

Why We Love The Church

Why Church Matters - Joshua Harris 2011-08-16

"Christians belong in churches--the only places where we can thrive and grow spiritually. In *Why Church Matters*, Joshua Harris makes this case with wisdom, clarity, and graciousness." --Charles W. Colson Church isn't where we go. It's who we are. We were never meant to live our faith in isolation. The church is the place God uses to grow us, encourage us, and use our gifts for His glory. In this honest, personal, and practical book, Joshua Harris shows you why it's time to say yes to church and how to find the right one for you--the place where you can fall in love with the family of God. Includes: What you miss when you miss church Ten questions to ask before you join How to get more out of the best day of the week What Readers are Saying: "This book shows the place of great honor that church holds in Christ's heart and encourages us to value what He values. I've bought multiple copies to give away." --Mike Neglia; Cork, Ireland "Josh Harris does an excellent job of addressing our impulse to church hop." --Garrett Watkins; Atlanta, Georgia "When our family was in the midst of a transition, *Why Church Matters* helped us find the right local church. It will do the same for you." --Andrew Hall; Ilderton, Ontario Previously published as *Stop Dating the Church A Place to Belong* - Megan Hill 2020-04-16

Christians know church is important, but sometimes it doesn't seem worth it. An eclectic assortment of people with differing personalities, political views, and parenting styles can make for awkward interactions and difficult connections. What's the point of putting in the tough work to build relationships? But the Bible says God's people ought to be bound together. It uses words like beloved, brothers and sisters, saints, and fellow laborers to describe their mutual relationship in the church. In this book, Megan Hill answers a common question of churchgoers: What's so great about the church? With rich theology, practical direction, and study questions for group use, Hill encourages and equips both first-time visitors and regular members to delight in being a part of the local church--no matter how messy and ordinary it seems today. It is only when God's people begin to see one another as the Lord sees them that they will truly find a place to belong.

Crazy Love - Francis Chan 2013-04-01

Revised & Updated Edition! God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe--the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor--loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. Whether you've verbalized it yet or not, we all know something's wrong. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts--it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything. Learn more about *Crazy Love* at www.crazylovebook.com.

You Are What You Love - James K. A. Smith 2016-03-29

You are what you love. But you might not love what you think. In this book, award-winning author James K. A. Smith shows that who and what we worship fundamentally shape our hearts. And while we desire to shape culture, we are not often aware of how culture shapes us. We might not realize the ways our hearts are being taught to love rival gods instead of the One for whom we were made. Smith helps readers recognize the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices. He explains that worship is the "imagination station" that incubates our loves and longings so that our cultural endeavors are indexed toward God and his kingdom. This is why the church and worshiping in a local community of believers should be the hub and heart of Christian formation and discipleship. Following the publication of his influential work *Desiring the Kingdom*, Smith received numerous requests from pastors and leaders for a more accessible version of that book's content. No mere abridgment, this new book draws on years of Smith's popular presentations on the ideas in *Desiring the Kingdom* to offer a fresh, bottom-up rearticulation. The author creatively uses film, literature, and music illustrations to engage readers and

includes new material on marriage, family, youth ministry, and faith and work. He also suggests individual and communal practices for shaping the Christian life.

Lord, I Love the Church and We Need Help - Virginia O. Bassford 2012-02-01

Do we ask too much? No, we've asked too little. Change, chaos, confusion - how can a pastor make sense of it all? The tap root of United Methodism goes deep into fertile soil - firmly planted in Scripture and enriched by the Holy Spirit. Our theology is rich and grounded into the depths of community and accountability, but the way we live out that theology is wide and deep-- both bane and blessing. United Methodists are neither blown away like chaff nor root-bound. Our calling is still to strive to be methodically faithful and alive in Spirit. This is our heritage and our vision. But will we dare to lean into the winds of change and be strengthened by the challenges we find? Only with God's help.

Why Should We Love the Local Church? - Dustin Bengé 2022-04-12

"Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful." --Song of Solomon 1:15 Does the local church today recognize its place as the beloved bride of Christ? In this book, Dustin Bengé invites believers who have underestimated or become disillusioned by the church to rediscover its beauty and glory. Exploring biblical qualities including the Trinitarian relationship, selfless service, and gospel proclamation, he awakens the affections of Christ's followers for their local church home.

Love Your Church - Tony Merida 2021-06-01

How to grow in love for your church. God calls us to be "devoted to one another in love" (Romans 12:10). What does this look like for us today? How can we be the kind of church member who makes a real difference? This engaging book by Tony Merida explores what church is, why being part of it is exciting, and why it's worthy of our love and commitment. He sets out eight privileges and responsibilities of a church member: to belong, to welcome, to gather, to care, to serve, to honour, to witness and to send. As we see how wonderful it is to belong to God's family and be a part of his amazing witness to both the earthly and the heavenly realms, we'll grow in our love for and commitment to our local church. This is a great book for every churchgoer to read, whether they're new or have been attending for some time but need re-energising with God's vision for the local church. With a discussion guide at the end of the book, *Love Your Church* is also a great resource for small groups.

Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore - Thom Schultz 2013-10-01

This book will forever change the way you think about church! The statistics are clear: The American church is in decline. People are leaving in astounding numbers, with no sign of a turnaround. And despite church leaders' best efforts to stem the tide, more than 80 percent of people are finding something better to do on Sunday mornings. Why? Is there hope for the future of the church? In this groundbreaking new book, Thom and Joani Schultz expose the church practices that are driving people away and thwarting spiritual growth. Yet they also reveal what can bring them back--the four keys to reaching the "unchurched" and the "dechurched." The bad news? Your church is probably missing the mark when it comes to the core of Christianity. The good news? There's hope. Lots of it. The truth may surprise you...but it can also transform your ministry into something truly irresistible.

Living in Love and Faith - The Church of England 2020-11-09

Issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience: their sense of identity, their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them. The life and mission of the Church of England - and of the worldwide Anglican Communion - are affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements about these matters, divisions brought into sharper focus because of society's changing perspectives and practices, especially in relation to LGBTBI+ people. *Living in Love and Faith* sets out to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change. Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, the *Living in Love and Faith* project has involved many people across the Church and beyond, bringing together a great diversity and depth of

expertise, conviction and experience to explore these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say. After a Foreword from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the book opens with an invitation from the Bishops of the Church of England to embark on a learning journey in five parts: Part One sets current questions about human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the context of God's gift of life. Part Two takes a careful and dispassionate look at what is happening in the world with regard to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Part Three explores current Christian thinking and discussions about human identity, sexuality, and marriage. In the light of the good news of Jesus Christ, how do Christians understand and respond to the trends observed in Part Two? Part Four considers what it means for us as individuals and as a church to be Christ-like when it comes to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Part Five invites the reader into a conversation between some of the people who have been involved in writing this book who, having engaged with and written Parts One to Four, nevertheless come to different conclusions. Amid the biblical, theological, historical and scientific exploration, each part includes Encounters with real, contemporary disciples of Christ whose stories raise questions which ask us to discern where God is active in human lives. The book ends with an appeal from the Bishops to join them in a period of discernment and decision-making following the publication of *Living in Love and Faith*. The *Living in Love and Faith* book is accompanied by a range of free digital resources including films, podcasts and an online library, together with *Living in Love and Faith: The Course*, a 5-session course which is designed to help local groups engage with the resources, also published by Church House Publishing.

We Love Our City - Raymond Beaty 2018-02-06

The subtitle of the book is an actual quote from one of our City Council members. I was asked to make a presentation to the City Council one evening on all the projects we as a church, had partnered with the city on to provide social services to our community. One of the reasons for the report was to introduce the newest partnership, in which we as a church would become the city's official graffiti abatement team. After everyone on the City Council took an opportunity to thank our church for the services we were providing to the community, one of them said, "Because of all that The Fathers House is doing in our community, the city is a better place to live in. This is how a church in the community became the community's church."

Why We Love the Church - Kevin L. DeYoung 2009-06-24

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 & the Disconnected.

Organizing Love in Church - Tim Adeney 2012-04-14

Most of us have the instinct that a church won't automatically develop a culture of love for God, his people, and his world. This book puts words to that instinct. Chapter 1 outlines the kinds of loving fellowship, discipleship, and mission we hope for in a church. Chapter 2 explores why these expressions of love generally don't 'just happen', and why some common approaches to church -- including Sunday gatherings and Bible studies -- don't necessarily foster a loving community. And chapter 3 makes some concrete suggestions for how better to promote love in church.

Compelled by Love - Ed Stetzer 2008

Trusted missionologist Stetzer and pastor Nation challenge readers to look at love within the context of God, the church, and the lives of individual believers. They provide a basic theological grounding and a platform for personal application of missional living--simply the calling to love others.

Finding a Church You Can Love and Loving the Church You've Found - Kevin G. Harney 2009-05-18

How to Find Your Best Fit Whether you grew up going to church twice on Sundays or never set foot in a church at all, finding and sinking your roots into a church community is crucial to your spiritual well-being. Finding the right church home can be a huge challenge, and also a lot of fun. Kevin and Sherry Harney point out that, while no church is perfect, some will fit you better than others. They show what a healthy church looks like, how to handle hot issues facing churches today, and how to determine whether a church's unique worship style will inspire or

distract you. Even better, the Harneys help you discover how to plug into a church and experience the joy of giving back. In the words of the authors, "Church can be one of the most joy-filled, life-giving experiences you will ever have." Practical, encouraging, and true to the Bible, this book is your road map to finding a spiritual community you can really love.

Why We're Not Emergent - Kevin L. DeYoung 2008-09-01

"You can be young, passionate about Jesus Christ, surrounded by diversity, engaged in a postmodern world, reared in evangelicalism and not be an emergent Christian. In fact, I want to argue that it would be better if you weren't." The Emergent Church is a strong voice in today's Christian community. And they're talking about good things: caring for the poor, peace for all men, loving Jesus. They're doing church a new way, not content to fit the mold. Again, all good. But there's more to the movement than that. Much more. Kevin and Ted are two guys who, demographically, should be all over this movement. But they're not. And *Why We're Not Emergent* gives you the solid reasons why. From both a theological and an on-the-street perspective, Kevin and Ted diagnose the emerging church. They pull apart interviews, articles, books, and blogs, helping you see for yourself what it's all about.

In Love with the Church - Josemaría Escrivá 2017-03-31

In Love with the Church brings together four homilies of Saint Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. These homilies contain magnificent reflections on the Church and on the layperson's role in the Church, written in Saint Josemaría's attractive and compelling style. This book offers the reader and opportunity to grow in love for the Church and to learn how to serve her more faithfully, guided by a saint whose own love for the Church was truly remarkable.

They Like Jesus but Not the Church - Dan Kimball 2009-05-26

Many people today, especially among emerging generations, don't resonate with the church and organized Christianity. Some are leaving the church and others were never part of the church in the first place. Sometimes it's because of misperceptions about the church. Yet often they are still spiritually open and fascinated with Jesus. This is a ministry resource book exploring six of the most common objects and misunderstandings emerging generations have about the church and Christianity. The objections come from conversations and interviews the church has had with unchurched twenty and thirty-somethings at coffee houses. Each chapter raises the objection using a conversational approach, provides the biblical answers to that objection, gives examples of how churches are addressing this objection, and concludes with follow-through projection suggestions, discussion questions, and resource listings.

Loving God When You Don't Love the Church - Chris Jackson 2007-09-01

Many Christians who experience hurt in the church don't just leave their own churches; they leave the church altogether. Whether they have been wounded by pastors or people in the pews, these believers have had enough and are jumping ship in massive numbers. Pastor and churchgoer Chris Jackson is honest about his own failings as well as those of the church at large. He identifies with many of the hurts churchgoing Christians have experienced. In *Loving God When You Don't Love the Church*, he hopes to provide healing to wounded and disillusioned believers and restore the wonder of a genuine relationship with Jesus and his bride, the church. Jackson's humility, compassion, and practical advice for healing and restoration will touch those who have left the church and those who love them.

Living in Love and Faith: The Course - 2020-11-09

Living in Love and Faith: The Course aims to help Christians think more deeply about what it means to be human. It provides a structured and accessible way for local groups to engage in and reflect on *Living in Love and Faith*, a major exploration of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The five sessions of the course each address a key question: • What does it mean to learn together as followers of Jesus Christ? • How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender? • What kinds of relationships does God call us to? • Where do our bodies and sex fit in to all of this? • How do diversity and difference affect our life together as a church? Each session includes an opening reflection about learning together, followed by teaching, time for discussion and Bible study. The sessions end with an invitation to reflect on our learning, bringing it to God in prayer. As well as providing notes for those leading groups, the course also signposts the relevant sections of the *Living in Love and Faith* book as well as recommending films, podcasts and other digital resources available.

The Loveliest Place - Dustin Bengé 2022-02-25

Awakening Affection for the Beauty of God's Church Dear. Precious. Lovely. The Bible describes the church in extraordinary ways, even using beautiful poetry and metaphors. How does this compare to how Christians today describe the church? Unfortunately, many believers focus more on its mission, structure, or specific programs than on its inherent beauty. It's time to spark a renewed affection for the church. In *The Loveliest Place*, Dustin Benge urges Christians to see the holy assembly of God's redeemed people in all its eternal beauty. He explains

what makes the church lovely, including the Trinitarian relationship, worship, service, and gospel proclamation. For those who have never learned to view the church as God sees it, or have become disillusioned by its flaws, this book is a reminder that the corporate gathering of believers is a reflection of God's indescribable beauty. This is the third book in the Union series, which invites readers to experience deeper enjoyment of God through four interconnected values: delighting in God, growing in Christ, serving the church, and blessing the world.

Why We Love The Church:

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