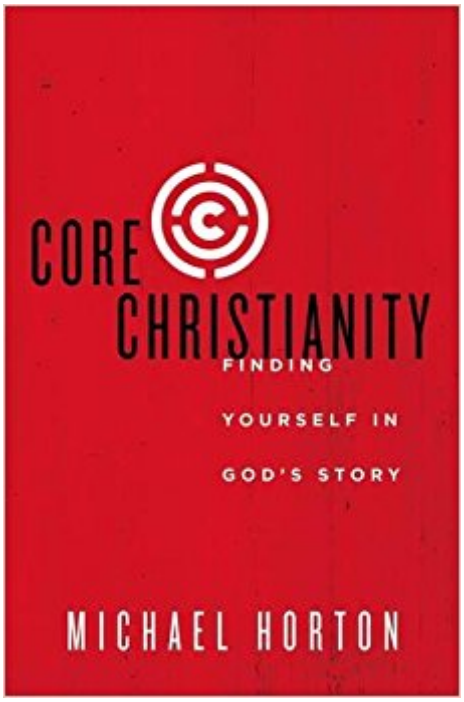
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Core Christianity: Finding Yourself In God's Story



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Synopsis

What Do All Christians Believe?For many people, words like doctrine and theology cause their eyes to glaze over, or they find them difficult to understand and struggle to see how they are relevant to daily life. But theology is far from boring; it is the study of God and should lead to awe and wonder as we better understand who God is and what he has done for us.In Core Christianity, author, pastor, and theologian Mike Horton tackles the essential and basic beliefs that all Christians share. What is core to the Christian faith? In addition to unpacking these beliefs in a way that is easy to understand, Horton shows why they matter to our lives today.This introduction to the basic doctrines of Christianity is a helpful guide by a respected theologian and a popular author, and it includes discussion questions for individual or group use. Core Christianity is perfect for those who are new to the faith, as well as those who have an interest in deepening in their understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

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Customer Reviews

When I was in college, I needed an introduction to what Christians believe about redemption---not what my own denomination believed but what all Christians have always believed. A favorite professor told me to read John StottÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Basic Christianity, and that book was a gift of God for me. I still have my underlined copy. In Core Christianity you have a similar book, one fit for a new generation the way StottÃ¢â ¬â„¢s was for his generation. Here you will find what Christians believe about what most matters about the most important topics. You might need an extra copy to give to those who, like me many years ago, need an introduction to core Christianity. -- Scot

McKnight, Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament, Northern SeminaryI read straight through this solid book on the central truths of the Christian faith and was impressed. But when I searched the text for some of the standard technical terms of theology, I found that Horton had managed to deliver the whole message in simple, nontechnical language. Then I was doubly impressed. This is a very useful little book. -- Fred Sanders, Professor, Torrey Honors Institute, Biola UniversityHere we meet a skilled master seeking to train the novice. Taking rich theological concepts and explaining them in a way that is both beautiful and practical, HortonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book proves genuinely inviting to the newcomer. Learn from a master who is not afraid to put things simply and clearly. -- Kelly Kapic, Professor of Theological Studies, Covenant College

Michael Horton (PhD, DD) is Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics at Westminster Seminary California. Author of many books, includingÃ Â The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way,Ã Â he also hosts the White Horse Inn radio program. He lives with his wife, Lisa, and four children in Escondido, California. Ã Â

Michael HortonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s newest book, "Core Christianity," is not exactly a systematic theology. Neither is it exclusively a biblical theology or a book on practical theology. HortonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s "Core Christianity" is all three put together in around 170 pages. Horton said he wrote this book with the purpose of helping Christians understand the reason for their hope so they will be able to talk to others about that hope (p. 14). There are twelve chapters in this book, including an intro and conclusion. (As a side, thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s another Christian book with the same title written by Elmer Towns. I havenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t read that one so I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t comment on any overlap!)In HortonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s terms, the main themes of the book can be summarized in four themes: a) the drama of redemption, b) the doctrine of Scripture, c) doxology (praise/worship), and d) discipleship. The chapters unfold like this:1) Jesus is God, 2) God is Three Persons, 3) God is Great and Good, 4) God Speaks, 5) God Made the World but WeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve Made a Mess of It, 6) God Made a Promise, 7) Joy to the World [the incarnation], 8) Jesus is Lord, 9) What Are We Waiting For? [eschatology], and 10) In the Meantime: Callings [vocation].As you can see from the table of contents, the main topics of theology are discussed in this book (God, Creation, Salvation, Eschatology, etc.). Horton also emphasizes the covenants and redemptive historical ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Christ centered ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ aspect of Scripture.I appreciate how Horton constantly kept the focus on God and his Word. I also enjoyed the way Horton wove in solid theological truths, such as the Trinity, GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s

attributes, the two natures of Christ, and so forth. (As one minor critique on editing, the font in the sidebars is unpleasant on the eyes and not easy to read. Perhaps itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s better in the Kindle version.)"Core Christianity" might be considered the smallest version of Horton's larger theology books "The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way" and "Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples" This is not a critique, but an observation: Core Christianity is a few of HortonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s other books simplified and put into one. There isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t really any new material in this book. So if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read other books by Horton, you might not need this one.However, if you want a shorter yet detailed summary of Christian theology from a Reformed perspective, this one is a good one to get. I probably wouldn't give this book to a new Christian who's not a reader, since it is rather detailed. However, for those who are readers and OK with a bit more detail, this is a good intro type book. As with HortonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s other similar books, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s focus is not on man and what we do, but on God and what he has done for us in Christ! ThatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the good news!

This was a short, but excellent overview of the Christian faith. It's almost like a very condensed mix between systematic and biblical theology, but yet very truthful and engaging. I was tempted to give this a 4-star rating, but the author definitely nailed the last two chapters. I always enjoy when a book ends stronger than what I was expecting it to throughout the middle. You can definitely tell Horton has written a few books before this. Not only is it great content, obviously, but I was quite impressed with how he managed to fit this book, with such a large scope, into less than 200 pages but yet still maintain adequate detail to the points he was making. Overall, I highly recommend this book. Awesome read!

Exactly what I thought it would be. Excellent brief, brief, brief summary of key Christian beliefs. Suitable for grade 6ers which means most of the adults at our church could do this. That is what I was looking for.

Not quite finished, but am finding it to be an excellent book. Michael Horton's has the ability to make quite complex Bible truths easy to understand.I have read several of Dr. Horton's books and articles, and look forward to more.

Great book great subject. I learned a lot.

Great overview of the Christian faith. Horton does an excellent job of helping us to understand Biblical theology through his 4D's approach: Drama, Doctrine, Doxology, and Discipleship. I have appreciated this approach for a long time and have used it in teaching many times. I like that he has taken it and applied it to a more popular level book so that more people can experience it.

Online purchase is easy and just what I needed. I got the Kindle version and it is precise and easy to use. Very good product at a good price

Michael Horton remains faithful to the Gospel in this well-written well laid out piece of work. So encouraged by his commitment to and love for the Gospel!

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