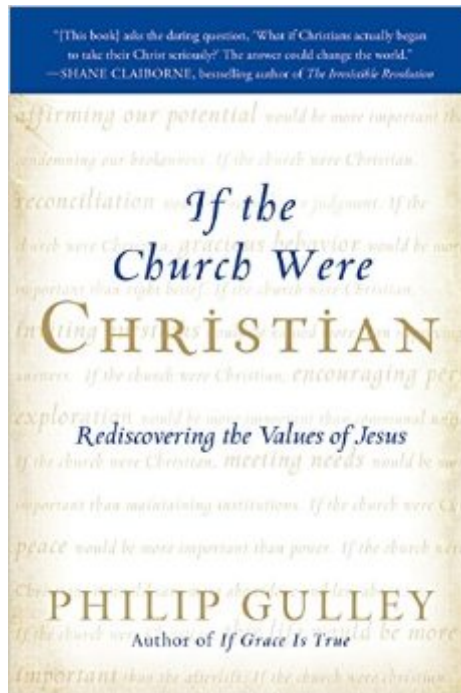


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# If The Church Were Christian: Rediscovering The Values Of Jesus



## Synopsis

The largest group in American religious life may be the disillusionedâ "people who have been involved in the church, respect Jesus, but question what Christianity has become. In *If the Church Were Christian* Philip Gulley provides a profound picture of what the church could look like if it refocused on the priorities of Jesus.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I stumbled upon the author and this book when a Quaker acquaintance recently mentioned the author was coming to our area to speak about his latest work. Intrigued, I attended one session by the author, acquired this book and then set about selecting several chapters to devour prior to hearing him a second time the next evening. Here are the chapter headings in this work: If the Church were Christian... 1) Jesus would be a model for living rather than an object of worship 2) Affirming our potential would be more important than condemning our brokenness 3) Reconciliation would be valued over judgment 4) Gracious behavior would be more important than right belief 5) Inviting questions would be valued more than supplying answers 6) Encouraging personal exploration would be more important than communal uniformity 7) Meeting needs would be more important than maintaining institutions 8) Peace would be more important than power 9) It would care more about love and less about sex 10) This life would be more important than the afterlife Following the conclusion is an outline of three discussion questions for each chapter and an invitation to the

reader to suggest other aspects of the church that may need to change in recovering the ethic of Jesus. I was stunned and surprised by Gulley's honesty and forthrightness in presenting his material as he carefully laid bare certain of the church's pervasive shortcomings. In the sixth chapter, for instance, Gulley alluded to the tendency of some churches to replicate their theological DNA, thereby promoting and securing a type of spiritual inbreeding that can lock out a given congregation from healthy growth in faith (page 108).

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