



Volume 60 | Issue 1

Article 64

4-2017

Kurlansky's "Paper: Paging through history" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Burgess, Robert (2017) "Kurlansky's "Paper: Paging through history" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 64.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss1/64>

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convincing argument that this is actually the case. This chapter will not convince a critic but serves well for encouraging those who already hold this opinion.

The next four chapters address various aspects of a sphere-based system of influence in which the church is seen as just one of the spheres. In this section naïve and simplistic assumptions are made about the roles which each sphere plays in the life of the American people. Even in an ideal situation where each sphere, including the government, remained in its specific arena and did not intrude on the arenas of other relevant spheres there is too much room for encroachment by the other spheres on the church to make most Christians happy.

The remainder of the book focuses on specific issues of concern to Christians in contemporary American society including; sanctity of life, marriage, sexuality, economics, environmental issues, racial issues, immigration, and war. Most of the reasoning behind how the Christian should approach these issues, and the insistence that the Christian must approach these issues, is quite well done at an introductory level.

The brief conclusion affirms God's ultimate authority over all other powers, but makes clear that the church as it is presented in modern society and God are not necessarily equivalent. Being more clear earlier in the book about how the modern church and God's ultimate kingdom are currently still two different things would go a long way toward clarifying some of the arguments about the proper roles of the church and the government made earlier in the book for average lay readers. Despite some failings, this is a good introductory level book on this topic with good recommended reading sections after each chapter bolstering its usefulness even more.

Reviewer

Joseph Baumstarck, Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Kurlansky, M. (2016). *Paper: Paging through history*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. 389 pp. \$17.00. ISBN 9780393239614

Paper is a unifying technology that all people need and use throughout their lifetime. Although one may laugh at the idea that one could write an extensive and engaging book on paper, Mark Kurlansky succeeds at his task. Kurlansky is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has written other books on common items such as *Salt: A World History* and *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World*. The author uses his gifts as a researcher and storyteller to emphasize the significance of paper.

Not only does Kurlansky describe the history of paper making but also discusses the significance that paper has had in both Eastern and Western civilizations. He argues that paper became central to our culture as we transitioned from nomadic to agrarian societies due to economics. Kurlansky also gives a history in writing and how civilizations have viewed and accepted the written word over the centuries. In addition, he also presents how written communication has shaped political and religious thought through the centuries.

This book would be of interest to scholars of paper and book making. Although, this book is a history book, there are many different fields of study that would find this book to be interesting or beneficial such as science, art, technology, sociology, language, and religion. Both scholars and general interest readers would find this book appealing.

Reviewer

Robert Burgess, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Powers, J. (2106). *Parent engagement in early learning*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press. 173 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 9781605544380

Julie Powers, a University of Hawai'i associate professor of early education, presents a book that would normally be used as a textbook, but is also practical in addressing a major concern for most Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers working with parents in an ECE setting. Her purpose for this work is to develop an understanding of how to lay the foundation for a collaborative relationship with parents and explain the skills that are needed to facilitate this.

Powers intentionally targets preservice and current ECE teachers, providing processes and practical skills to assist in creating a collaborative relationship. This second edition, beyond the detailed content, provides quizzes for self-evaluation, section-specific discussion questions, and many scenarios to allow the reader to understand both the teacher and parent perspectives. The need for and process of creating collaboration is interwoven through the entire book.

The chapters detail how to create a rapport with parents, communication needs, policies, finding common values, child development issues, and inclusion of the facilities director. These sections all fit within the broad scope of creating partnerships between ECE teachers and parents. The scenarios are believable and the presentation of all points of view assist the reader in developing a better method of understanding when dealing with parents.