



Volume 59 | Issue 2

Article 63

2016

Huss's "Where's Jesus? American Christianity in crisis" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Jensen, Dale R. (2016) "Huss's "Where's Jesus? American Christianity in crisis" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59: Iss. 2, Article 63.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1148>

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series of five brief videos are available to enhance delving into the content in a group setting. The book is also useful as a standalone work to guide the reader in coming to grips with the questions that if left unaddressed can result in us wavering in our faith.

Reviewer

Lindsay Van Sicklen, Ouachita Baptist University

Huss, S. F. (2015). *Where's Jesus? American Christianity in crisis*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press. 183 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 978512714593

I am certain it is not just the denomination that I belong to that is struggling with the increasing exodus from our local churches. Across the American church landscape, people are leaving churches and younger adults in particular are shunning what traditional churches offer. If the author had developed a way to turn this acknowledgement into a solution, he would have been on the right track. That is what I had hoped this book was about, but I was disappointed.

Huss discusses the historical views of Jesus and how over the centuries Christian culture has changed. I believe that much of what the author states about how the American church developed is fairly accurate but it is certainly from his point of view. That is the place where I started struggling with this author – I do not share his point of view on several points.

The author does an admirable job of synthesizing the development of Christianity in America and towards the end of his book he does present a good list of principles that anyone who claims to be a Christian should follow: honesty, integrity, love, justice, human dignity, stewardship, toleration, and commitment.

Huss goes on to list 12 concepts that should be the Christian “perspective.” This list along with his conclusions is where I think he wanders away from some bedrock principles of Christianity. For instance, the author says that God is whoever we perceive Him to be in our hearts and minds rather than the God portrayed in Holy Scripture. The author goes on to summarize all the material he has presented in this book by stating that what Jesus began over 2000 years ago was an accident – Jesus only intended to reform Judaism. He states that Jesus makes no claim to being the supernatural Son of God – he does not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. He claims that Jesus was a product of his time, he lived and taught as a Jew and his anti-government teachings is what got him killed. Huss doesn't seem to believe in the

resurrection of Jesus, rather he chooses to only focus on the good things Jesus taught and relegates the resurrection to a story concocted by Jesus' followers.

The author takes the priority of soul salvation out of the biblical formula for reforming mankind and replaces it with the notion that "we need to focus on how to effectively address the problems of climate change, abortion, poverty, guns, economic inequality, toxic political discourse and all the other flash points of today." It isn't that these "flash points" should be on our priority list that I disagree with – it is that the author dismisses the primacy of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I do think this a book that should be read by Christians everywhere in order to understand where one will find themselves if they reject the biblical Jesus in favor of man's wisdom.

Reviewer

Dale R. Jensen, Evangel University

Davis, J., Lerner, N. (2015). *Worship together in your church as in heaven*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press. 202 pp. \$22.99. ISBN 9781426788062

Worship together in your church as in heaven is authored by Josh Davis and Nikki Lerner. Davis is the founder of Proskuneo Ministries in Clarkston, GA, which promotes unity in the Body of Christ through multilingual and multicultural worship gatherings, worship resources and worship training for leaders. Lerner serves as the worship ministry director at Bridgeway Community Church, a large multicultural congregation near Baltimore, MD. Davis and Lerner both coach, speak and teach worldwide.

Before the topic of leading a multicultural worship service is broached, the authors lay a firm foundation of developing relationships leading to a diverse worshipping community. Topics addressed are: why God desires the nations worship together, the importance of immersing in other cultures, and the attitude of the worship leader being other focused (pastor, staff & congregation). As exciting as being a multicultural worship leader can be, they are trail blazers and hence challenges abound.

Only after covering preparatory issues do the authors delve into the practicalities of multicultural worship. Topics in this section include: who/what do you have, worship is more than music, the power of language, introducing multiple languages and models of multicultural worship.