



Volume 65 | Issue 1

Article 1

4-7-2022

Leach's "Radiant church: Restoring the credibility of our witness" (book review)

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Recommended Citation

Parker, Jerry Brian (2022) "Leach's "Radiant church: Restoring the credibility of our witness" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 65: Iss. 1, Article 1.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.2332>

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Book Review



Leach, T. B. (2021). *Radiant church: Restoring the credibility of our witness*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 215 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9780830847631

In an attempt to call the Church to a place of confession and repentance for having a lack of compassion and zeal for reaching all people with the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, author Tara Beth Leach has written a book that holds back no punches. She strongly suggests that the Church has for too long blamed politics and culture for the declining number of Christians when the true problem lies within the hearts and lives of church members. Leach is a writer for Missio Alliance and publications such as *Christianity Today*, *Christian Week*, and *Jesus Creed*. Leach is also the author of *Emboldened*.

A large portion of the book is dedicated to demonstrating the depravity and short comings of those within the Church. Leach speaks often to the oppression of women and the self-righteousness of supposed godly men throughout the ages. She argues that the Church has an unfavorable reputation among the current culture due to its lack of Christlikeness. Although Leach mentions several times throughout her book that she is not attempting to write a piece to argue the equality of women and for their acceptance as pastors and church leaders, she certainly shares her beliefs on these matters often and in a very matter of fact fashion. She also accuses the white church as being racist without exception. While the author makes a lot of good points concerning specific areas where the Church has lacked in loving all people like Jesus does, they can be lost as she repeatedly returns to writing on controversial matters with a clear objective to push her beliefs and agenda on her readers.

This book could be used for promoting one's personal growth in compassion for the lost. Due to its continual discussion on controversial topics such as racism and gender equality, it may not be a fruitful choice to use in a small group as it may prove to be divisive. It is recommended and best suitable for public libraries as a Christian living or self-help work.

Reviewer

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