

the gospel of inclusion

the gospel of inclusion has emerged as a significant topic in contemporary Christian theology, challenging traditional perspectives and promoting a more inclusive approach to salvation and spirituality. This concept advocates that God's love and grace extend to all humanity, regardless of background, belief, or circumstance. The gospel of inclusion seeks to break down barriers, encouraging unity, acceptance, and understanding among diverse groups. Throughout this article, we will explore the origins and development of the gospel of inclusion, its key principles, theological foundations, and the debates it has sparked within religious communities. Additionally, we will examine how this movement impacts church practices, social justice initiatives, and modern faith communities. By understanding the gospel of inclusion, readers can gain deeper insight into its transformative message and its relevance in today's world.

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Understanding the Gospel of Inclusion

The gospel of inclusion refers to a theological perspective that embraces the idea of universal salvation and unconditional acceptance. It emphasizes that God's grace is available to all people, regardless of their religious affiliation, ethnicity, social status, or personal history. This teaching challenges the exclusivist view that salvation is reserved only for a select group who adhere to specific doctrines or practices. Instead, the gospel of inclusion promotes unity, compassion, and respect among all individuals, encouraging believers to extend love beyond traditional boundaries. The concept is often associated with progressive Christianity and is gaining traction among those seeking a more open and affirming approach to faith.

Key Aspects of Inclusion

- Embracing diversity in beliefs and backgrounds

- Rejecting discrimination and exclusion based on doctrine
- Promoting unity and fellowship among all people
- Encouraging acceptance and understanding

Historical Background and Development

The gospel of inclusion is not a new concept, but its prominence has grown in recent decades. Historically, many religious traditions have maintained strict boundaries regarding who is considered "saved" or accepted within their communities. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, theologians and church leaders began re-examining these boundaries in light of changing social and cultural attitudes. One of the most notable proponents of the gospel of inclusion is Carlton Pearson, a former Pentecostal bishop who publicly advocated for universal reconciliation. His teachings sparked widespread debate and led to the development of inclusive churches and ministries. The movement draws from various scriptural interpretations and philosophical arguments, seeking to redefine traditional notions of salvation.

Influential Figures

- Carlton Pearson - Prominent advocate for universal reconciliation
- Rob Bell - Author and speaker supporting inclusive theology
- Richard Rohr - Franciscan friar promoting inclusive spirituality

Core Principles of the Gospel of Inclusion

At its heart, the gospel of inclusion is grounded in several key principles that guide its message and mission. These include the belief in universal access to God's grace, the rejection of exclusivism, and the affirmation of every individual's inherent worth. The movement encourages believers to view others through a lens of compassion and empathy, fostering environments where diversity is celebrated rather than marginalized. It also calls for an end to divisive doctrines and practices that have historically led to conflict within and outside religious institutions.

Essential Tenets

- Universal salvation: God's love reaches all people
- Unconditional acceptance: No one is excluded from grace

- Equality: All individuals are valued equally
- Reconciliation: Healing divisions within humanity

Theological Foundations

The gospel of inclusion draws upon a range of theological sources, including scripture, tradition, and reason. Advocates often cite biblical passages that highlight God's love for all creation, such as John 3:16 and Romans 5:18. These scriptures are interpreted as evidence of a universal invitation to salvation, rather than an offer limited to a select few. The movement also references the teachings of Jesus, particularly his ministry among marginalized groups and his emphasis on loving one's neighbor. Theological arguments for inclusion are further supported by reflections on the nature of God as merciful, compassionate, and just.

Scriptural Support

- John 3:16 - God's love for the whole world
- Romans 5:18 - Justification for all people
- Galatians 3:28 - Unity beyond social divisions
- Luke 15 - Parables of the lost and found

Debates and Controversies

The gospel of inclusion has sparked significant debate within Christian circles. Critics argue that it undermines the authority of scripture and traditional doctrines regarding sin and salvation. Some contend that embracing universalism diminishes the significance of personal faith and repentance. Others raise concerns about the potential for moral relativism and the erosion of church discipline. Supporters, however, counter that the gospel of inclusion aligns with the overarching message of love and redemption found throughout the Bible. The controversy continues to shape discussions on theology, church leadership, and denominational identity.

Common Criticisms

- Perceived rejection of biblical authority
- Concerns about universalism versus exclusivism
- Potential impact on church membership and discipline

- Fears of moral relativism

Impact on Churches and Communities

Churches embracing the gospel of inclusion often experience changes in their membership, outreach, and community engagement. Inclusive congregations tend to welcome individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those who have felt marginalized or rejected by traditional religious institutions. This shift has led to the formation of new ministries, worship styles, and educational programs focused on acceptance and unity. Many inclusive churches also prioritize social justice initiatives, working to address issues such as poverty, racism, and inequality. The movement has contributed to a broader understanding of what it means to be part of a faith community.

Community Benefits

- Increased diversity and representation
- Enhanced outreach to marginalized groups
- Greater emphasis on social justice
- Stronger sense of belonging among members

Role in Social Justice and Diversity

The gospel of inclusion is closely linked to social justice efforts within and beyond religious organizations. By affirming the value of every person, inclusive theology challenges systemic discrimination and promotes equality. Churches and ministries inspired by this message often engage in advocacy for civil rights, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and economic justice. The movement encourages collaboration across faith traditions and cultural boundaries, fostering environments where diversity is respected and celebrated. Its emphasis on compassion and unity serves as a catalyst for positive social change.

Areas of Social Impact

- LGBTQ+ inclusion in faith communities
- Advocacy for racial equality and reconciliation
- Support for immigrants and refugees
- Economic empowerment initiatives

Practical Implications for Modern Faith

For individuals and congregations, embracing the gospel of inclusion involves rethinking traditional beliefs and practices. This may require updating church policies, revising teaching materials, and providing training on cultural competency and anti-discrimination. Inclusive faith communities often develop new rituals and worship experiences that reflect their commitment to diversity. Leaders encourage open dialogue, active listening, and collaborative decision-making. The practical application of inclusive theology can lead to more vibrant and resilient religious organizations capable of meeting the needs of today's diverse society.

Steps Toward Inclusion

1. Review existing church policies and teachings for exclusivity
2. Provide education on diversity and inclusion
3. Engage in outreach to marginalized populations
4. Create spaces for dialogue and reconciliation
5. Support social justice initiatives within the community

Conclusion

The gospel of inclusion represents a transformative approach to Christian faith, emphasizing love, acceptance, and unity. By challenging exclusivist doctrines and embracing diversity, this movement has reshaped religious communities and inspired new commitments to social justice and reconciliation. Its principles resonate with those seeking a more compassionate and welcoming spiritual path, offering hope for greater understanding and cooperation among people of all backgrounds. As discussions on inclusion continue, the gospel of inclusion remains a vital influence in shaping the future of faith and society.

Q: What is the gospel of inclusion?

A: The gospel of inclusion is a theological perspective within Christianity that teaches God's love and salvation are available to all people, regardless of background, belief, or circumstance. It rejects exclusivism and promotes unity, acceptance, and compassion.

Q: Who are the main proponents of the gospel of inclusion?

A: Carlton Pearson is one of the most prominent advocates, having popularized the movement. Other notable figures include Rob Bell and Richard Rohr, who have contributed to inclusive theology through their writings and teachings.

Q: How does the gospel of inclusion differ from traditional Christian doctrines?

A: Traditional doctrines often emphasize exclusivity in salvation, suggesting it is reserved for those who follow specific beliefs or practices. The gospel of inclusion, in contrast, teaches universal salvation and unconditional acceptance.

Q: What biblical passages support the gospel of inclusion?

A: Supporters reference passages such as John 3:16, Romans 5:18, Galatians 3:28, and Luke 15, interpreting them as evidence of God's universal grace and love.

Q: Why is the gospel of inclusion controversial?

A: The gospel of inclusion challenges longstanding beliefs about salvation, sin, and church authority. Critics argue it undermines biblical authority and traditional teachings, while supporters believe it aligns with the core message of love and redemption.

Q: How does the gospel of inclusion impact church communities?

A: Inclusive churches often experience increased diversity, enhanced outreach to marginalized groups, and a stronger emphasis on social justice. They may also adopt new practices to reflect their commitment to acceptance and unity.

Q: What role does the gospel of inclusion play in social justice?

A: The gospel of inclusion motivates faith communities to address issues like racial equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and economic justice, fostering advocacy and cooperation across different groups.

Q: Can any Christian church adopt the gospel of inclusion?

A: Yes, any church or denomination can choose to embrace inclusive theology by revising policies, educating members, and promoting unity and acceptance in their practices.

Q: What are the practical steps for implementing the gospel of inclusion?

A: Practical steps include reviewing church policies, providing education on diversity, engaging in outreach to marginalized communities, creating spaces for dialogue, and supporting social justice initiatives.

Q: Does the gospel of inclusion promote universalism?

A: While many proponents advocate for universal reconciliation, not all interpretations of the gospel of inclusion are strictly universalist. The core focus remains on extending love and grace to all people without exclusion.

The Gospel Of Inclusion

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The Gospel of Inclusion: Embracing Diversity in Faith and Life

Introduction:

In a world increasingly fractured by division, the concept of inclusion feels more vital than ever. This isn't just a social trend; it's a fundamental shift in how we understand community, compassion, and even our spiritual lives. This post delves into "The Gospel of Inclusion," exploring its core tenets, practical applications, and its transformative power in fostering a truly welcoming and equitable society, both within religious communities and beyond. We'll examine the biblical basis for inclusion, address common objections, and provide actionable steps towards creating a more inclusive world. Prepare to have your understanding of faith and belonging challenged and renewed.

H2: Understanding the Biblical Basis for Inclusion

The notion of "The Gospel of Inclusion" isn't a modern invention; its roots are firmly planted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus consistently demonstrated a radical inclusivity, reaching out to the marginalized, the outcast, and those deemed unworthy by the societal norms of his time. He dined with tax collectors and sinners, healed the sick and afflicted regardless of their social standing, and ultimately offered salvation to all, irrespective of background or belief. This radical acceptance forms the very bedrock of a truly inclusive gospel.

H3: Jesus' Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Jesus' ministry wasn't confined to sermons; his actions consistently exemplified inclusion. He challenged the established religious hierarchy, exposing their hypocrisy and emphasizing compassion over judgment. His parable of the Good Samaritan, for example, transcends cultural and religious barriers, highlighting the importance of extending kindness and empathy even to those considered enemies. This powerful narrative underscores the universal nature of God's love and the

necessity of extending that love unconditionally.

H3: Breaking Down Barriers: A Gospel of Reconciliation

The Gospel of Inclusion isn't simply about tolerance; it's about actively dismantling barriers and fostering reconciliation. It calls for a deep introspection, challenging ingrained prejudices and assumptions that prevent us from seeing the inherent worth and dignity in every individual. This requires a willingness to confront our own biases and actively work towards creating spaces where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered.

H2: Addressing Common Objections to an Inclusive Gospel

While the concept of inclusion is inherently positive, certain objections often arise. Some argue that embracing inclusion compromises religious principles or dilutes core beliefs. However, a true understanding of faith recognizes that inclusivity isn't about compromising doctrine but about expanding our understanding of God's love and grace. It's about recognizing the multifaceted nature of faith and embracing the rich diversity of perspectives within a community.

H3: The Fear of Compromise vs. the Power of Unity

The fear of compromising core beliefs is often rooted in a misunderstanding of what constitutes genuine inclusion. It's not about abandoning core tenets but about re-examining how those tenets are interpreted and applied in a diverse world. True unity is found not in uniformity, but in the celebration of our differences, united by a shared commitment to love and justice.

H3: Navigating Differences with Grace and Understanding

Disagreements are inevitable in any community, but the Gospel of Inclusion emphasizes the importance of navigating these differences with grace and understanding. This requires active listening, empathy, and a willingness to engage in respectful dialogue, even when opinions diverge. The goal is not to force conformity but to foster mutual respect and understanding.

H2: Practical Steps Towards Building an Inclusive Community

Building a truly inclusive community requires intentional action. This involves fostering environments of open communication, active listening, and mutual respect. It requires challenging discriminatory language and behavior, and actively promoting equitable representation in all aspects of community life.

H3: Creating Safe and Welcoming Spaces

Creating safe spaces requires conscious effort to ensure that everyone feels comfortable expressing themselves, regardless of their background or identity. This involves fostering a culture of acceptance, where differences are celebrated and individuals feel empowered to participate fully in community life.

H3: Promoting Equitable Representation

Equitable representation involves actively seeking out diverse voices and perspectives, ensuring that leadership roles and decision-making processes reflect the diversity of the community. This necessitates actively recruiting individuals from marginalized groups and providing opportunities for their voices to be heard.

Conclusion:

The Gospel of Inclusion is not merely a social ideal; it's a spiritual imperative. It's a call to embrace the diversity of God's creation, to recognize the inherent worth of every individual, and to build communities where everyone feels loved, accepted, and empowered. Embracing this gospel requires ongoing commitment, self-reflection, and a willingness to challenge systemic injustices. But the reward – a world characterized by unity, justice, and compassion – is a reward worth striving for.

FAQs:

1. Isn't inclusion just about political correctness? No, inclusion is about creating a truly equitable and just society where everyone feels valued and respected. While political correctness plays a role, true inclusion goes much deeper, focusing on systemic change and addressing underlying inequalities.
2. How can I personally contribute to an inclusive community? Start by examining your own biases and assumptions. Actively listen to marginalized voices, challenge discriminatory language and behavior, and support organizations working towards social justice.
3. Does inclusion require compromising religious beliefs? No, it requires expanding our understanding of those beliefs and how they apply to a diverse world. It's about recognizing the universality of God's love and extending that love to all.
4. What if someone in my community disagrees with the concept of inclusion? Engage in respectful dialogue, listening to their concerns and addressing their objections with empathy and understanding. Focus on shared values and common goals.
5. How can I measure the success of inclusion initiatives? Look for tangible changes such as increased representation of marginalized groups in leadership roles, a more welcoming community atmosphere, and a reduction in reported instances of discrimination.

the gospel of inclusion: The Gospel of Inclusion Carlton Pearson, 2009-03-10

Fourth-generation fundamentalist Carlton Pearson, a Christian megastar and host, takes a courageous and controversial stand on religion that proposes a hell-less Christianity and a gospel of inclusion that calls for an end to local and worldwide conflicts and divisions along religious lines. In *The Gospel of Inclusion*, Bishop Carlton Pearson explores the exclusionary doctrines in mainstream religion and concludes that, according to the evidence of the Bible and irrefutable logic, they cannot be true. Bishop Pearson argues that the controlling dogmas of religion are the source of much of the world's ills and that we should turn our backs on proselytizing and holy wars and focus on the real good news: that we are all bound for glory, everybody is saved, and if we believe God loves all mankind, then we have no choice but to have the same attitude ourselves. Bishop Pearson tells the story of how he had gone from a powerful religious figure, once preaching to an audience of over

6,000 people, to watching everything he had built crumble around him due to a scandal. Why? He didn't steal money nor did he have inappropriate sexual relationships. Following a revelation from God, he began to preach that a loving God would not condemn most of the human race to hell because they are not Christian. He preaches that God belongs to no religion. The Gospel of Inclusion is the inspiring journey of one man's quest to preach a new truth.

the gospel of inclusion: The Holy Bible of Inclusion [Second Edition] D.E. Paulk, 2021-09-01 If you are like me you have struggled to accept the modern Christian church's portrayal (or betrayal) of God, depiction of the devil and description of hell. Many god-fearing people and good-hearted preachers alike have long harbored unspoken thoughts of a more loving, merciful and masterful Creator. However, just about as many who subscribe to this grander vision and version of God also admittedly and even ashamedly lack the ability to reference the Bible and specific passages of scripture in order to publicly validate these privately held higher concepts of God... THE HOLY BIBLE OF INCLUSION will scripturally, extensively and even exhaustively confront theological myths, misrepresentations and mistranslations of the Bible and its Origins - Universal Salvation - the devil - the Purpose of hell and the Fire of God - Sexual Orientation and many others. Join me on this worthwhile and rewarding spiritual journey as we research, rethink, recover and then re-present the awesome and awe-inspiring God of the universe.

the gospel of inclusion: The Gospel of Inclusion Carlton Pearson, 2009-03-10 Draws on biblical scripture to argue that the controlling dogmas of religion have caused many of the world's ills and that we should have the same attitude, in a controversial study that calls for an end to conflict and division along religious lines.

the gospel of inclusion: God Is Not a Christian, Nor a Jew, Muslim, Hindu... Carlton Pearson, 2010-03-30 The author of The Gospel of Inclusion continues to rouse organized religion as he raises controversial issues and provides enlightening answers to the deepest questions about God and faith. What is God? Where is God? Who is the one true God? Questions such as these have driven a thousand human struggles, through war, terrorism, and oppression. Humanity has responded by branching off into multiple religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam—each one pitted against the other. But it doesn't have to be that way. In God Is Not a Christian, nor a Jew, Muslim, Hindu . . . , the provocative and acclaimed Bishop Carlton Pearson follows up on his celebrated first book, The Gospel of Inclusion, to tackle these questions and many more, exploring new ideas about God and faith and putting forth the stunning assertion that God belongs to no particular religion but is an ever-loving presence available to all. For these beliefs, Bishop Pearson lost his thriving Pentecostal ministry but was catapulted instead into a greater pulpit. His readership has grown through appearances on national television and an extensive speaking schedule. With the world in the midst of a holy war, there is no better time for the wisdom of Bishop Pearson to reach a global audience. Bishop Pearson's many loyal fans, along with new readers, will surely welcome this provocative and eye-opening exploration of a deeper faith, one that goes far beyond any fundamentalist way of thinking, be it Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, etc. Simply put, Bishop Pearson dares to tell the truth so many others are too afraid to face.

the gospel of inclusion: Gospel J.D. Greear, 2011-10-01 Could the gospel be lost in evangelical churches? In this book, J.D. Greear shows how moralism and legalism have often eclipsed the gospel, even in conservative churches. Gospel cuts through the superficiality of religion and reacquaints you with the revolutionary truth of God's gracious acceptance of us in Christ. The gospel is the power of God, and the only true source of joy, freedom, radical generosity, and audacious faith. The gospel produces in us what religion never could: a heart that desires God. The book's core is a "gospel prayer" by which you can saturate yourself in the gospel daily. Dwelling on the gospel will release in you new depths of passion for God and take you to new heights of obedience to Him. Gospel gives you an applicable, exciting vision of how God will use you to bring His healing to the world.

the gospel of inclusion: Gracism David A. Anderson, 2023-05-09 We can't ignore color, class, or culture. Instead, we must engage race with a different posture. Responding to ongoing problems of prejudice and injustice, the original seven sayings of the gracist now become eight in this revised

and expanded edition that revives the biblical model for showing special grace to those on the margins.

the gospel of inclusion: *The Gospel According to Eve* Amanda W. Benckhuysen, 2019-10-29 Do women and men have different intellectual, spiritual, moral, or emotional capacities? Over the centuries, women have read and interpreted the story of Eve, scrutinizing the details of the text to discern God's word for them. Biblical scholar Amanda Benckhuysen traces the history of women's interpretation of Genesis 1-3, allowing the voices of women to speak of Eve's story and its implications for life today.

the gospel of inclusion: *True Inclusion* Brandan Robertson, 2018-09-11 So your church website says you're welcoming, a rainbow flag flies out front, worship uses gender-inclusive language, and you make sure you greet the stranger next to you on Sunday mornings. But is all of that really enough? And what if those welcoming gestures actually keep visitors from returning and exclude dozens of other groups or people in your community? In *True Inclusion*, public theologian and pastor Brandan Robertson shares how to move your church from mere welcome to radical embrace. Pointing to a clear biblical imperative for radical inclusivity in the sanctuary and in the public square, Robertson presents a paradigm-shifting vision of community, where nothing is simple, nothing is easy, but everything is beautiful. Learn practical, step-by-step approaches to becoming deeply, robustly, and richly inclusive of all people regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, and socioeconomic status. Written for people and communities at every stage of the journey, *True Inclusion* will challenge and inspire you to embody a gospel of radical embrace for all.

the gospel of inclusion: Disability and the Church Lamar Hardwick, 2021-02-09 Pastor Lamar Hardwick was thirty-six years old when he found out he was on the autism spectrum. This revelation prompted him to reconsider the church's responsibilities to the disabled community. Insisting that the good news of Jesus affirms God's image in all people, Hardwick offers practical steps and strategies to build stronger, truly inclusive communities of faith.

the gospel of inclusion: *God and the Gay Christian* Matthew Vines, 2014-04-22 "God and the Gay Christian is a game changer. Winsome, accessible, and carefully researched, every page is brought to life by the author's clear love for Scripture and deep, persistent faith. With this book, Matthew Vines emerges as one of my generation's most important Christian leaders, not only on matters of sexuality but also on what it means to follow Jesus with wisdom, humility, and grace. Prepare to be challenged and enlightened, provoked and inspired. Read with an open heart and mind, and you are bound to be changed." — Rachel Held Evans, author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Faith Unraveled* As a young Christian man, Matthew Vines harbored the same basic hopes of most young people: to someday share his life with someone, to build a family of his own, to give and receive love. But when he realized he was gay, those hopes were called into question. The Bible, he'd been taught, condemned gay relationships. Feeling the tension between his understanding of the Bible and the reality of his same-sex orientation, Vines devoted years of intensive research into what the Bible says about homosexuality. With care and precision, Vines asked questions such as: • Do biblical teachings on the marriage covenant preclude same-sex marriage or not? • How should we apply the teachings of Jesus to the gay debate? • What does the story of Sodom and Gomorrah really say about human relationships? • Can celibacy be a calling when it is mandated, not chosen? • What did Paul have in mind when he warned against same-sex relations? Unique in its affirmation of both an orthodox faith and sexual diversity, *God and the Gay Christian* is likely to spark heated debate, sincere soul searching, even widespread cultural change. Not only is it a compelling interpretation of key biblical texts about same-sex relations, it is also the story of a young man navigating relationships with his family, his hometown church, and the Christian church at large as he expresses what it means to be a faithful gay Christian.

the gospel of inclusion: Reading Acts Joshua W. Jipp, 2018-10-11 The book of Acts tells the story of what happened after the death and resurrection of Jesus. The book is filled with adventure and entertainment as Acts narrates God's activity among his people and the world. In this book I

explore one way of reading Acts that attends closely to the plotline of the book and seek to invite readers into the story that Acts tells. Along the way, I examine some of the most important themes of Acts, including divine activity, the extension of the gospel to surprising people in surprising ways, conflict and congruence between the gospel and the broader world, and the ongoing importance of Israel as God's people. While there are many excellent reasons to read Acts, I reflect too upon the theological and ethical vision of Acts for those who read this book as Christian Scripture.

the gospel of inclusion: *The Gospel of Inclusion, Revised Edition* Brandan J. Robertson, 2021-12-08 One of the most fiercely debated topics in modern Christianity centers on the inclusion of sexual and gender minorities into the full life of the church. Dozens of scholars have stepped forward, seeking to make a compelling case for LGBT+ inclusion based on their contextualized reading of the six traditional passages that refer to homosexuality in Scripture. But these arguments alone fall short of providing a comprehensive framework for radical inclusion of LGBT+ people. In *The Gospel of Inclusion*, pastor and public theologian Brandan Robertson offers a compelling assessment of the biblical texts, cultural context, and modern social movements to suggest that the entire thrust of the Christian gospel calls the church towards the deconstruction of all oppressive systems and structures and towards the creation of a world that celebrates the full spectrum of human diversity as a reflection of God's creative intention.

the gospel of inclusion: *Surprised by God* Chris E. W. Green, 2018-06-11 This book explores the deep and abiding human need for contemplation, for coming to terms with and standing in awe of the nature and character of the God revealed in the Scriptures. When so much is wrong in the world, when our lives are troubled by so many threats, both real and imagined, we must learn to look to God and to see all things, including ourselves, in the light of who he is. A life of faithful contemplation begins to free us from the bad desires, false expectations, and corrupting illusions that bind us against our will and keep us from the fullness promised in the gospel.

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the gospel of inclusion: *Scripting Jesus* L. Michael White, 2010-04-15 In *Scripting Jesus*, Michael White, famed scholar of early Christian history, reveals how the gospel stories of Jesus were never meant to be straightforward historical accounts, but rather were scripted and honed as performance pieces for four different audiences with four different theological agendas. As he did as a featured presenter in two award-winning PBS Frontline documentaries ("From Jesus to Christ" and "Apocalypse!"), White engagingly explains the significance of some lesser-known aspects of The New Testament; in this case, the development of the stories of Jesus—including how the gospel writers differed from one another on facts, points of view, and goals. Readers of Elaine Pagels, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and Bart Ehrman will find much to ponder in *Scripting Jesus*.

the gospel of inclusion: *All Set Free* Matthew J. Distefano, 2015-09-30 What is the ending to the human drama? Will all be reconciled to God in the end? Does God demand an altar, a corpse, and blood? Or, rather, is the Christian God set apart from all the other gods throughout history? *All Set Free* sets out to answer some of the more difficult questions Christians today are faced with. It will challenge the Augustinian understanding of hell and the Calvinist understanding of the atonement; replacing them with a more Christ-centered understanding of both doctrines. This book will also use the work of Rene Girard in order to reshape how many understand what it means to be human. Then

and only then should we ask: Who is God? Come explore what has become Matthew's theological pilgrimage to this point. Come discover the God of peace.

the gospel of inclusion: *Called to Reconciliation* Jonathan C. Augustine, 2022-02-08 Nationally recognized speaker and church leader Jay Augustine demonstrates that the church is called and equipped to model reconciliation, justice, diversity, and inclusion. This book develops three uses of the term reconciliation: salvific, social, and civil. Augustine examines the intersection of the salvific and social forms of reconciliation through an engagement with Paul's letters and uses the Black church as an exemplar to connect the concept of salvation to social and political movements that seek justice for those marginalized by racism, class structures, and unjust legal systems. He then traces the reaction to racial progress in the form of white backlash as he explores the fate of civil reconciliation from the civil rights era to the Black Lives Matter movement. This book argues that the church's work in reconciliation can serve as a model for society at large and that secular diversity and inclusion practices can benefit the church. It offers a prophetic call to pastors, church leaders, and students to recover reconciliation as the heart of the church's message to a divided world. Foreword by William H. Willimon and afterword by Michael B. Curry.

the gospel of inclusion: *For Theirs Is the Kingdom* Amy Lindeman Allen, 2023-05-15 This book re-reads Luke's gospel account in light of the historical roles and presence of children in the first century Mediterranean world. By (re)membering child followers of Jesus throughout Luke's narrative, Allen provides an alternate reading of Lukan discipleship with an...

the gospel of inclusion: *The Joy of the Gospel* Pope Francis, 2014-10-07 The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." - Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for "the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned," the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally. Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, "to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small." Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

the gospel of inclusion: Exclusion & Embrace Miroslav Volf, 2010-03-01 Life at the end of the twentieth century presents us with a disturbing reality. Otherness, the simple fact of being different in some way, has come to be defined as in and of itself evil. Miroslav Volf contends that if the healing word of the gospel is to be heard today, Christian theology must find ways of speaking that address the hatred of the other. Reaching back to the New Testament metaphor of salvation as reconciliation, Volf proposes the idea of embrace as a theological response to the problem of exclusion. Increasingly we see that exclusion has become the primary sin, skewing our perceptions of reality and causing us to react out of fear and anger to all those who are not within our (ever-narrowing) circle. In light of this, Christians must learn that salvation comes, not only as we are reconciled to God, and not only as we learn to live with one another, but as we take the dangerous and costly step of opening ourselves to the other, of enfolding him or her in the same embrace with which we have been enfolded by God.

the gospel of inclusion: Theology of the Reformers Timothy George, 2013-09-01 First released in 1988, this 25th Anniversary Edition of Timothy George's *Theology of the Reformers* includes a new chapter and bibliography on William Tyndale, the reformer who courageously stood

at the headwaters of the English Reformation. Also included are expanded opening and concluding chapters and updated bibliographies on each reformer. Theology of the Reformers articulates the theological self-understanding of five principal figures from the period of the Reformation: Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, Menno Simons, and William Tyndale. George establishes the context for their work by describing the spiritual climate of their time. Then he profiles each reformer, providing a picture of their theology that does justice to the scope of their involvement in the reforming effort. George details the valuable contributions these men made to issues historically considered pillars of the Christian faith: Scripture, Jesus Christ, salvation, the church, and last things. The intent is not just to document the theology of these reformers, but also to help the church of today better understand and more faithfully live its calling as followers of the one true God. Through and through, George's work provides a truly integrated and comprehensive picture of Christian theology at the time of the Reformation.

the gospel of inclusion: Incarnation, Inclusion, and Intensification Witness Lee, 1996

the gospel of inclusion: *Redemptive Kingdom Diversity* Jarvis J. Williams, 2021-09-28 This book provides a comprehensive biblical and theological survey of the people of God in the Old and New Testaments, offering insights for today's transformed and ethnically diverse church. Jarvis Williams explains that God's people have always been intended to be a diverse community. From Genesis to Revelation, God has intended to restore humanity's vertical relationship with God, humanity's horizontal relationship with one another, and the entire creation through Jesus. Through Jesus, both Jew and gentile are reconciled to God and together make up a transformed people. Williams then applies his biblical and theological analysis to selected aspects of the current conversation about race, racism, and ethnicity, explaining what it means to be the church in today's multiethnic context. He argues that the church should demonstrate redemptive kingdom diversity, for it has been transformed into a new community that is filled with many diverse ethnic communities.

the gospel of inclusion: The Gospel of Matthew on the Landscape of Antiquity Edwin K. Broadhead, 2017-07-13 The Gospel of Matthew is an oeuvre mouvante (a work in process), and the dynamics of this process are essential to its identity and function. This understanding of the Gospel of Matthew stands in distinction from the long history of research centered on Matthew the author and his design for the gospel. Focused instead on tradition history-the history of composition and transmission-Edwin K. Broadhead's approach keeps open the dialectical engagements and the conflicting voices intrinsic to the Gospel of Matthew. As a result, the consistently Jewish textures of this gospel are emphasized, there is a broader engagement with the landscape of antiquity, and serious attention is given to further developments in the history of transmission. This focus on the developing tradition thus highlights, rather than suppresses, the viability and the generative potential of such discourses.

the gospel of inclusion: *Revelation* , 1999-01-01 The final book of the Bible, Revelation prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the Beast will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an introduction by Will Self.

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his 1978 book published by Kingsway, expounding Tom Wright's view of 'Biblical Christianity.' Short chapters written in an accessible and popular style explore key issues of belief and their practical outworking in daily life. Anecdotes and reflections backed by Tom Wright's deep biblical knowledge are presented in an easily digestible form. This reissue has been updated and also has a new foreword by the author.

the gospel of inclusion: Practicing Christian Doctrine Beth Felker Jones, 2023-07-11 This introductory theology text helps students articulate basic Christian doctrines, think theologically so they can act Christianly in a diverse world, and connect Christian thought to their everyday lives of faith. Written from a solidly evangelical yet ecumenically aware perspective, this book models a way of doing theology that is generous and charitable. It attends to history and contemporary debates and features voices from the global church. Sidebars made up of illustrative quotations, key Scripture passages, classic hymn texts, and devotional poetry punctuate the chapters. The first edition of this book has been well received (over 25,000 copies sold). Updated and revised throughout, this second edition also includes a new section on gender and race as well as new end-of-chapter material connecting each doctrine to a spiritual discipline.

the gospel of inclusion: Changing Our Mind David P. Gushee, 2017-05-31 "Every generation has its hot-button issue," writes David P. Gushee, "For us, it's the LGBT issue." In *Changing Our Mind*, Gushee takes the reader along his personal and theological journey as he changes his mind about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender inclusion in the Church. With 19 books to his name, Gushee is no stranger to the public arena. He is the author of the "Evangelical Declaration Against Torture" and drafted the "Evangelical Climate Initiative." "For decades now, David Gushee has earned the reputation as America's leading evangelical ethicist. In this book, he admits that he has been wrong on the LGBT issue." writes Brian D. McLaren, author and theologian. In the definitive third edition of this book, David Gushee issues a scholarly response to his critics. Brian D. McLaren says it best: "Not only is David Gushee's work deep, thoughtful and brilliant; and not only is David philosophically and theologically careful and astute; he is also refreshingly clear and understandable by 'common people' who know neither philosophical nor theological mumbo jumbo."

the gospel of inclusion: Christianity in Crisis Hank Hanegraaff, 2012-06-18 Nearly two decades ago Hank Hanegraaff's award-winning *Christianity in Crisis* alerted the world to the dangers of a cultic movement within Christianity that threatened to undermine the very foundation of biblical faith. But in the 21st century, there are new dangers—new teachers who threaten to do more damage than the last. These are not obscure teachers that Hanegraaff unmasks. We know their names. We have seen their faces, sat in their churches, and heard them shamelessly preach and promote the false pretexts of a give-to-get gospel. They are virtual rock stars who command the attention of presidential candidates and media moguls. Through make-believe miracles, urban legends, counterfeit Christs, and twisted theological reasoning, they peddle an occult brand of metaphysics that continues to shipwreck the faith of millions around the globe: "God cannot do anything in this earthly realm unless we give Him permission." "Keep saying it—I have equality with God—talk yourself into it." "Being poor is a sin." "The Jews were not rejecting Jesus as Messiah; it was Jesus who was refusing to be the Messiah to the Jews!" "You create your own world the same way God creates His. He speaks, and things happen; you speak, and they happen." *Christianity in Crisis: 21st Century* exposes darkness to light, pointing us back to a Christianity centered in Christ. From the Preface: "Having lost the ability to think biblically, postmodern Christians are being transformed from cultural change agents and initiators into cultural conformists and imitators. Pop culture beckons, and postmodern Christians have taken the bait. As a result, the biblical model of faith has given way to an increasingly bizarre array of fads and formulas."

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the gospel of inclusion: Why Christianity Must Change or Die John Shelby Spong, 2009-10-13 An important and respected voice for liberal American Christianity for the past twenty years, Bishop John Shelby Spong integrates his often controversial stands on the Bible, Jesus, theism, and morality into an intelligible creed that speaks to today's thinking Christian. In this compelling and heartfelt book, he sounds a rousing call for a Christianity based on critical thought rather than blind faith, on love rather than judgment, and that focuses on life more than religion.

the gospel of inclusion: Original Blessing Danielle Shroyer, 2016-10-24 Of the world's major religions, only Christianity holds to a doctrine of original sin. Ideas are powerful, and they shape who we are and who we become. The fact that many Christians believe there is something in human nature that is, and will always be, contrary to God, is not just a problem but a tragedy. So why do the doctrine's assumptions of human nature so infiltrate our pulpits, sermons, and theological bookshelves? How is it so misconstrued in times of grief, pastoral care, and personal shame? How did we fall so far from God's original blessing in the garden to this pervasive belief in humanity's innate inability to do good? In this book, Danielle Shroyer takes readers through an overview of the historical development of the doctrine, pointing out important missteps and overcalculations, and providing alternative ways to approach often-used Scriptures. Throughout, she brings the primary claims of original sin to their untenable (and unbiblical) conclusions. In *Original Blessing*, she shows not only how we got this doctrine wrong, but how we can put sin back in its rightful place: in a broader context of redemption and the blessing of humanity's creation in the image of God.

the gospel of inclusion: Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Brian D. McLaren, 2012-09-11 When four religious leaders walk across the road, it's not the beginning of a joke. It's the start of one of the most important conversations in today's world. Can

you be a committed Christian without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down your own? In his most important book yet, widely acclaimed author and speaker Brian McLaren proposes a new faith alternative, one built on benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility. This way of being Christian is strong but doesn't strong-arm anyone, going beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with the other. Blending history, narrative, and brilliant insight, McLaren shows readers step-by-step how to reclaim this strong-benevolent faith, challenging us to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own. And in doing so, he invites Christians to become more Christ-like than ever before.

the gospel of inclusion: The Good Book Peter J. Gomes, 2002-04-30 The Bible and the social and moral consequences that derive from its interpretation are all too important to be left in the hands of the pious or the experts, and too significant to be ignored and trivialized by the uninformed and indifferent.

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