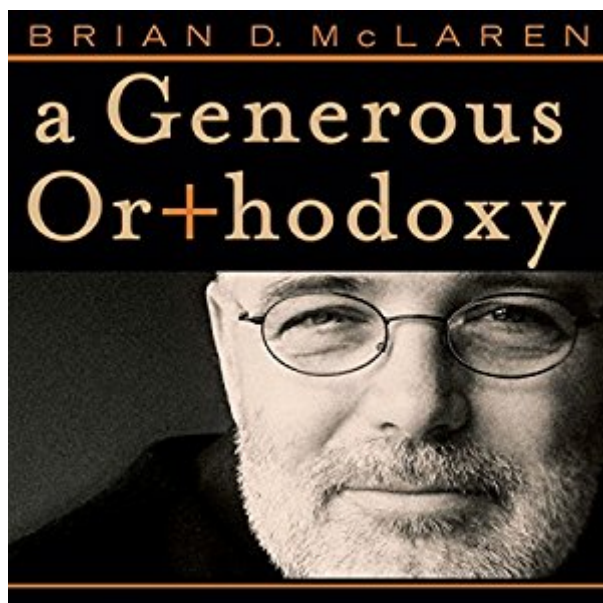


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A Generous Orthodoxy



Synopsis

Why I am a missional, evangelical, post/protestant, liberal/conservative, mystical/poetic, biblical, charismatic/contemplative, fundamentalist/Calvinist, Anabaptist/Anglican, Methodist, catholic, green, incarnational, depressed- yet hopeful, emergent, unfinished Christian. A confession and manifesto from a senior leader in the emerging church movement. A Generous Orthodoxy calls for a radical, Christ-centered orthodoxy of faith and practice in a missional, generous spirit. Brian McLaren argues for a post-liberal, post-conservative, post-protestant convergence, which will stimulate lively interest and global conversation among thoughtful Christians from all traditions. In a sweeping exploration of belief, author Brian McLaren takes us across the landscape of faith, envisioning an orthodoxy that aims for Jesus, is driven by love, and is defined by missional intent. A Generous Orthodoxy rediscovers the mysterious and compelling ways that Jesus can be embraced across the entire Christian horizon. Rather than establishing what is and is not 'orthodox,' McLaren walks through the many traditions of faith, bringing to the center a way of life that draws us closer to Christ and to each other. Whether you find yourself inside, outside, or somewhere on the fringe of Christianity, A Generous Orthodoxy draws you toward a way of living that looks beyond the 'us/them' paradigm to the blessed and ancient paradox of 'we.' Also available on abridged audio CD, read by the author. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

This is a thought provoking book for any Christian. I have been a conservative, evangelical,

Christian leader for over 25 years now, but there have been issues I have struggled with regarding life, truth, the bible, and faith. I won't say I agree with everything Brian McLaren has written in his book but he has caused me to re-evaluate much of what I have believed, and I feel I am better for it. I believe that was to a large extent the purpose of his book. If you are concerned at all about the state of the Christian church today or about its future, you are making a huge mistake if you don't put this book at the top of your reading list; it really is A-One!

McLaren's ideas won't resonate with everyone, but I would encourage Christians of all points on the conservative/moderate/liberal spectrum to read with an open mind, and see if there are ideas and points that might be worth thinking through. The book is well written in a conversational tone, and not at all a dry tome as the title and all of the big theological terms on the cover might suggest. McLaren has a gift for presenting deep ideas in simple language, as one would expect of an experienced preacher, and it serves him well in this work. If you're a conservative reader, it will be tempting to proof-text your way through the book while working up a righteous indignation at this "godless liberal masquerading as a Christian". I would say that is counterproductive. Read the book, disagree with what you will, and open your mind and heart to what you might learn from the rest. If God can speak to Balaam through a donkey, he can surely speak to a reader through the words of a "liberal" theologian.

A year ago, if I had known this book existed, I probably would have given it 1 star without even reading it (as many people have done; just read a few of the 1-star reviews and you'll see what I'm talking about--it's obvious). Right now, it's overall rating on is 3.2. I would venture to guess that there are few books on as underrated as this one! McLaren writes with clarity, relevance, and refreshing insight. This book is helpful and important. Even if one does not agree with him, I think they could learn something by thoughtfully reading it. The way he integrates his knowledge and experience into addressing the major issues that confront Christianity today is practically unmatched. And perhaps most importantly, he exudes a contagious Christ-likeness. So if McLaren is so brilliant and relevant and Christ-like, why is this book rated only 3.2 stars (currently)? Frankly, it is quite evident that people who do not see the world the way McLaren does are attacking him. In most cases, this is a personal attack and has nothing to do with his ability as a writer or this product in general. And their attacks are not Christ-like. And they are not relevant. And they are rarely brilliant. As I read through some of them, I thought to myself, "Do Emergent Christians gang up on the latest conservative-evangelical author and bombard his or her books with 1-star ratings, simply

because they disagree? Actually, I have never seen this. And it's not because Emergent Christians couldn't do this if they wanted to: Emergents and conservative-evangelicals have radically different presuppositions and understandings of the world; they could argue back and forth all day. I would like to think the reason that this type of attacking doesn't go both ways is because Emergent Christians are nicer. I hate to say that; I love conservative-evangelicals and have proudly bore that banner myself. But in honesty, I have to say that many conservatives value "truth" more than people. And McLaren addressed this issue in his book, if only those reviewers had actually read it. So maybe this book is truly a 4.5-star book, whether you agree with him or not. I'm more than happy to give it five to countervail my captious evangelical brethren.

This is one of the most formative books for any person looking to understand the majority of the upcoming "younger" generations. I am an educator, and this theology (regardless of your own personal theology) is extremely representative of the upcoming generation's beliefs.

This book is a realistic view of the Christian experience and approach in the United States, and how those have been damaged by extremes and ethnocentric views. It is a highly enjoyable read, with humor, but a depth that makes you question not what but how you believe and how that drives your interactions with others, and what the similarities and differences look like. Reading as part of a study group, and it has positive reviews all around. Highly recommend reading this book.

Exploding the top off my head. Opening avenues for me to think and feel what I felt guilty thinking and feeling. Thank you, Brian!

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