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The End of Christendom and the Future of Christianity by Douglas J. Hall \(Author\)](#)

### **The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, A.D. 200-1000, 2nd Edition (The Making of Europe) by Peter Brown (Author)**

This book offers a vivid, compelling history of the first thousand years of Christianity. For the second edition, the book has been thoroughly rewritten and expanded. It includes two new chapters, as well as an extensive preface in which the author reflects on the scholarly traditions which have influenced his work and explains his current thinking about the book's themes. New edition of popular account of the first 1000 years of Christianity. Thoroughly rewritten, with extensive new preface of author's current thinking. Includes new maps, substantial bibliography, and numerous chronological tables.



<http://www.amazon.com/The-Rise-Western-Christendom-Diversity/dp/0631221387>  
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<https://www.monash.edu/arts/philosophical-historical-international-studies/eras/past-editions/edition-six-2004-november/review-of-the-rise-of-western-christendom-triumph-and-diversity-ad-200-1000-by-peter-brown>  
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[Images for The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, A.D. 200-1000, 2nd Edition \(The Making of Europe\) by Peter Brown \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Making of Europe](#)

## **24) Church**

### **1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Commentary by Mary Hinkle Shore – WorkingPreacher.org**

For identity markers, we still look to things like race, age, economic circumstances, education, and geographical region to create meaningful boundaries and to identify our tribes. If our congregations manage to build community -- to have, in Paul's words, "the same mind and purpose" -- across the standard identity markers, they are "practicing diversity." We think of them as a remarkable social experiment. Paul, however, would regard such a community, gathered by the Spirit in the name of Christ, to be simply a **church**.

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3139](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3139)

[Images for gathered by the Spirit in the name of Christ](#)

### **What Does the Bible Say About Church? - OpenBible.info**

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/church>

[Images for Bible and Church](#)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/stephen-altrogge/does-the-bible-tell-us-what-church-should-look-like.html>  
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-church-attendance/>  
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/08/28/what-is-the-bible-definition-of-church-what-is-the-biblical-view-of-church/>  
Images for biblical view of church  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-church.html>  
[http://www.christianlibrary.org/authors/Grady\\_Scott/church1.htm](http://www.christianlibrary.org/authors/Grady_Scott/church1.htm)

### **Why We Love the Church: In Praise of Institutions and Organized Religion by Kevin DeYoung (Author), Ted Kluck (Author)**

This book presents the case for loving the local church. It paints a picture of the local church in all its biblical and real life guts, gaffes, and glory in an effort to edify local congregations and entice the disaffected back to the fold. It also provides a solid biblical mandate to love and be part of the body of Christ and counteract the "leave church" books that trumpet rebellion and individual felt needs.

*Why We Love the Church* is written for four kinds of people—the Committed, the Disgruntled, the Waffling, and the Disconnected.

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Images for Ted Kluck (Author) why we love the church  
Images for Why We Love the Church: In Praise of Institutions and Organized Religion by Kevin DeYoung (Author), Ted Kluck (Author)

## **25) Churchless**

### **Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them [George Barna, David Kinnaman]**

Churchless people are all around us: among our closest loved ones, at our workplaces, in our neighborhoods. And more and more, they are becoming the norm: The number of churchless adults in the US has grown by nearly one-third in the past decade. Yet the startling truth is that many of these people claim they are *looking* for a genuine, powerful encounter with God—but they just don't find it *in church*. What are they (or we) missing? How can we better reach out to them? What can we say or do that would inspire them to want to join a community of faith? Containing groundbreaking new research from the Barna Group and edited by bestselling authors George Barna (*Revolution*) and David Kinnaman (*You Lost Me*), *Churchless* reveals the results of a five-year study based on interviews with thousands of churchless men and women. Looking past the surface of church attendance to deeper spiritual realities, *Churchless* will help us understand those who choose not to be part of a church, build trust-based relationships with them, and be empowered to successfully invite them to engage.

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<https://vimeo.com/116071300> Churchless A conversation with coauthors George Barna and David Kinnaman  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSWmMKC2cMM> David Kinnaman on Churchless Americans and the Importance of Data and Faithfulness – YouTube  
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<http://qideas.org/contributors/david-kinnaman/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/KinnamanDavid/>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/contributors/david-kinnaman.html>  
<https://fi.pinterest.com/pin/170010954659286981/> Do you really know why they're avoiding church? - Barna Group  
Images for Do you really know why they're avoiding church? - Barna Group on Pinterest  
Images for Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them [George Barna, David Kinnaman]

### 10 Reasons Even Committed Church Attenders Are Attending Church Less Often - Carey Nieuwhof

It comes up in a surprising number of conversations these days. And no one's quite sure how to respond to it.

The issue? Even committed church attenders are attending church less often.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/10-reasons-even-committed-church-attenders-attending-less-often/>

Images for 10 Reasons Even Committed Church Attenders Are Attending Church Less Often - Carey Nieuwhof

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey\\_Nieuwhof](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey_Nieuwhof)

Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

## 26) City

### A Theology as Big as the City [Raymond J. Bakke]

"As we look at the world - class cities around our planet, we face five new urban realities: a crack cocaine epidemic, assault weapons, massive numbers of homeless children, HIV/AIDS and (in the U.S.) what Time magazine has called 'the browning of America.' The needs of the urban population are greater than ever." How does God see the city? What does Scripture have to say about urban ministry? Here is a biblical theology beginning with Genesis and continuing through to Revelation that will constantly surprise and challenge you.



<http://www.amazon.com/Theology-Big-City-Raymond-Bakke/dp/0830818901>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/298546.A\\_Theology\\_as\\_Big\\_as\\_the\\_City](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/298546.A_Theology_as_Big_as_the_City)

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[Images for Raymond J. Bakke, author](#)  
[Images for A Theology as Big as the City \[Raymond J. Bakke\]](#)

### **Downtown Church: The Heart of the City by Howard Edington**

Many in our day think that it is no longer possible to have big, strong, vital, influential, mission-minded downtown congregations. Those who predict the end of downtown churches will point to the suburbanization of Anglo populations, the erosion of inherited institutional loyalties, the decline of public transportation, the lack of interest by a younger generation in Sunday evening worship, the deterioration of central city public school systems, the fear of crime, the closing of downtown department stores with the rise of shopping malls, and so on.

While much can be learned about the failures of various downtown churches, more can be learned about the successful experiences. Today's downtown church, therefore, must be competitive. Howard Edington has led a church that for a dozen years has excelled in offering an alternative to most of the lures in our society that compete for attention with the church. First Church is reaching new generations of people by being relevant to community needs, by becoming a credible partner with the government and the city, and by offering the good news with a message and program that is of the highest quality.



<http://www.amazon.com/Downtown-Church-Innovators-Ministry-Series/dp/0687054400>  
<http://effectivechurch.com/resources/recommended-books-and-resources/book-reviews/edington-howard-and-schaller-lyle-downtown-church/>  
<http://www.layman.org/news1881/> Orlando First Presbyterian: The heart of the city  
<http://fpco.org/history/>  
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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/806923.Howard\\_Edington](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/806923.Howard_Edington)  
[Images for Howard Edington, author downtown church](#)  
[Images for Downtown Church: The Heart of the City by Howard Edington](#)

### **Spirit in the city: New York - The Lutheran Magazine**

Amy C. Elliott hears a subway drummer

The Times Square subway station isn't the safest, cleanest or friendliest place in the city, to say the least. But the Spirit, as an enforcer for humanization, is very present—you can hear it. Above the bustle of commuters and the rumble of passing trains, there is sometimes music. It's a sound I unconsciously strain for every time I step out onto the platform.

I've always found subway musicians inspiring—long, still voices of creativity amid the rushing, anonymous crowd. There is something especially stirring about drummers, who set rush hour to a beat and bring the station alive with a literal pulse. I explained this assignment to one of them, and he nodded as if the subject matter was a perfect fit. Vincent spoke about trying, through his instrument, to express the universal rhythm that connects us all.

The Spirit is not only at hand in the music itself but also in the shared experience of hearing it. The strangers who stop to listen and appreciate are united, for a few minutes at least, as a like-minded audience. That human connection, however modest, is regenerative and to experience it in a place that can be so inherently alienating is profound.

### **The Lutheran | August 2005 Issue**

<http://www.thelutheran.org/article/issue.cfm?issue=118>  
[Images for Spirit in the city: New York - The Lutheran Magazine](#)  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

### **The City – Word and World – Fall, 1994 – Luther Seminary**

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[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=1202](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1202) Beyond Justice: Friendship in the City Martha Ellen Stortz  
[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=696](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=696) Going Downtown: Historical Resources for Urban Ministry James W. Lewis  
[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=442](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=442) Recent Directions in Urban Church Literature Loyde H. Hartley  
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[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=1182](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1182) Looking to the City: The Old Testament Lessons for Advent and Christmas Day (Year C) Paul R. Sponheim  
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[Images for The City – Word and World – Fall, 1994 – Luther Seminary](#)

**To Transform a City: Whole Church, Whole Gospel, Whole City by Eric Swanson (Author), Sam Williams (Author), Reggie McNeal (Foreword)**

Understand the paradigmatic shift that is happening in city ministry around the world---the shift from internal church concern to external community focus---and learn how to live out and lead others in this missional approach. In the year 2007, the number of people living in the cities of the world—finally and irreversibly—exceeded the number of people living in rural areas. The earth's population is now more **urban** than rural, and Christian leaders are trying to figure out what this means for the church. Pastors and kingdom-minded leaders know they need to engage the surrounding community with the gospel but are unsure about how to do so. Ministering in diverse and populous areas brings a unique set of challenges and promises. Evangelistic strategies that work in rural areas seem to bounce off of people in the cities, forcing church leaders to reevaluate church effectiveness. They see that the arena for significant impact is the surrounding community. The wide-open potential for spiritual and social change on this larger scale requires that leaders leverage the multivalent domains of their communities to solve problems the entire city cares about. Eric Swanson and Sam Williams have been working together with missional leaders from cities around the world trying to discover examples and principles of city transformation. They try, investigate, and share effective and proven ways for ministry leaders to mobilize for spiritual impact and partner with other community organizations for societal good. This book is a call to action for spiritual and societal transformation. The authors begin casting their vision for God's work in cities with an overview of the importance of cities in the twenty-first century. They address the process of community transformation along with examples of where and how cities have been changed for the good throughout history. They challenge readers to a vibrant kingdom-orientation in their ministries and use the concepts of "whole church, whole gospel, and whole city" to explain this large vision. They encourage people of good faith to work together with people of goodwill for the common benefit of cities around the world. *To Transform a City* is a timely, compelling book that helps readers explore the reality of cities, the potential of their own communities, and the broad strategies churches and Christian leaders need for kingdom impact.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk5Von1OE1g> To Transform a City with Eric Swanson & Sam Williams, Session 3 – YouTube

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[Images for reggie mcneal author](#)

[Images for To Transform a City: Whole Church, Whole Gospel, Whole City by Eric Swanson \(Author\), Sam Williams \(Author\), Reggie McNeal \(Foreword\)](#)

## 27) Coffeehouse Ministry

**Java Journey Coffee House Ministry, Hickory, NC Recovery for Christians in 12 steps - YouTube**

Jeff and Tina Stewart of Java Journey in Hickory, NC talk about their coffee shop, Java Journey. Java Journey is a living ministry and is founded on Christian principles and seeks to help heal the broken hearted in Hickory, NC. Java Journey has recovery meetings for women and for men who are struggling with addictions. 12 step groups Hickory, NC. AA for Christian, Hickory, NC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wS41AEm3MDY>

[Images for Java Journey Coffee House Ministry, Hickory, NC Recovery for Christians in 12 steps - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4Ff49gn8nc> Network Coffee House - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d11TSR3L1uA> HeartBeat Coffee House | www.HBCoffeeHouse.com - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUGZqLfl3es> Greater Grace Christian Coffee House - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6xZAtL1iKE> Coffee House Ministry - YouTube

[Images for Coffee House Ministry - YouTube](#)

**130 best christian coffee house inspiration images on Pinterest**

<https://www.pinterest.com/keriannparker/christian-coffee-house-inspiration/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/krc0921/christian-coffee-shop/>  
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<https://www.pinterest.com/anitamyers/church-coffee-house/>  
[Images for church coffee house on Pinterest](#)

#### [PDF]The awesome potential of coffeehouse ministry - Jacob's Well Coffeehouse

The very fact that you have contacted us, and received this document, gives evidence of His prompting. Test the concept informally with several of your Church leaders, and keenly tune into their responses. If you and a small nucleus of leaders share a zeal and passion for coffeehouse ministry, then keep moving forward! If no one seems to grasp onto the concept, give it time to "percolate." The Holy Spirit will confirm when the timing is right.

[http://www.jacobswellcoffeehouse.com/images/TIPS\\_ON\\_COFFEEHOUSE\\_MINISTRY.pdf](http://www.jacobswellcoffeehouse.com/images/TIPS_ON_COFFEEHOUSE_MINISTRY.pdf)  
[Images for The awesome potential of coffeehouse ministry - Jacob's Well Coffeehouse](#)

#### The Coffeehouse Church: Blending Tradition and Innovation

One of the great challenges contemporary clergy face is how to lead during dramatic cultural transformation; how to honor tradition while creating innovative ways of being the church of Jesus Christ. A confluence of factors led 100-year-old Alamo Heights United Methodist Church in San Antonio to spawn an unexpected offspring: a church with no formal membership and no sanctuary. In fact, the offspring, called Riverside, meets in a coffeehouse. More theologically, the gathering place is a *shephelah*, a meeting ground for people of diverse faith commitments that is influencing its community for Christ. An article written by Lynn Gosnell for Faith & Leadership, an online offering of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School, explores [the United Methodist Church's coffeehouse ministry](#), and the accompanying questions offer discussion-starters for leadership teams interested in starting a conversation about [ministry outside of the traditional church structure](#).

<http://religioninsights.org/resources/coffeehouse-church-blending-tradition-and-innovation>  
[Images for Coffeehouse Church: Blending Tradition and Innovation](#)

#### The Gospel According to Starbucks: Living with a Grande Passion [Leonard Sweet]

You don't stand in line at Starbucks® just to buy a cup of coffee. You stop for the *experience* surrounding the cup of coffee. Too many of us line up for God out of duty or guilt. We completely miss the warmth and richness of the experience of living with God. If we'd learn to see what God is doing on earth, we could participate fully in the irresistible life that he offers. You can learn to pay attention like never before, to identify where God is already in business right in your neighborhood. The doors are open, and the coffee is brewing. God is serving the refreshing antidote to the unsatisfying, arms-length spiritual life—and he won't even make you stand in line. Let Leonard Sweet show you how the passion that Starbucks® has for creating an irresistible experience can connect you with God's stirring introduction to the experience of faith.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Gospel-According-Starbucks-Passion/dp/1578566495>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/97652.The\\_Gospel\\_According\\_to\\_Starbucks](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/97652.The_Gospel_According_to_Starbucks)  
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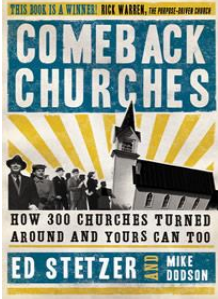


## 28) Comeback Congregation

### Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can, Too [Ed Stetzer, Mike Dodson]

Research shows that over time, most churches plateau and then eventually decline. Typically, they start strong and experience periods of growth, then stagnate and lose members. Since 1991, the North American population has increased by 15 percent while the number of “unchurched” people has increased by 92 percent. Large church houses that were filled in the 1950s and 60s now hold a fraction of their capacity.

To counter this trend, authors Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson surveyed 300 churches from across ten different denominations that recently achieved healthy evangelistic growth after a significant season of decline. What they have discovered is an exciting method of congregation reinvigoration that is shared in the new book entitled *Comeback Churches*.



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[Images for Comeback Churches: How 300 Churches Turned Around and Yours Can, Too \[Ed Stetzer, Mike Dodson\]](#)

### Leading the Comeback Church: Help Your Church Rebound from Decline [David F. Nixon]

David F. Nixon led struggling churches to viability after major decline, crisis, or plateau. Six times, he overcame impossibilities in churches where others shook their heads and walked away. In *Leading the Comeback Church*, you'll discover survival skills essential to anticipating, experiencing, leading, and surviving the turnaround church experience. You will learn how to: Lead their church off of a plateau. Develop a strategy for growth. Overcome financial challenges. Break attendance barriers. Focus on spiritual growth. And much more!

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[Images for David F. Nixon, author leading the comeback church](#)

[Images for Leading the Comeback Church: Help Your Church Rebound from Decline \[David F. Nixon\]](#)

### The Come Back Congregation: New Life for a Troubled Ministry by Lyle E. Schaller (Author), Randy Frazee (Author)

Pastor Randy Frazee was called as senior pastor of a congregation in deep trouble. Nearly 1,000 members had walked away from a once-thriving ministry. The church had lost its direction. The people had no confidence for the future. In this book, the reader learns how Pastor Frazee, in less than four years, led his church to a comeback. Frazee tells the story of his spiritual journey with Pantego Bible Church. He describes the restructuring of the ministry and the tools he used, such as the "characteristics of an innovative congregation" or "the spiritual fitness survey", to show church leaders what it takes to make their own comeback.

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[Images for The Come Back Congregation: New Life for a Troubled Ministry by Lyle E. Schaller \(Author\), Randy Frazee \(Author\)](#)

## 29) Communicate

### Communicating identity: Communication processes in the development of group identity through congregational worship rituals.

How does communication work in the process of group identity creation and maintenance? This dissertation uses a social construction of reality orientation to seek the verbal, nonverbal, and ritual communication elements that work in the process of identity development in distinct communities.

<https://shareok.org/handle/11244/405>

[Images for Communicating identity: Communication processes in the development of group identity through congregational worship rituals.](#)

### Communication, Media, and Identity: A Christian Theory of Communication by Robert S. Fortner

Communication, Media, and Identity: A Christian Theory of Communication is the first comprehensive theoretical look at the nature of communication from a biblical Christian perspective. This groundbreaking new work discusses the implications of such a theory for interpersonal relations, use of media, and the development of digital culture in the wake of the computer. It also draws widely from the literature of the secular world, critiquing perspectives where necessary and adopting perspectives that are in line with Christian anthropology, epistemology, and ontology. Through this unique lens, the reader is able to understand communication as an art, as a tool for evangelism, and as a unique human activity that allows people to have a stake in the creation. It covers both mediated and non-mediated forms of communication, is sensitive to theological differences within the Christian faith, and examines closely the problem of technology, and especially digital technology, for the practice

of communication. As the newest book in the Communication, Culture, and Religion Series, Robert Fortner's work illuminates the theological aspects of communication.

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Images for Robert S. Fortner

[Images for Communication, Media, and Identity: A Christian Theory of Communication by Robert S. Fortner](#)

#### [PDF] 50 Ways to Communicate Effectively - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

5. Develop a uniform design scheme to reinforce a sense of congregational identity and “brand” your church. Choose standard colors, type styles, and an easily identifiable, contemporary logo. If possible, enlist the help of a professional graphics designer.

[http://www.churchleadership.com/pdfs/50ways/50\\_ways\\_communications.pdf](http://www.churchleadership.com/pdfs/50ways/50_ways_communications.pdf)

Images for 50 Ways to Communicate Effectively - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

<https://www.churchleadership.com/category/50-ways/>

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#### Myths about Communicating Congregational Identity - Alban Institute

Conveying a congregation’s identity and values clearly and through a variety of means of communication will help the congregation connect to the community around it. At the same time, clear expressions of values and identity will also have a deep impact on the congregation itself. The people involved in a congregation are shaped by what they hear about that congregation. Their expectations for the life of faith and for their involvement in the community are influenced by the ways in which the congregation talks about itself and its values.

<https://alban.org/archive/myths-about-communicating-congregational-identity/>

Images for Myths about Communicating Congregational Identity - Alban Institute

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#### Ritual Practices in Congregational Identity Formation by Timothy D. Son

Ritual practices invite congregation members to remember their own traditions and heritage as they provide acceptable ways of **communicating** the religious reality by which they share perceptions of themselves, the religious sense of calling by God, their worldviews and their understanding of what the church ought to be – the peculiar boundaries of communication that they follow as common and acceptable and by which they engage in corporate recollection, action, and anticipation.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0739183117>

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Images for Timothy D. Son, author ritual practices

[Images for Ritual Practices in Congregational Identity Formation by Timothy D. Son](#)

### 30) Community

#### Building Authentic Community: Enjoying Christ's Church in a Postmodern Age [Tim Boal]

Written for the church today, this book helps the local church reflect on its uniqueness and place in the world and how its mission of love to God and others is best carried out in community. Worksheets contain practical ideas for implementation.

<http://www.amazon.com/Building-Authentic-Community-Enjoying-Postmodern/dp/0884693074>

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Images for Tim Boal, author

[Images for Building Authentic Community: Enjoying Christ's Church in a Postmodern Age \[Tim Boal\]](#)

### Christian Community, Life Guide Topical Bible Studies - christianbook.com

One of the greatest gifts that Christ has given us is each other. Through his body, the church, we find our gifts and experience worship, healing and power. Explore how we can grow in loving and nurturing one another. *Christian Community* includes ten studies for individuals or groups. This revised Bible study features additional questions for starting group discussions and for meeting God in personal reflection, together with expanded leader's notes and a "Now or Later" section in each study.

<http://www.christianbook.com/christian-community-lifeguide-topical-bible-studies/rob-suggs/9780830830718/pd/0715X?p=1013347>

Images for Christian Community, Life Guide Topical Bible Studies - christianbook.com

<http://www.christianbook.com/christian-community-lifeguide-topical-bible-studies/rob-suggs/9780830830718/pd/0715X>

### Church Vision: Building Community | Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Through prayerful discernment and consideration, the elders of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, together with the staff leadership, have made "Building Community" the focus of our work. Our programs of ministry and mission are centered on developing the sense of community both within the congregation and in the neighborhoods around us. When people visit the church, we want them to encounter the hospitality of Christ that receives every stranger as a member of the family. We want our children to grow up in a church family that loves them as if they were all our own kids, which they are. We want every member of the congregation to feel like this is a place where they belong and are known. And we want our worship services to be the place where we can come home to the God who restores our fractured souls. In addition, we are committed to building the household of God in distressed parts of our city and in disadvantaged neighborhoods of other nations, as well.

<http://www.shadysidepres.org/church-vision-building-community>

Images for Church Vision: Building Community

### Community from Scratch | Leadership Journal - Christianity Today

How one pastor is building Christian community where it doesn't come easy.

An interview with Eugene Rivers

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<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/archives/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/search/>

### Community 101: Reclaiming the Local Church as Community of Oneness [Gilbert Bilezikian, John Ortberg]

More than anywhere else, the church should be the place where you know you belong. Bilezikian will help you discover the importance of community throughout all of salvation history, and how it can be expressed in the day-to-day life of your church. His practical guidelines will help you improve everything from leadership style to small groups.

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Images for John Ortberg, author

Images for Community 101: Reclaiming the Local Church as Community of Oneness [Gilbert Bilezikian, John Ortberg]

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### Creating Community – Building Church Leaders

Fellowship is more than coffee talk between worship and Sunday school, but how can we move beyond small talk to help relationships become more authentic? This theme covers communication basics, such as how to respect others in speech, and tackles harder topics, such as promoting confession and why we resist honesty with others.

<https://www.bclstore.com/products/creating-community>

Images for Creating Community – Building Church Leaders

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/march/31.60.html> My Top 5 Books on Community

<http://www.buildingchurchleaders.com/recommends/resources/creatingcommunity.html>

### Creating Community: Five Keys to Building a Small Group Culture Audio CD – Audiobook, CD, Unabridged by Andy Stanley (Author), Bill Willits (Author), Lloyd James (Narrator)

Small groups are the key to impacting lives in your church. But a healthy small-group environment—one that fosters meaningful, lasting connections—doesn't just *happen*.

So, pull up a chair. Let's talk about how to *make* it happen.

Bill Willits and bestselling author Andy Stanley share their successful approach, which has resulted in nearly eight thousand adults becoming involved in small groups at North Point Community Church in Atlanta. Simply put, the five principles clearly described here have passed the test.

This is not just another book about community; this is a book about strategy—strategy that builds a small group culture. Creating Community shares clear and simple principles to help people connect into meaningful relationships. The kind God desires for each of us. The kind He uses to change our lives.

Put this proven method to work in your ministry and enjoy the tangible results—God's people doing life TOGETHER.

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Images for Andy Stanley (Author)

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Images for Bill Willits (Author)

Images for Creating Community: Five Keys to Building a Small Group Culture Audio CD – Audiobook, CD, Unabridged by Andy Stanley (Author), Bill Willits (Author), Lloyd James (Narrator)

### Creating Community from a corner café – The Lutheran

Milda's Cafe now anchors Milda's Corner, built by Redeemer Center for Life Inc., the nonprofit urban revitalization arm of the congregation.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=1144](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=1144)

Images for Creating Community from a corner café – The Lutheran

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<http://metrolutheran.org/2001/03/redeemer-n-mpls-given-2-million/>

<https://givemn.org/organization/Redeemer-Center-For-Life>

<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/41-1912560> Redeemer Center for Life Inc - GuideStar Profile

### Cultivating Christian Community [Thomas R. Hawkins]

Hawkins identifies practices that help cultivate Christian community in small groups: listening, dialogue, discernment, covenant making, prayer and reflection, and hospitality. Recommended for accountable groups, covenant groups, service and support groups, study groups, and administrative groups.



<http://www.amazon.com/Cultivating-Christian-Community-Thomas-Hawkins/dp/0881773271>

<http://books.upperroom.org/book-author/thomas-r-hawkins/>

<https://www.eiu.edu/include12/global/profile.php?id=trhawkins>

<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-R.-Hawkins/e/B001IQZPL4>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14390406.Thomas\\_R\\_Hawkins](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14390406.Thomas_R_Hawkins)

Images for Thomas R. Hawkins, author

Images for Cultivating Christian Community [Thomas R. Hawkins]

### Daily Java | Building A Community One Cup At A Time

The Daily Java has often been called the Church Cafe Experts and for good reason. The Daily Java understands the difference between a regular cafe and a church cafe, which we have dubbed "Quick Hit Cafes".

[http://www.dailyjava.com/churches/articles/one\\_cup\\_article.pdf](http://www.dailyjava.com/churches/articles/one_cup_article.pdf)

Images for Daily Java | Building A Community One Cup At A Time

### Discovering the Church: Twelve Studies for Small Groups; Becoming Part of God's New Community by Don Cousins (Author), Judson Poling (Author)

When God saves you, he puts you on his team. This team is more enduring than any human institution—for it will continue to exist in heaven forever. But many Christians are unconnected to the team God has given them as a gift. In some cases, their experience

has left them bewildered or even hurt. This guide explores the wonder and beauty of God's plan to connect his children in the life-sustaining community called the church. Together with the next book in the Walking with God series, Building Your Church, you'll see the biblical view of a healthy church—and learn how it can impact you in profound ways.

<http://www.amazon.in/Discovering-Church-Becoming-Community-Walking/dp/0310591732>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2728534-discovering-the-church>

<http://www.doncousins.org/leadershift/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Don-Cousins/e/B001ITX5XQ>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/143393.Don\\_Cousins](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/143393.Don_Cousins)

Images for Don Cousins (Author) discovering the church

<https://www.amazon.com/Judson-Poling/e/B001IGJXL2>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/93573.Judson\\_Poling](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/93573.Judson_Poling)

Images for Judson Poling (Author) discovering the church

Images for Discovering the Church: Twelve Studies for Small Groups; Becoming Part of God's New Community by Don Cousins (Author), Judson Poling (Author)

### Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ (John Stott Bible Studies) [John Stott]

We long to belong. We crave unity. We want to be loved and accepted by others. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is about uniting all things in Christ. Here we learn how to break down what separates us from God, one ethnic group from another, husband from wife, parent from child, employer from employee. These studies provide a vision of the new society God has planned in his church. John Stott is one of the world's leading and most loved Bible teachers and preachers. In this guide, you can explore Scripture under his guidance, enhancing your own in-depth study with insights gained from his years of immersion in God's Word.



<http://www.amazon.com/Ephesians-Building-Community-Christ-Studies/dp/0830821635>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6250649-ephesians>

<https://www.cokesbury.com/9780830821631-John-Stott-Bible-Studies---Ephesians>

<https://www.ivpress.com/john-stott-bible-studies>

<https://www.christianbook.com/page/bible-studies/bible-study-series/john-stott-bible-studies>

<https://www.christianbook.com/john-stott-bible-studies/pd/20302X>

<https://www.olivetree.com/store/home.php?cat=259&authorid=1921>

<http://books.google.com/books/about/Ephesians.html?id=pTohPh9sRL4C>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Stott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stott)

[https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp\\_27%3AJohn%20Stott](https://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AJohn%20Stott)

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Images for John Stott, author

Images for Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ (John Stott Bible Studies) [John Stott]

### Five things the church can learn from roller derby - Living Lutheran

2. To build **community**, meet people where they are.

<http://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/03/five-things-church-can-learn-roller-derby/>

Images for Five things the church can learn from roller derby - Living Lutheran 2. To build community, meet people where they are.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

### How to Build Church Community Organically, Without Rigid Structures

At his church, like most, they provide opportunities ranging from a Sunday morning gathering, a Sunday evening gathering and small groups through the week to a fellowship meal once a month, a one-to-one Bible reading program, and monthly men's and women's meetings.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/how-to-build-church-community-organically-without-rigid-structures-71697/>

Images for How to Build Church Community Organically, Without Rigid Structures

### How to Build Community in Your Church | Daniel Darling, Author

So, it is an important function of the church to create environments where this body life, this community can flourish. Much of this falls on church leadership. They must work hard to create environments for God's people to fulfill the "one-another" commands, where gospel fellowship, confession, repentance, friendship, encouragement, and life can happen together.

<http://www.danieldarling.com/2013/04/how-to-build-community-in-your-church/>

Images for Build Community in Your Church | Daniel Darling, Author

<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/author/danieldarling/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Daniel-Darling/e/B001JPAAGO>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/941753.Daniel\\_Darling](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/941753.Daniel_Darling)

<https://twitter.com/dandarling?lang=en>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/contributors/daniel-darling.html>  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/author/Daniel-Darling>

### Jesus and Community: The Social Dimensions of Christian Faith by Gerhard Lohfink

This book seeks to reflect the author's interest in Jesus' public aims with regard to Israel and the basic intentions which he had for his community of followers.

The author calls the present-day church to once again be the "contrast society," which attracts non-believers by living what it preaches and by being different without being narrowly sectarian.

<https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Community-Gerhard-Lohfink/dp/0800618025>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/852834.Jesus\\_and\\_Community](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/852834.Jesus_and_Community)

[https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product/?item\\_no=WW0618025&p=1006327](https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product/?item_no=WW0618025&p=1006327)

<https://www.logos.com/product/30918/jesus-and-community-the-social-dimensions-of-christian-faith>

<https://praiseqoh.wordpress.com/2007/01/08/6/> Book Review: Gerhard Lohfink, Jesus and Community, Augsburg Fortress Publishers

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/gerhard-lohfink/328540/>

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/329047.Gerhard\\_Lohfink](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/329047.Gerhard_Lohfink)

[Images for Gerhard Lohfink](#)

[Images for Jesus and Community: The Social Dimensions of Christian Faith by Gerhard Lohfink](#)

### Leading for the Future » Alban

Leaders for the future have the arms of a hugger. The desert fathers and mothers, as isolated as they seemed to be, knew that **community** was essential to their faith and well-being. They spent hours alone delving the depths of their beings, but they also came together to share and to worship. Community has always been a part of congregational life, but the community of the future will be different, more difficult to develop, and because of that probably more authentic. It won't be a community based on similarity of race, culture, economic status, or theology. It will be a community of genuine diversity, not just because diversity is valued (which, of course, it should be) but because diversity will be unavoidable. Even though the urge to retreat to cultural, racial, economic, and theological enclaves may be great, God is already at work in the world to deny such narrowness. Everywhere we turn we are confronted with those who are different from us in countless ways. In the future there will be no escape from diversity, so leadership in the future will need to evidence a warm inclusivity. The arms of a hugger reach out to gather in all who would come, to welcome them, to embrace them, to bring them together into a new creation—a beloved community.

### Alban at Duke Divinity School » Leading for the Future

<https://alban.org/archive/leading-for-the-future/>

[Images for Leading for the Future » Alban - community essential to faith and well-being](#)

<https://alban.org/archive/practices-in-the-disciple-forming-community/>

[Images for Disciple-Forming Community](#)

<https://alban.org/category/leadership/>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/alban-weekly/>

<https://alban.org/books/>

<https://alban.org/author/nekduke-edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/albaninstitute/>

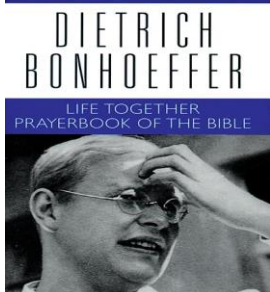
<http://www.elizabethpresbytery.org/Resource%20Center%20ON%20THE%20WEB/Alban%20Institute%20Resources%202012.pdf>

<https://alban.org/about-alban/congregations-magazine/>

### Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian in Community [Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned Christian minister, professor, and author of *The Cost of Discipleship* recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship. After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. In his book *Life Together*, we learn of Pastor Bonhoeffer's experience within Christian community. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* serves as bread to all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Volume 5



<http://www.amazon.com/Life-Together-Exploration-Christian-Community/dp/0060608528>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/174845.Life\\_Together](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/174845.Life_Together)  
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/168889-gemeinsames-leben>  
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<http://www.christianbook.com/life-together-classic-exploration-christian-community/dietrich-bonhoeffer/9780060608521/pd/7153?p=1013347>  
<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/life-together-the-classic-exploration-of-christian-community-P001062805>  
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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life\\_Together](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_Together)  
<https://izzabelle.co/blog/dietrich-bonhoeffer-book-review-christian-community>  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/101682904066763526/>  
<https://davidschrock.com/2015/10/07/life-together-a-short-review/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich\\_Bonhoeffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer)  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/martyrs/dietrich-bonhoeffer.html>  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dietrich-Bonhoeffer>  
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/bonhoeff/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Dietrich-Bonhoeffer/e/B001H6WDKQ>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/29333.Dietrich\\_Bonhoeffer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/29333.Dietrich_Bonhoeffer)  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29333.Dietrich\\_Bonhoeffer](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29333.Dietrich_Bonhoeffer)  
Images for Dietrich Bonhoeffer, author  
Images for Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian in Community [Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

### **One Anothering: Building Spiritual Community in Small Groups by Richard C. Meyer (Author)**

Ten sessions, based on such themes as "accept one another," "serve one another," "teach one another," and "honor one another." Includes a special introductory chapter on "The Power of Community," outlining the core biblical basis for small groups.

<http://www.amazon.com/One-Anothering-Vol-Biblical-Building/dp/0806690550>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2143154.One\\_Anothering\\_Volume\\_1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2143154.One_Anothering_Volume_1)  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8302/One-Anothering-Volume-1-Biblical-Building-Blocks-for-Small-Groups>  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/contributor/4669/Richard-C-Meyer>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451416938>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/658954.Richard\\_C\\_Meyer](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/658954.Richard_C_Meyer)  
Images for Richard C. Meyer (Author) one anothering  
Images for One Anothering: Building Spiritual Community in Small Groups by Richard C. Meyer (Author)

### **One Anothering, Volume 2: Building Spiritual Community in Small Groups by Richard C. Meyer (Author)**

Ten sessions, based on such themes as "accept one another," "serve one another," "teach one another," and "honor one another." Includes a special introductory chapter on "The Power of Community," outlining the core biblical basis for small groups.

<http://www.amazon.com/One-Anothering-Volume-Spiritual-Community/dp/0806690569>  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8303/One-Anothering-Volume-2>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/anothering-building-spiritual-community-small-groups/richard-meyer/9780806690568/pd/90563>  
Images for One Anothering, Volume 2: Building Spiritual Community in Small Groups by Richard C. Meyer (Author)

### **One Anothering, Volume 3: Creating Significant Spiritual Community by Richard C. Meyer (Author)**

In this final volume of the widely respected *One Anothering* series, Dick Meyer offers down-to-earth tools, based on solid group dynamics, to help people experience the richness and depth of the small group connection. As in the previous volumes, each chapter reflects on a New Testament scripture that describes how we are to relate to one another, such as "speak truthfully to one another" and "do not grumble against one another." Each session includes a reading, meeting format, group discussion questions, and tips for small group process.

<https://www.amazon.com/One-Anothering-Significant-Spiritual-Community/dp/1880913569>  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8304/One-Anothering-Volume-3>  
Images for One Anothering, Volume 3: Creating Significant Spiritual Community by Richard C. Meyer (Author)

### **Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Cultural Setting by Robert J. Banks (Author)**

Robert Banks's widely read *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Cultural Setting* is once again available to laypeople, pastors, and scholars alike. In this extensively revised edition Banks has rewritten chapters for clarity, taken into account recent scholarship on Paul's writings, updated and expanded the bibliography, and added an index. This new edition retains, however, all the freshness and vitality of the original.

Banks goes beyond clichéd notions of the early church to speak about first-century house churches' practices and structure. Banks explores Paul's metaphors of the body, the family, and the household, and he helpfully identifies Paul's source and use of authority among his church plants.

<https://www.amazon.com/Pauls-Idea-Community-Churches-Cultural/dp/0801045541>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/608645.Paul\\_s\\_Idea\\_of\\_Community](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/608645.Paul_s_Idea_of_Community)  
<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/paul-s-idea-of-community-P001130199>



<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/march/31.60.html> My Top 5 Books on Community | Christianity Today  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/banks-pauls-idea-of-community.html>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/608645.Paul\\_s\\_Idea\\_of\\_Community](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/608645.Paul_s_Idea_of_Community)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-J.-Banks/e/B001HCWUA8>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/16113188.Robert\\_Banks](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/16113188.Robert_Banks)  
Images for Robert J. Banks (Author)  
Images for Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Cultural Setting by Robert J. Banks (Author)

### Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community [Craig Nesson]

While many manuals advise clergy on tactics for church survival or thriving, few address the deepest identity, shape, and imperatives of the church in its identity in Christ and the tradition of discipling that stems from his life, work, death, and resurrection. As compelling as it is clear, Craig Nesson's important new work retrieves biblical metaphors of the body of Christ and, following Dietrich Bonhoeffer, sees church today as "Christ existing as community." The theological-probing Nesson then adds contextual analysis and describes the four chief imperatives that mark Christ's presence in the world today: peacemaking, justice-making, care for creation, and engagement with the other. He then unfolds the real-life implications of this paradigm of Christian community for local church structure, strategies for partnering, public witness, and interreligious engagement.

<http://www.amazon.com/Shalom-Church-Christ-Ministering-Community/dp/0800663276>  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/520/Shalom-Church>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/shalom-church-body-christ-ministering-community/craig-nessan/9780800663278/pd/663278>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Shalom\\_Church.html?id=q8GP0sZ8lhcC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Shalom_Church.html?id=q8GP0sZ8lhcC)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451405405>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqOXqf4W1Jc> Author Craig L. Nesson talks about his new book, Shalom Church - YouTube  
<http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/people/dr-craig-l-nessan/>  
<http://fortresspress.com/author/craig-l-nessan>  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/craig-l-nessan>  
<http://wipfandstock.com/author/view/detail/id/7889/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Craig-L.-Nesson/e/B001JSAG9C>  
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Images for Craig Nesson  
Images for Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community [Craig Nesson]

### Small Groups in the Church: A Handbook for Creating Community (An Alban Institute Publication) [Thomas G. Kirkpatrick]

This planning and leader training handbook offers a distinctive broad-based, small-group approach to building community. From the Jewish *havurot* to Christian *koinonia*, you will gain a thorough understanding of *community*, learn how to plan an effective small-group ministry, how to select and train leaders for all kinds of small groups, and how to start small groups that are a part of and not apart from their congregations. Appendices provide an overview of the sociological, psychological, and biblical theological literature on community and a wealth of presentation and leader training resources.

<http://www.amazon.de/Small-Groups-Church-Community-Publication/dp/156699151X>  
<https://alban.org/2016/11/10/communication-in-the-church-creating-healthier-relationships/>  
<https://www.ntnl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Intrim-Ministry-Handbook-Congregatio.pdf>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Thomas-G.-Kirkpatrick/e/B001K8L6KY>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8270759.Thomas\\_G\\_Kirkpatrick](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8270759.Thomas_G_Kirkpatrick)  
Images for Thomas G. Kirkpatrick, author small groups in the church  
Images for Small Groups in the Church: A Handbook for Creating Community (An Alban Institute Publication) [Thomas G. Kirkpatrick]  
<https://rowman.com/Page/AlbanBooks>  
Images for alban institute publication

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### The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community by Randy Frazee (Author), Larry Crabb (Foreword), George Gallup (Foreword), Dallas Willard (Foreword)

The development of meaningful relationships, where every member carries a significant sense of belonging, is central to what it means to be the church. So why do many Christians feel disappointed and disillusioned with their efforts to experience authentic community? Despite the best efforts of pastors, small group leaders, and faithful lay persons, church too often is a place of loneliness rather than connection. Church can be so much better. So intimate and alive. The Connecting Church tells you how. The answer may seem radical today, but it was a central component of life in the early church. First-century Christians knew what it meant to live in vital community with one another, relating with a depth and commitment that made 'the body of Christ' a perfect metaphor for the church. What would it take to reclaim that kind of love, joy, support, and dynamic spiritual growth? Read this book and find out.

<https://www.amazon.com/Connecting-Church-Randy-Frazee/dp/0310233089>  
<http://www.christianbook.com/connecting-church-beyond-groups-authentic-community/randy-frazee/9780310233084/pd/33089>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Connecting\\_Church.html?id=kkuWM3tFA3UC](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Connecting_Church.html?id=kkuWM3tFA3UC)  
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Images for Randy Frazee (Author)

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<http://www.risenmagazine.com/author-randy-fraze/>  
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<https://www.amazon.com/Larry-Crabb/e/B001K8CUVI>  
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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/4461.Dallas\\_Willard](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/4461.Dallas_Willard)  
 Images for Dallas Willard, author  
 Images for *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community* by Randy Frazee (Author), Larry Crabb (Foreword), George Gallup (Foreword), Dallas Willard (Foreword)

### **The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community [Randy Frazee, Max Lucado]**

The development of meaningful relationships, where every member carries a significant sense of belonging, is central to what it means to be the church. So why do many Christians feel disappointed and disillusioned with their efforts to experience authentic community? Despite the best efforts of pastors, small group leaders and faithful lay persons, church is too often a place of loneliness rather than connection. In this revised and updated version of his bestselling book, Randy Frazee shows us how church can be so much...better—more intimate and alive. The answer may seem radical today, but it was a central component of life in the early church. First-century Christians knew what it meant to live in vital community with one another, relating with a depth and commitment that made "the body of Christ" a perfect metaphor for the church. What would it take to reclaim that kind of love, joy, support, and dynamic spiritual growth? Read this book and find out.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Connecting-Church-2-0-Authentic/dp/0310494354>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17350015-the-connecting-church-2-0>  
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 Images for max lucado author  
 Images for *The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community* [Randy Frazee, Max Lucado]

### **The Difficult but Indispensable Church [Norma Cook Everist]**

Why is it so difficult to be church today? Of course, Christian community is marked by ennobling worship, mutual care, and joyful celebration. But just as often it is marred by staid routine, insularity, and disagreement over leadership, budgets, ethical stances, or even the shape of congregational prayer itself. Alienation, blame, and power struggles ensue. Is church worth it? In this volume of fresh thinking about life in Christian **community**, twenty-one theologians from Wartburg Seminary strongly attest to Christ-centered community, offering new views of church as the indispensable site of radical Christian commitment and an essential healer for a hurting world.

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[Images for Norma Cook Everist, author](#)  
[Images for The Difficult but Indispensable Church \[Norma Cook Everist\]](#)

### The Influence of Community [Michael Wiles]

Current statistics reveal that 85% of churches are plateaued or declining. Pastors are leaving the ministry discouraged at a record pace. The pastor's home is the focus of targeted attacks from the enemy. These statistics are unacceptable to Michael and Pennie Wiles. God has called them into a ministry of support; to partner with pastors and churches to help healthy pastors lead healthy churches full of healthy families reach a hurting world.

This book gives the reader insight into the growth of Crossroads Community Cathedral in East Hartford, CT. Crossroads Senior Pastor is Michael's brother. Pastor T.W. Wiles has overseen the growth of this congregation as it moved from 125 to the over 2000 that now call this their church home. Michael was on staff at Crossroads during its early growth stages and has stayed connected to the ministry over the last 30 years. This book will focus on one aspect of the growth at Crossroads -- The Influence of Community.

You, the reader, will discover the power that community can bring to your church, the influence it grants you in the lives of people and some practical steps to help establish community in your church. You will be challenged to intentionally begin the process of taking people from unbeliever to fully devoted follower of Christ.

Whether you are a pastor or lay person, you will gain insight and some practical ways to influence your world through the power of community.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Influence-Community-Michael-Wiles/dp/1936812002>

<http://www.amazon.com/Michael-Wiles/e/B00IYZW11C>

[Images for Influence of Community \[Michael Wiles\]](#)

### The Search to Belong: Rethinking Intimacy, Community, and Small Groups [Joseph R. Myers, Coach John Wooden and Futurist Leonard Sweet]

Description: Community is a fundamental life search. We need to belong. In our time, we search with some increasing desperation as terms like neighbor, family, and congregation are being redefined. *The Search to Belong* is a practical guide for those struggling to build a community of believers in a culture that wants to experience belonging over believing.

A practical guide for those struggling to build a community of believers in a culture that wants to experience belonging over believing Who is my neighbor? Who belongs to me? To whom do I belong? These are timeless questions that guide the church to its fundamental calling. Today terms like neighbor, family, and congregation are being redefined. People are searching to belong in new places and experiences. The church needs to adapt its interpretations, definitions, and language to make sense in the changing culture. This book equips congregations and church leaders with tools to:

- Discern the key ingredients people look for in community
- Understand the use of space as a key element for experiencing belonging and community
- Develop the "chemical compound" that produces an environment for community to spontaneously emerge
- Discover how language promotes specific spatial belonging and then use this knowledge to build an effective vocabulary for community development
- Create an assessment tool for evaluating organizational and personal community health.

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<http://open.biola.edu/authors/joseph-myers>

<http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/authors/joseph-r-myers/853>

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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48314.Joseph\\_R\\_Myers](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48314.Joseph_R_Myers)

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<http://www.biography.com/people/john-wooden-21369183>

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[Images for The Search to Belong: Rethinking Intimacy, Community, and Small Groups \[Joseph R. Myers, Coach John Wooden and Futurist Leonard Sweet\]](#)

### [The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community by Hugh Halter \(Author\), Matt Smay \(Author\)](#)

Written for those who are trying to nurture authentic faith communities and for those who have struggled to retain their faith, *The Tangible Kingdom* offers theological answers and real-life stories that demonstrate how the best ancient church practices can re-emerge in today's culture, through any church of any size. In this remarkable book, Hugh Halter and Matt Smay "two missional leaders and church planters" outline an innovative model for creating thriving grass-roots faith communities.

<http://www.amazon.com/Tangible-Kingdom-Incarnational-Jossey-Bass-Leadership/dp/0470188979>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62Ea4hN6fpY> Tangible Kingdom Promo - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAnZGRzf7c> "If you want to figure out what God is like..." Hugh Halter (Parkview Church)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmCH56Fziyk> The Tangible Kingdom - The Gideons International - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCVnYVIQ-8U> TK Training SF Part 2 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9IToXrrDYY> The Tangible Kingdom - Sports Chaplaincy - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-jf62ykaaK> TK Training SF Part 1 - YouTube

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb13C6QwnAk> The Tangible Kingdom Series | Jacob Cunningham - YouTube

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1295399.Hugh\\_Halter](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1295399.Hugh_Halter)

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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1295398.Matt\\_Smay](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1295398.Matt_Smay)

[Images for Matt Smay \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community by Hugh Halter \(Author\), Matt Smay \(Author\)](#)

### [The 3 Colors of Community \[Christian Schwarz\]](#)

This book presents an altogether new way of approaching small groups. Rather than being preoccupied with the technical aspects of small group ministry, this book focuses on the qualities that are fundamental for any sort of Christian community, be it a family, a prayer meeting, a Bible study group, a task force, or a choir. Based on comprehensive research, this book portrays seven qualities that all healthy communities have in common. Applying these principles not only generates enthusiastic responses from the participants, but also sustainable effects in their lives.

A self-assessment measuring the seven communal qualities for individuals is in each book.

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Colors-Community-Christian-Schwarz/dp/1889638986>

<http://www.ncd-international.org/public/?jsessionid=17F8940F224907DFDA5ABC0F4890B737>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG\\_dRAzVa8g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG_dRAzVa8g) Christian A. Schwarz on church quality – YouTube

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[Images for Christian Schwarz, author](#)

[Images for 3 Colors of Community \[Christian Schwarz\]](#)

### [What Does the Bible Say About Community? - OpenBible.info](#)

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[Images for living the bible in community](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Community>

### What makes Christian community? | Adam J. Copeland

But, my instincts tell me, the same basic idea applies no matter how established (or un-established) the faith community is: build relationships, foster community.

<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2011/04/06/what-makes-christian-community/>  
[Images for What makes Christian community? | Adam J. Copeland](#)

### Whose Community? Which Interpretation?: Philosophical Hermeneutics for the Church (The Church and Postmodern Culture) by Merold Westphal (Author), James Smith (Series Editor)

In this volume, renowned philosopher Merold Westphal introduces current philosophical thinking related to interpreting the Bible. Recognizing that no theology is completely free of philosophical “contamination,” he engages and mines contemporary hermeneutical theory in service of the church. After providing a historical overview of contemporary theories of interpretation, Westphal addresses postmodern hermeneutical theory, arguing that the relativity embraced there is not the same as the relativism in which “anything goes.” Rather, Westphal encourages us to embrace the proliferation of interpretations based on different perspectives as a way to get at the richness of the biblical text.

<https://www.amazon.com/Whose-Community-Which-Interpretation-Philosophical/dp/0801031478>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6413686-whose-community-which-interpretation>  
[http://assets.bakerpublishinggroup.com/processed/book-resources/files/Excerpt\\_9780801031472.pdf?1362516891](http://assets.bakerpublishinggroup.com/processed/book-resources/files/Excerpt_9780801031472.pdf?1362516891)  
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Page 196

[Images for Merold Westphal \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Whose Community? Which Interpretation?: Philosophical Hermeneutics for the Church \(The Church and Postmodern Culture\) by Merold Westphal \(Author\), James Smith \(Series Editor\)](#)

## 31) Community Building

### Relationships: Resolving Conflict and Building Community (Foundations for Christian Living) [Navigators]

The Bible has a lot to say about our relationships with others. In this study, you'll examine the nature of relationships and the community God has designed for us. His prescription, if followed, allows for unmeasured joy.

<http://www.amazon.com/Relationships-Resolving-Conflict-Community-Foundations-Christian/dp/1576830233>  
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<https://www.goodreads.com/series/89386-foundations-for-christian-living>  
[Images for Foundations for Christian Living](#)

### The church and building community in the digital age - Christian Today

In days gone by, connecting on a large scale meant Christians having to meet in person, in conference centers or church halls. Now, Christians anywhere and everywhere can connect with each other online every day.

[http://www.christiantoday.com/article/the\\_church\\_and\\_building\\_community\\_in\\_the\\_digital\\_age/32698.htm](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/the_church_and_building_community_in_the_digital_age/32698.htm)  
[Images for The church and building community in the digital age - Christian Today](#)

## 32) Comprehensive Church

### Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide

**Comprehensive church:** Diversity would be a key word for the comprehensive church. Such churches appeal to a wide variety of Christians and they do not make “grand claims” about eternity and salvation. Instead they focus on “practice,” helping individuals to “live better and more faithfully with God” (36)

<http://aprilmallgroup.blogspot.com/2008/04/study-guide-for-session-1.html>  
[Images for Christianity for the Rest of Us Small Group: Study Guide Comprehensive church](#)

## 33) Conflict Management Styles

### Conflict management style - Wikipedia

Conflict is usually found in an individualistic culture, in which competition and individual achievement is stressed over interdependence.<sup>[1]</sup> Conflict can be defined as an interference between individuals or groups of people who have differing aims, values, expectations, purposes, etc.<sup>[2]</sup>

A model called the “**Thomas-Kilmann model**” was designed by two psychologists, Kenneth Thomas and Ralph Kilmann. It demonstrates how individuals choose the conflict styles when they handle conflict. Thomas-Kilmann model suggests five principles that guide individuals via the conflict process. These are competing, accommodating, avoiding, compromising, and collaborating.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Competing means stand up for your own rights and defend what you believe is correct.

Accommodating means that you yield to other's points of view.

By Collaborating both sides are willing to cooperate and listen to others.

By Compromising both parties seek a better solution in the middle ground as one gives to another while one takes.

Avoiding. When both sides do not cooperate and assertive in order to solve their conflicts, they would come out with tragic results. Both sides might wait until they would find better solution or just avoid the situation.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict\\_management\\_style](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict_management_style)

[Images for conflict management style](#)

[Images for Thomas-Kilmann model](#)

### [PDF] Conflict Management Styles Quiz

We each have our own way of dealing with conflict. The techniques we use are based on many variables such as our basic underlying temperament, our personality, our environment and where we are in our professional career. However, by and large there are five major styles of conflict management techniques in our tool box. In order to address conflict, we draw from a collaborating, competing, avoiding, harmonizing or compromising style of management. None of these strategies is superior in and of itself. How effective they are depends on the context in which they are used.

Each statement below provides a strategy for dealing with a conflict. Rate each statement on a scale of 1 to 4 indicating how likely you are to use this strategy.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/preparing-future-leaders/docs/conflict-management-styles-quiz.pdf>

[Images for Conflict Management Styles Quiz](#)

### Conflict Styles - Office of Human Resource Development

By understanding each style and its consequences, we may normalize the results of our behaviors in various situations. This is not to say, "Thou shalt collaborate" in a moralizing way, but to indicate the expected consequences of each approach: If we use a competing style, we might force the others to accept 'our' solution, but this acceptance may be accompanied by fear and resentment. If we accommodate, the relationship may proceed smoothly, but we may build up frustrations that our needs are going unmet. If we compromise, we may feel OK about the outcome, but still harbor resentments in the future. If we collaborate, we may not gain a better solution than a compromise might have yielded, but we are more likely to feel better about our chances for future understanding and goodwill. And if we avoid discussing the conflict at all, both parties may remain clueless about the real underlying issues and concerns, only to be dealing with them in the future. If you'd like further insights into the conflict styles you tend to use take the [Situational Conflict Styles Assessment Exercise](#) on this site. If you have further questions, [contact us!](#)

<https://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/home/HideATab/LeadershipManagementDevelopment/ConflictResolution/AboutConflict/ConflictStyles/tabid/228/Default.aspx>

[Images for Situational Conflict Styles Assessment Exercise](#)

### 5 Conflict Management Styles at a Glance - Sources of Insight

Conflict happens. How you respond to and resolve conflict will limit or enable your success. My goal with this post is to give you the tools to understand conflict, learn your own conflict patterns, and empower you to make more effective choices when you are finding or facing conflict.

<http://sourcesofinsight.com/conflict-management-styles-at-a-glance/>

[Images for Five Conflict Management Styles at a Glance: Sources of Insight Conflict happens.](#)

## 34) Congregation

### American Congregations, Volume 1: Portraits of Twelve Religious Communities by James P. Wind (Editor), James W. Lewis (Editor)

*American Congregations, Volume 1: Portraits of Twelve Religious Communities* chronicles the founding, growth, and development of congregations that represent the diverse and complex reality of American local religious cultures. Some, like Center Church in New Haven, trace their stories back to colonial times. Others, like the Swaminarayan Hindu temple in suburban Chicago, are recent attempts to create local religious worlds. Ranging from congregations of Lebanese Muslims in Northern Canada to Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, the essays convey the distinctive character of each congregation and provide vivid evidence of the importance of congregations in daily life.

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<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/james-p-wind/american-congregations/>

<http://cathedral.org/staff/rev-dr-james-p-wind/>

<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/employees/james-p-wind/>

<http://www.lpts.edu/news/2011/10/17/james-w.-lewis-to-retain-as-executive-director-of-the-louisville-institute>

[Images for American Congregations, Volume 1: Portraits of Twelve Religious Communities by James P. Wind \(Editor\), James W. Lewis \(Editor\)](#)

[American Congregations, Volume 2: New Perspectives in the Study of Congregations by James P. Wind \(Editor\), James W. Lewis \(Editor\)](#)

*American Congregations, Volume 2: New Perspectives in the Study of Congregations* builds upon the empirical foundation provided by the historical studies in volume 1 of the Congregational History Project. Volume 2 addresses three crucial questions: Where is the congregation located on the broader map of American cultural and religious life? What are the distinctive qualities, tasks, and roles of the congregation or parish in American culture? And, what patterns of leadership characterize American congregations?

Published simultaneously, these two volumes combine engaging historical studies with incisive scholarly analysis to focus attention on the central role of congregational studies in research and teaching of American religion.

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Images for James P. Wind (Editor) *American Congregations*

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Images for James W. Lewis (Editor) *American Congregations*

Images for *American Congregations, Volume 2: New Perspectives in the Study of Congregations* by James P. Wind (Editor),

James W. Lewis (Editor)

**An Island amidst the Storm: The Search for Congregations with a Soul - Alban**

Something quite amazing is happening in our day: a culture of religious practice is collapsing. In the Catholic tradition, that collapse has seen a diminution of the obligation that propelled many a Catholic to church on Sunday. In the Protestant world, denominational affiliation apparently does not have the irresistible pull it once did, insuring that generation would follow generation into a specific type of church. But to bemoan the mixture of institutional chaos and individual confusion that has accompanied this collapse is to miss the point.

People are focusing less on church and more on God. People realize that window dressing is not enough. They want to see and experience what's in the store, not simply be its lifeless mannequins. In place of that static window dressing that was displayed each week is the possibility of a loving presence not only for that Sunday hour, but throughout the week.

**Alban at Duke Divinity School » An Island Amidst the Storm: The Search for Congregations with a Soul**

<https://alban.org/archive/an-island-amidst-the-storm-the-search-for-congregations-with-a-soul/>

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**Beyond the Ordinary: Ten Strengths of U.S. Congregations [Cynthia Woolever, Deborah Bruce]**

Results from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, the largest project of its type ever conducted in the United States, have prompted this second book from Westminster John Knox Press authors Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce. Their original work, *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who's Going Where and Why*, explores the practices and activities of worshipers in more than 2,000 U.S. congregations, encompassing more than 300,000 worshipers across a representative sample of denominations and faith groups. This book describes the qualities that are evident in strong congregations and develops congregational applications from those findings. Like the first book, it is helpfully illustrated with charts, graphs, and cartoons.

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Images for Cynthia Woolever, Deborah Bruce

Images for *Beyond the Ordinary: Ten Strengths of U.S. Congregations* [Cynthia Woolever, Deborah Bruce]

### Congregation: Stories and Structures [James Hopewell]

Is the congregation a kind of machine? This metaphor is implicit in those studies that assume congregations operate by rational cause-effect principles, have certain outcomes given certain inputs, and can be made more “productive” if these principles are understood and the inputs controlled. ... Hopewell proposes that we study congregations under an entirely different metaphor. He says we should think of a congregation as a conversation, a discourse, an exchange of symbols through which meaning is both expressed and created. Hopewell means by this something more intricate than simply that people talk to each other in church and the subject matter of this talk ought to be analyzed. That’s part of it, but he suggests that all the interactions that go on in congregations (including the rituals and gestures of both daily and formalized life together as well as the architecture and artifacts of the physical space in which they take place) “say” something, “mean” something, are symbolic expressions. Furthermore, each such expression is responsive to and dependent upon other expressions, to the point that no symbolic expression stands alone. In other words, the symbolic discourse is patterned—and in different ways in different congregations. These patterns are basic to the identities of particular congregations. Hopewell’s hunch is that if you can discern the patterns in and through the constant flow of symbolic discourse, you can hear who a congregation is and understand what it is all about.

From a review in *Perkins Journal* by Craig Dykstra

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[Images for Congregation: Stories and Structures \[James Hopewell\]](#)

### In Search of the Church: New Testament Images for Tomorrow’s Congregations (Once and Future Church Series) by Keith A. Russell (Author)

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### Nurturing Oneself: Can a Pastor’s Soul Flourish in the Congregation?

Pastor Ann Svennungsen considers the congregation as a nourishing place for the pastor’s spirit.

<https://alban.org/archive/nurturing-oneself-can-a-pastors-soul-flourish-in-the-congregation/>

[Images for Nurturing Oneself: Can a Pastor’s Soul Flourish in the Congregation?](#)

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### Nurturing Others: Is the Congregation the Best Place to Do Spiritual Work?

Lay leader Celia Allison Hahn assesses the congregation as a place for spiritual work.

<https://alban.org/archive/nurturing-others-is-the-congregation-the-best-place-to-do-spiritual-work/>

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[Images for Celia Allison Hahn](#)

### Paying Attention: Focusing Your Congregation on What Matters [Gary Peluso-Verdend]

In a culture marked by what many call “attention-deficit disorder,” congregations and their leaders are subject to distractions that detract from their mission and lead them in directions that have little to do with their reason for existence. Size concerns, building



preservation, situational conflicts, the lure of technology, and the so-called worship wars all threaten to distract congregations from what matters most. Thus, churches can become part of the problem rather than a positive influence in the lives of their people and their communities. In this inspiring volume, Gary Peluso-Verdend issues a clarion call to congregational leaders to refocus their church's attention on the core matters of Christian faith—the Word, the example of Christ, and an intentional embrace of theology and spiritual practice—to renew the congregation's vision and to center itself again on God's call. *Paying Attention* takes on obsession and anxiety, the two “vampires of attention,” that focus on the unfixable past and the uncontrollable future, wasting and dissipating attention. True Christian attention is focused on the now, and this book calls on congregations to be present to the persons and issues that God has entrusted to them. As Jesus of Nazareth's ability to be fully attentive and present to people was remarkable, congregations should look to his example and attend as he attended. *Paying Attention* urges congregations to develop their theology of attention and to engage in the Christian practice of attending lovingly to God and to neighbor so that they may participate fully in the kingdom of God. With study questions at the end of each chapter and an imagined conversation between people practicing theology in their congregation, *Paying Attention* provides an invaluable companion in a congregation's journey toward purposeful, attentive faithfulness.



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[Images for Gary Peluso-Verdend, author](#)

[Images for Paying Attention: Focusing Your Congregation on What Matters \[Gary Peluso-Verdend\]](#)

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### Practicing Balance: How Congregations Can Support Harmony in Work and Life [David Edman Gray]

Work-life imbalance is a problem that has personal, national, and religious implications. Millions of Americans sense that they are rushing through life and that their work and non-work lives compete with one another. Many of us are harming our health through overwork. David Gray's *Practicing Balance* demonstrates why congregational leaders should take work-life imbalance seriously. The issue gets in the way of spiritual development, church attendance, and member involvement. As leaders look to help their congregations grow, particularly by attracting families with children, they would do well to understand and account for the problem. If you are struggling with finding balance in life, this book can help. *Practicing Balance* contains ideas and experiences that can help church members and all people develop spiritual practices for a healthy life. It tackles the time crunch challenges that are threatening so many families. It can help Christians realize God's calling for their life and how the way they use their time and set their schedules can draw them closer to God. For anyone interested in the fields of work life and work family, this book breaks new ground in discussing how people of faith are and can be involved in encouraging balance and in addressing the structure of American workplaces. Through his experience reading the social science research, listening to people's struggles, studying theology as a pastor, and dealing with his own work-life imbalance, Gray has come to believe that increasing workplace flexibility and deepening individual spiritual practice are two of the most important solutions that can help Americans, particularly Christians in congregations, live a balanced life. Gray shows how members of congregations, acting both individually and collectively, can use the resources of their faith to implement these two solutions. *Practicing Balance* will help all of us make balance a higher priority and draw on the resources of our faith as we seek to balance the many activities of our life.

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[Images for David Edman Gray, author](#)

[Images for Practicing Balance: How Congregations Can Support Harmony in Work and Life \[David Edman Gray\]](#)

**Studying Congregations: A New Handbook** by Nancy Ammerman (Editor), Jackson Carroll (Editor), Carl Dudley(Editor), William McKinney (Editor)

This important new handbook for seminarians and clergy professionals places the congregation itself, rather than individual scholarly disciplines, at the center of congregational analysis. *Studying Congregations: A New Handbook* is a thorough going revision and update of the leading textbook in the field (*A Handbook for Congregational Studies*). Using a comprehensive systems approach to congregations, this volume enables readers to analyze the ministries, stories, and processes that are at work in congregations. It provides techniques for studying the congregation as well as a framework for understanding the nature of the congregation.

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**The Mystery of Congregations - Alban**

What can we do to help these precious places continue to make so many necessary differences? We can recognize them for what they are. Gifts of God, places of hope and transcendence, congregations are treasure houses full of resources that can change lives and heal the world. They are also earthen vessels, easily cracked and broken by the human weaknesses within and beyond them. We need to commit new resources and energy to them and help others come to value them. We must tell their stories and encourage them to believe that they really do matter.

**Alban at Duke Divinity School » The Mystery of Congregations**

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**Why do congregations matter? | Faith and Leadership**

We need each other to be prepared to experience Christ and participate in the coming of the kingdom of God.

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### 35) Congregation Culture

#### A 5 Step Guide on How to Create an Amazing Church Culture – Carey Nieuwhof

Two years ago, we finally wrote down six cultural values at Connexus Church, where I serve.

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Images for A 5 Step Guide on How to Create an Amazing Church Culture – Carey Nieuwhof  
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Images for carey nieuwhof (author)

#### Changing a Church's Culture Changes Its Future – The Parish Paper

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## Change Your Church's Culture to Change its Future - Crosswalk.com

When you [change your church's culture to reflect God's unique, authentic mission](#) for it, you change your church's future as well!  
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## Cracking Your Church's Culture Code: Seven Keys to Unleashing Vision and Inspiration [Samuel R. Chand]

Strategies for transforming a toxic church culture

Why is it that the best strategic plans and good leadership often are not able to move churches in the desired direction? Sam Chand contends that toxic culture is to blame. Quite often, leaders don't sense the toxicity, but it poisons their relationships and derails their vision. This work describes five easily identifiable categories of church culture (inspiring-accepting-stagnant-discouraging-toxic), with diagnostic descriptions in the book and a separate online assessment tool. The reader will be able to identify strengths and needs of their church's culture, and then apply practical strategies (communication, control and authority, selection and placement of personnel, etc.) to make their church's culture more positive.

Discusses how to diagnose the state of a church's culture

Reveals what it takes to put in place effective strategies for creating a more positive church culture

Author served on the board of EQUIP (Dr. John Maxwell's Ministry), equipping five million leaders world-wide.

This important book offers a clear guide for understanding and recreating a healthy church culture.

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<http://visionroom.com/3-driving-factors-in-creating-culture-in-your-church/>  
<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/chand-cracking-your-churchs-culture-code.html>  
<https://www.wnccumc.org/resourcedetail/9296396>  
<http://ericechols.net/2012/09/24/5-types-of-church-cultures/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYq972yQQP0> Sam Chand - Cracking Your Church's Culture Code - YouTube  
[www.samchand.com/](http://www.samchand.com/)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Samuel-R.-Chand/e/B001K8994Y>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/632754.Samuel\\_R\\_Chand](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/632754.Samuel_R_Chand)  
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[Images for Samuel R. Chand, author](#)  
[Images for Cracking Your Church's Culture Code: Seven Keys to Unleashing Vision and Inspiration \[Samuel R. Chand\]](#)

## Creating Your Church's Culture: How to Uproot Mediocrity and Create a Healthy Organizational Culture | Stephen Blandino

How do you create a thriving organizational culture in your church? Churches are committed to a spiritual mission, but it is often the *organizational aspects* of the church that hinder the mission from moving forward. Cultivating health in the organizational side of church culture requires a thorough understanding of the church's vision, systems, staffing, relationships, and leadership. When the culture is healthy, it delivers consistently healthy outcomes that advance the mission of the church. But when cultures are unhealthy, or worse, toxic, they perpetuate constant dysfunction and derail the church's purpose. In *Creating Your Church's Culture*, Stephen Blandino gives you the tools and strategies to address the *organizational side* of your church's culture. You'll learn how to: Define your culture, Activate the Culture Equation, Hire staff who fit your culture, Infuse your values into your culture, Create a learning culture, Develop effective systems, Increase employee and volunteer engagement, Measure the health of your culture, Uproot bureaucracy.

This practical book is loaded with wisdom and inspiration to help you improve the organizational aspects of your church's culture. Plus, the book includes a culture assessment and implementation guide to help you apply what you are learning.

<http://www.amazon.com/Creating-Churchs-Culture-Stephen-Blandino-ebook/dp/B00F61L050>  
<http://stephenblandino.com/church-culture>  
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<https://www.facebook.com/stephen.blandino>

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[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4181531.Stephen\\_Blandino](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4181531.Stephen_Blandino)

[Images for Stephen Blandino, author](#)

[Images for Creating Your Church's Culture: How to Uproot Mediocrity and Create a Healthy Organizational Culture | Stephen Blandino](#)

#### **Cultivating a Positive Church Culture - Building Church Leaders**

This 34-page resource will help you evaluate your church's or ministry's current culture and make changes that will benefit your staff, your ministry team, and the entire church.

<http://www.buildingchurchleaders.com/downloads/practicalministryskills/positivechurchculture/>

[Images for Cultivating a Positive Church Culture - Building Church Leaders](#)

#### **Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out [Robert Lewis, Wayne Cordeiro, Warren Bird]**

*Culture Shift*, written for church leaders, ministers, pastors, ministry teams, and lay leaders, leads you through the process of identifying your church's distinctive culture, gives you practical tools to change it from the inside-out, and provides steps to keep your new culture aligned with your church's mission. Real transformation is not about working harder at what you're already doing or even copying another church's approach but about changing church culture at a foundational level.

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<https://www.cokesbury.com/9780787975302-Culture-Shift>

<http://www.firstthird.org/eym/EYM-Tool-2-Identifying-Your-Churchs-Culture.pdf>

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787975303.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Lewis/e/B001IR1BWK>

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[Images for robert lewis author culture shift](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Wayne-Cordeiro/e/B001IGHLY8>

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[Images for Wayne Cordeiro, author](#)

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[Images for Warren Bird, author](#)

[Images for Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out \[Robert Lewis, Wayne Cordeiro, Warren Bird\]](#)

#### **[PDF]Deepening your church's culture of welcome - The Methodist Church**

First Impressions Count is a workshop designed to help churches reflect on the welcome that someone experiences when they first visit church. Although creating a positive first impression is only a part of welcome, it is nonetheless an important one, and research shows that those who do not receive a good first impression are unlikely to stay. On the other hand, leaving visitors with a positive first impression is a way of sharing the generous welcome of God with those who cross the threshold of our churches.

The aim of this workshop, then, is to enable churches to become more welcoming by raising awareness of the importance of initial impressions before, during and after a newcomer's first contact.

[http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/868109/facilitators\\_guide.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/868109/facilitators_guide.pdf)

[Images for Deepening your church's culture of welcome - The Methodist Church](#)

#### **15 Quotes on the Importance of Shaping a Healthy Church Culture**

[www.communicatejesus.com/healthy-church-culture/](http://www.communicatejesus.com/healthy-church-culture/)

[Images for church culture quotes](#)

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/church-and-culture>

<http://www.pastoralized.com/2013/01/10/my-top-12-quotes-from-tim-kellers-center-church/>

#### **4 Questions to Check Your Church Culture – Trevin Wax**

In *Creature of the Word*, Matt Chandler, Josh Patterson, and Eric Geiger write:

“A church culture is healthy when there is congruence and consistency between what the church says is important to her and what others know *really* is important to her.” So how do you know what your church culture is like? Here are a few questions:

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevinwax/2013/06/12/4-questions-to-check-your-church-culture/>

[Images for 4 Questions to Check Your Church Culture – Trevin Wax](#)

#### **How Church Culture Changes - ThomRainer.com**

We discuss how church culture has changed, is changing, and will continue to change in the future.

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/06/how-church-culture-changes-rainer-on-leadership-137/>

[Images for How Church Culture Changes - ThomRainer.com](#)

<http://thomrainer.com/2012/08/25/four-ways-to-create-an-evangelistic-culture-in-your-church/>

<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/thom-rainer-four-ways-to-create-an-evangelistic-culture-in-your-church>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/07/ten-traits-healthiest-churches-ten-years-now/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2015/10/why-churches-are-stuck-in-the-past-rainer-on-leadership-170/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/05/5-reasons-church-leaders-should-pay-attention-to-christian-hip-hop/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2017/09/the-overcommitted-church/>  
<http://www.lifeway.com/leadership/2017/03/16/5-reasons-the-1100-am-worship-service-is-disappearing/>  
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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom\\_S\\_Rainer](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer)  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

### How to Get Along with Your Church: Creating Cultural Capital for Doing Ministry by George B. Thompson Jr.

By culture, George B. Thompson Jr. means not just racial, ethnic, economic, or regional culture, but also a congregation's way of doing things—its history, customs, conventions, and procedures. In order to launch and maintain a successful ministry, pastors and other church leaders must come to grasp that unique culture of their parish. They must develop a "culture capital" within their congregations, meaning that they invest themselves deeply in how their church does its work and goes about its ministries. The author presses clergy to answer such questions as "How well do I know what I'm getting into" and "Have I been adopted yet" and even "Is it time to move on?" The book is ideal for pastors in solo settings, but pastors in multiple staff settings will also find the author's insights helpful.

Author George B. Thompson sat among a group of pastors who were three years into their vocations, sharing stories of their work with churches. Some of the pastors were deeply hurt and unhappy. Others were energized and enthusiastic. He asked himself what made the difference. This book incorporates Thompson's research and observations on pastoring a church. He finds that the pastors who are most successful in engaging their parishioners are the ones who develop "cultural capital" within their congregations, meaning that they invest themselves deeply into how their church does its work and ministries. This book is ideal for pastors in solo settings, but pastors at churches with staff and other clergy will also find helpful ideas.

<http://www.amazon.com/How-Get-Along-Your-Church/dp/1620326418>  
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[Images for George B. Thompson Jr.](#)

[Images for How to Get Along with Your Church: Creating Cultural Capital for Doing Ministry by George B. Thompson Jr.](#)

### Leading Congregations, Discovering Congregational Cultures

To speak of "discovering" congregational culture may sound a bit presumptuous. After all, religious leaders have been confronting distinctive congregational cultures for centuries. Think of how immigrant congregations fought over changing the liturgy to English, or of the battles that took place when Irish clergy were sent to serve Polish parishes. And we are familiar at another level with the skirmishes that have taken place over church dinners – do we use fine china or paper plates – and building designs – Gothic or modern? Such clashes are not trivial. Ways of life and basic self-understandings are at stake in such controversies. Clearly, cultural differences have been facts of life in our congregations for as long as we can remember.

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=325>  
[Images for Leading Congregations, Discovering Congregational Cultures](#)

### Mike Zimmer has a strong argument for Coach of the Year award

There is no question that we over-emphasize **culture** in football. By a lot. But Zimmer has created a locker room that handled the loss of Sam Bradford and weathered a potential quarterback controversy with the return of Teddy Bridgewater. He has put professional leaders like Terence Newman and Riley Reiff in charge, setting the tone for the team to create an identity.

<http://www.1500espn.com/vikings-2/2017/12/mike-zimmer-strong-argument-coach-year-award/>  
[Images for Mike Zimmer culture in football](#)

### The Elephant in the Boardroom: Speaking the Unspoken about Pastoral Transitions by Carolyn Weese, J. Russell Crabtree

#### The Four **Cultures**

Family culture	Pastor as parent, elder, brother, or sister
Icon culture	Pastor as living logo
Archival culture	Pastor as activist curator
Replication culture	Pastor as replicator of ministry

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1118429591>  
<http://www.amazon.com/The-Elephant-Boardroom-Speaking-Transitions/dp/0787972576>  
[Images for The Elephant in the Boardroom: Speaking the Unspoken about Pastoral Transitions by Carolyn Weese, J. Russell Crabtree](#)  
[The Four Cultures](#)

## "Sorry – No Quick Fix!" – The Church Doctor Report

### Church Culture: The Key Ingredient

Your church has a culture. Every church has a culture. Every church culture is shaped by key elements. Unfortunately, most church cultures are primarily shaped by neglect. Without intentionality, the culture of many churches is a hodgepodge of influences from within, outside, some biblical, secular, helpful, or divisive. Culture, sometimes called (or related to) ethos, includes these elements:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs002/1102418459813/archive/1103407605303.html>

[Images for Church Culture: The Key Ingredient](#)

## Studying Congregations » Cultural Frame

Frame 2: Cultural Frame – the artifacts, heroes, and rituals of the faith community.

*Culture* is who we are and the world we have created to live in. It is the predictable patterns of who does what and habitual strategies for telling the world about the things held most dear.

The discussion will focus on the following types of culture:

<http://studyingcongregations.org/thinking-about-congregations/frames-for-studying-congregations/cultural-frame/>

[Images for Studying Congregations » Cultural Frame](#)

## Transforming Congregational Culture by Anthony B. Robinson (Author)

Many recent books have attempted to address the "crisis" in the mainline church. Anthony Robinson here makes a significant -- and in many ways unique -- contribution to this discussion by bringing his personal insights as a pastor to bear on the issue of renewing congregational life.

Writing from twenty-five years of experience in four congregations of differing size, location, and ethnic makeup, Robinson prescribes concrete changes in the practice of ministry that have been tried, tested, and lived out to great success. At the heart of his framework for church renewal is what he calls "cultural change." According to Robinson, technical or programmatic change is not sufficient to address the needs of the day. He argues for changing the very *culture* of mainline congregations, which involves recognizing and fostering their particular gifts and genius rather than trying to remake them into something they are not. His fruitful strategies for renewal touch every aspect of congregational life, from personal spiritual formation to church leadership.

<https://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Congregational-Culture-Anthony-Robinson/dp/0802805183>

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[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/70337.Anthony\\_B\\_Robinson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/70337.Anthony_B_Robinson)

[Images for Anthony B. Robinson \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Transforming Congregation Culture by Anthony B. Robinson](#)

## Your Church Culture - LifeWay

Every church has "unwritten rules" and a **unique church culture**. If you don't know the "unwritten rules" and you do not know your church's unique culture, you may be headed for conflict, stress, and possible termination.

<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/How-to-Decode-Your-Churchs-Unique-Culture>

[Images for unique church culture](#)