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Harney & Harneys' "Organic discipleship: Seven ways to grow spiritually and naturally share Jesus" (book review)

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Critical Review



Harney, K. G., and S. Harney. *Organic discipleship: Seven ways to grow spiritually and naturally share Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2021.

Kevin and Sherry Harney, a husband and wife team, wrote *Organic Discipleship: Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus*. Kevin graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Ministry from Western Theological Seminary. He is the lead pastor of Monterey, California Shoreline Community Church. Sherry received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Calvin College and a Master of Arts degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has almost two decades of experience working with church staff ministries in children's ministry and staff leadership. Furthermore, the couple co-founded Organic Outreach International and co-authored three books.

The writers create this much-needed book for people seeking salvation and desiring guidance in various areas of discipleship. The intended audience is Christians, pastors, discipleship leaders, new converts, and anyone else interested in learning how to grow closer to Christ and become followers of Him. The purpose is to assist followers of Jesus in attaining spiritual maturity by using seven significant spiritual maturity growth markers. When executed effectively, the writers think they ultimately equip individuals to become Christ's followers and leaders (7). The authors also discuss the apparent division between discipleship and evangelism throughout the church community. They believe that the two entwine in God's heart, similar to how marriage is intertwined (8).

The book includes twenty-four chapters that feature spiritual counsel, real-world challenges, and testimonies relevant to contemporary issues. The dialogue is plain, easy-to-understand Christian writing, making it simple to read and comprehend the author's points throughout the book. The authors do a fantastic job of humanizing and stimulating the reading by offering direction and encouragement on the importance of prayer, biblical involvement, and connection development. They cleverly enlist five Christian teams to participate considerably in creating this book, each with various experiences and skills offering diverse global stories, enriching and authenticating the work reassuring readers that miracles still occur. The message also enables readers to see the actual life of the risen Christ and His steadfast love for God's people, as well as the significance of accepting His gift of salvation.

The thesis statement, “But you will see a growing love for God, an increasing engagement in practices that connect your heart to Jesus, and an ever-deepening partnership with the Holy Spirit to bring the gospel to a lost and broken world,” is clear and well supported. It speaks to the author’s stance regarding spiritual growth, the significance of joint efforts in discipleship and evangelism, and the inability to ensure that development is measurable and continuous. It references Scripture throughout the book. The book achieves its purpose by providing a biblical plan that allows people to enhance their discipleship by implementing seven major growth indicators for spiritual maturity, ultimately leading to the spiritual maturity required for a successful walk with Jesus.

In contrast to Rhyne Putman, author of *The Method of Christian Theology: A Basic Introduction*, the authors advise all Christians to concentrate on the self-disclosure of God to grow spiritually in Christ and make disciples. Though the intent of both authors remains the same regardless of the methodology used. With Putnam, the approach is primarily theological, yet he shares the same aim of expanding the kingdom of God. He believes that theological endeavor should bear fruit in the form of honest and trustworthy teachings derived from Scripture and applied to the spiritual growth of the people of God in knowledge, spiritual maturity, and obedience. Ultimately, both authors aspire for expansion to the kingdom of God.

This book is a must-read for anybody seeking to be an effective and successful follower and leader of Jesus Christ. The author makes an essential and positive contribution to the subject of study, ultimately culminating in expanding the kingdom of God as people learn how to become disciples and disciple others. The most vital point in the book is when they walk followers through seven markers of spiritual maturity, demonstrating how modest alterations to their daily routine produce a biblical strategy necessary for success as a disciple who invests in discipling others. Then, they reach back to pull other people up and lead them to Jesus. Reading this book reminds its readers that following Jesus is not magical. Prayer and biblical engagement are a continual part of individual lives as reborn Christians. The authors do an excellent job discussing the issues and challenges that one inherits when following Jesus.

A shortcoming of the book is the absence of discussion of next-generation members and the significance of spiritual maturity strategies for these specific new converts. The generations of today are distinctive, with ideas that differ from what society expects typically, and they may benefit from novels that inspire them to read this genre favorably. Exposing them to these types of works also introduce them to the Gospel and the person of Jesus.

The authors accomplish their objective by conveying the importance of spiritual maturity to regular people and introducing them to a biblical strategy. In addition, they demonstrate their dedication to spiritual progress by providing online training tools that enable continual spiritual maturity growth. Their digital library features seminars, training events, video conferencing, and collaborative coaching. Their points of contact are www.OrganicOutreach.org or info@OrganicOutreach.org. The authors fully meet the objective of the book. I highly recommend this book to anyone desiring to follow Jesus.

Reviewer

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