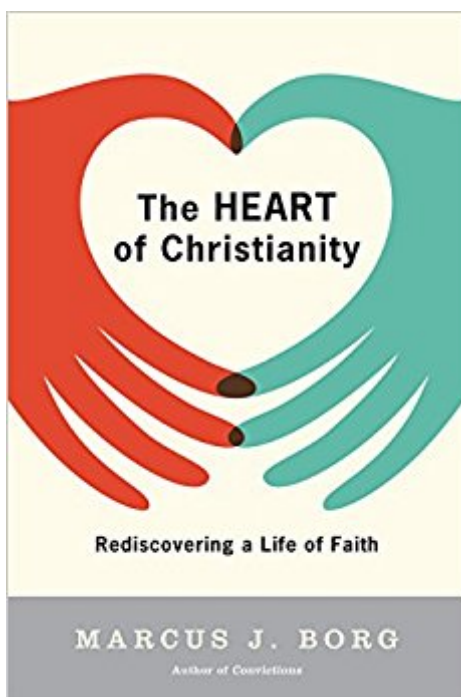


The book was found

The Heart Of Christianity: Rediscovering A Life Of Faith



Synopsis

In *The Heart of Christianity*, world-renowned Jesus scholar and author of the bestseller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* argues that the essential ingredients of a Christian life—faith, being born again, the kingdom of God, the gospel of love—are as vitally important today as they have always been, even during this time of conflict and change in the church. Borg wants to show us, as today's thinking Christians, how to discover a life of faith by reconceptualizing familiar beliefs. Being born again, for example, has nothing to do with fundamentalism, but is a call to radical personal transformation. Talking about the kingdom of God does not mean that you are fighting against secularism, but that you have committed your life to the divine values of justice and love. And living the true Christian way is essentially about opening one's heart to God, and to others. Above all else, Borg believes with passion and conviction that living the Christian life still makes sense.

Book Information

Paperback: 234 pages

Publisher: HarperOne; Reprint edition (July 21, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060730684

ISBN-13: 978-0060730680

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (231 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #44,446 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Ritual #403 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Personal Growth #595 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion

Customer Reviews

I just finished reading Marcus Borg's new book "The Heart of Christianity" and it's the best book on contemporary Christianity that I've read in a long while. Borg talks about the "earlier paradigm" of Christianity and an "emerging paradigm". He discusses the history of the "earlier paradigm" and provides useful insights such as the rather recent notions of Biblical infallibility (post-Enlightenment) and Papal infallibility (1870) which many may assume have ALWAYS been a big part of the Christian tradition. Borg makes quite clear early on in the book that the "earlier paradigm" can and does WORK, insofar as bringing people into fuller communion with God and can certainly produce

lives which work for compassion and justice. However, for various reasons (institutional, scientific, and cultural - for example), many in the modern Western world find the "earlier paradigm" to be unconvincing and "unbelievable". Borg attempts to show throughout the book how much more deep and wonderful the Christian tradition is than merely "believing" certain doctrines or defending the literalness of certain events (creation, the flood, the Exodus, walking on water etc...) in order to "prove" the strength of our faith. Did the Exodus really happen? Maybe not. Is it a true story of the human need for liberation from bondage - certainly. Confusing "did it really happen - could I have videotaped it?" with "Is that story true?" is a big issue. Borg argues that we diminish our faith stories by making them merely literal. He pushes for the "more-than-literal" meanings in the Christian scripture.

Evangelicals beware --- this is the same Marcus Borg of the Jesus Seminar, the one who has categorically stated that he does not believe that Christianity is the only path of salvation, that the Bible is the Word of God, that Jesus experienced a bodily resurrection, or that Jesus is, in fact, the Son of God. So why review this book? Why give him any cyber ink at all? There are any number of reasons why evangelicals need to be aware of what Borg believes and what he has written, not the least of which is his tremendous influence on non-evangelicals, particularly those who have left mainstream denominations but still long for a way to express what faith they have left. Borg offers them a way of returning to the church that does not require them to adhere to a rigid set of beliefs that they have long considered suspect. And he's very good at what he does and how he does it; his books always sell well, and he is constantly in demand as a speaker. He has a knack for welcoming people "home" --- to mainline churches --- in a warm and compassionate way. In *THE HEART OF CHRISTIANITY*, Borg lays down a welcome mat that has already proven attractive to those who have been disenchanted with what they perceive as an anti-intellectual faith. His welcome mat encourages people to give Christianity another chance because the times have changed, and from those changes a new, inclusive paradigm has emerged. Christianity, he holds, is no longer about a belief in a set of doctrines but about "loving God and loving what God loves." That said, Borg never demeans those who do hold to a strong doctrinal stance and a literal interpretation of the Bible, much of which he considers to be metaphorical.

I've read several of Prof. Borg's books, and all of them are excellent. In his latest book, *The Heart of Christianity*, Borg summarizes a lifetime of reflection on the Christian faith. Borg claims that the "traditional paradigm" is losing its power over people. Here traditional paradigm refers to a

Christianity where God is a being out there with a will and who has all the power in the world and who sent Jesus into the world to die for our sins--literally. Christianity is the only true religion, and if we don't get ourselves to believe in doctrines about God and Jesus (and perhaps eschatology) then we're in big trouble when Jesus returns to earth. While the TP is still nourishing for many in the church, others find it harder and harder to accept; they just can't believe that the Bible is a biography of God, of Jesus, and of the end times. There are several reasons, the biggest one being that contemporary Biblical criticism gives us a different picture of the origin of the Bible; instead of the Bible being God's words about humans, it's the words of humans about God. This doesn't mean that the Bible is false and doesn't contain anything divine; it just means that humans had a lot of say about what's in the Bible. Borg endorses the "emerging paradigm". Here there's no emphasis on giving intellectual assent to a body of doctrines or creeds in order to be saved, that is, go to heaven. For Borg, this isn't the heart of Christianity. Rather, Christian faith deals primarily with *this* life, and it's a life that emphasizes a *relationship* with God, the key elements being trust in God to provide for all our needs, as well as loving what God loves--in other words, compassion and justice.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith Heart Disease: Heart Disease Prevention And Reversal Guide To Prevent Heart Disease And Reverse Heart Disease With Heart Disease Prevention Strategies And Heart Disease Diet Advice In God's Image: The Metaculture of Fijian Christianity (The Anthropology of Christianity) The Story of Christianity, Volume 1: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation (Story of Christianity) Heart Health: Heart Healthy Cookbook: 30 Quick & Easy, Heart Healthy Greek Recipes For Smart Heart Health (cooking, weight loss, weight maintenance) (cooking, ... weight maintenance, weight watchers Book 1) The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity (Case for ... Series) Holy Sh!t - The Insanity of Blind Faith: Volume One: Christianity Promises Fulfilled: Christianity, Islam, and the Bahai Faith How I Changed My Mind About Evolution: Evangelicals Reflect on Faith and Science (BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity) North Node Astrology: Rediscovering Your Life Direction and Soul Purpose The Cardiac Recovery Cookbook: Heart Healthy Recipes for Life After Heart Attack or Heart Surgery Declutter: Rediscovering your home. Declutter at once.: Getting the Maximum Use of Every Room. The First Grace: Rediscovering the Natural Law in a Post-Christian World Rediscovering the Natural Law in Reformed Theological Ethics (Emory University Studies in Law and Religion) Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail (Official Guides to the Appalachian Trail) America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made

This Nation Great King, Warrior, Magician, Lover: Rediscovering the Archetypes of the Mature
Masculine The Great Cosmic Mother: Rediscovering the Religion of the Earth The Politics of Jesus:
Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been
Corrupted

[Dmca](#)