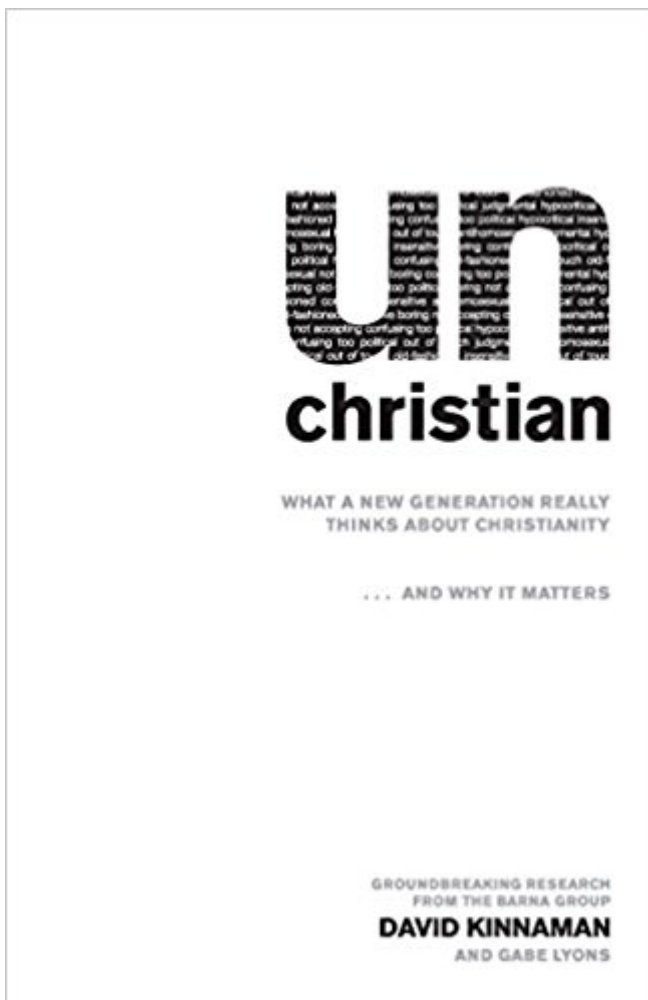


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UnChristian: What A New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity—and Why It Matters



Synopsis

Based on groundbreaking Barna Group research, unChristian uncovers the negative perceptions young people have of Christianity and explores what can be done to reverse them. Now in paper.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Kinnaman, president of the Barna Institute, was inspired to write this book when Lyons (of the Fermi Project) commissioned him to do extensive research on what young Americans think about Christianity. Lyons had a gut-level sense that something was desperately wrong, and three years of research paints exactly that picture. Mosaics and Busters (the generations that include late teens to early 30-somethings) believe Christians are judgmental, antihomosexual, hypocritical, too political and sheltered. Rather than simply try to do a PR face-lift, Kinnaman looks at ways in which churches' activities actually may have been unchristian and encourages a return to a more biblical Christianity, a faith that not only focuses on holiness but also loves, accepts and works to understand the world around it. It would be possible to get lost in the numbers, but the authors use numerous illustrations from their research and life experiences and include insights at the end of every chapter from Christian leaders like Charles Colson, John Stott, Brian McLaren and Jim Wallis. This is a wonderful, thoughtful book that conveys difficult truths in a spirit of humility.

Every Christian should read this, and it will likely influence churches for years to come. (Oct.)

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"This is a wonderful, thoughtful book that conveys difficult truths in a spirit of humility. Every Christian should read this, and it will likely influence the church for years to come."--Publisher's Weekly --Publisher's Weekly, starred review --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I believe this book is worth reading. It's very important reading. But I would like to challenge the authors to try to write on this topic just saying what the point of their findings are, with their findings being listed only as a reference. I am a degreed sociologist who greatly appreciates the research that went into this book. Am also a Christian. My 20 year old son is taking a class at church where this book is being used. So when he started to read it, I got a copy to read. The points of this book are so important and the people who need to read it the most, need the bottom lines of this book plain and simple. Some places this happens, and other places it seems to get lost in too many words and too many numbers for the point it is trying to make. I'm very glad that the contents of this book is being discussed at our church. I also hope that another book is written more along the lines that I am suggesting. Thank you for taking on the challenge of these very points made in the book, If we Christians don't take it seriously, our faith is going to warp into something we don't want to see happen.

It would be wonderful if all Christians could give this book a read! I found it very revealing and realized how judgemental I still am. I now have a big log to work on in my own eye that I had not seen before! The book demonstrates that each generation has new challenges when it comes to Christianity and that all Christians should ask do I know Jesus? What would He do? What is the Christian message and do I personify it? Very excellent book and I'm reading another book that was quoted in UnChristian; "How Now Shall We Live".

Some of the information was new and the statistics disturbing to me. It was also very eye-opening and helpful to me in my personal life and my ministry. There were quite a few pages that overly reiterated previously discussed material. Although I was already aware of much of the material, it was good, although sad, to read the statistics. I really appreciated the chapter that addressed Christians' reactions to people who practice homosexuality. Hooray for his courage to address that judgment we feel justified in! Less than half-way through the book I found myself thinking, "I know that, and I know that too," so I skipped to the back of the book to find solutions to the problems in Christian behavior. I expected more solutions to be expounded. That is the only weakness in the

book, from my perspective. I do recommend this book as a good explanation for our changing society and general loss of interest in the Bible, church, and most spiritual matters. MessageoftheBible.net

unChristian, by David Kinnaman is a surprising book. Kinnaman writes mainly about people under age thirty and how they view the christian faith. He goes over some main topics which are: Christians viewed as hypocritical, too focused on getting converts, anti-homosexual, sheltered, too political and judgmental. He introduces these topics and explains them in greater detail throughout the book. The information gathered comes from surveys individuals took at random. It covers these topics, explains why these individuals might feel this way and the book also tells the reader what to do about it. Kinnaman likes facts. Much of the content in this book includes actual numerical values of the data that were gathered. There are some tables to represent these numbers. My recommendation would be if you like numbers and raw facts, you would like this book. unChristian is very straight forward and to the point. One aspect of the book that Kinnaman pays attention to is his unbiased opinion on the issue. He explains that he is compelled to represent the views and opinions of those outside christianity in a fair way. It is interesting to read about his story and why he began the task of writing this book. If you end up buying unChristian I would definitely suggest reading the backstory in the book. It provides a great context for the book. I would also suggest that the reader would rid themselves of a defensive attitude while reading this book. Some of the views that the groups had in the book can be taken offensively. Do not take these views personally. I believe that Kinnaman intended the book to be honest opinions on the christian faith. Kinnamans motives in this book were clearly not to offend anyone, they are meant to inform and help Christians to think about how they interact with individuals outside of the Christian faith. Many of the facts are surprising and eye opening. I would definitely recommend this also to those of you who have grown up in the church and who want to know more about how others view the christian faith. There are more reasons than you might think why people reject Christianity. This book helped me to realize I have to show people God's real love and intentions. It also helped me realize that I should do what I can to make and impact on others and show them what the gospel really means for our lives.

For any individual seeking to allow Christ to change the world through him or her, this book is a must-read. Christians, including myself, have become consumed with ourselves and our own problems, and that has caused us to lose sight of those who are dying every day without the saving knowledge of Christ. This text approaches subjects that the church has been too afraid to discuss,

and it has paid dearly for that fear. We need to have the humility to allow the Lord to open our eyes through works like this. Through this work in our lives, he will change the situations around us. This book, when read in conjunction with 1 Thessalonians will encourage and convict true believers to change and become more like Christ. I greatly appreciate the incredible amount of research, writing, and prayerful reflection that the authors poured into this book! This is the type of book that should be updated every five years, and re-read by Christians every year.

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