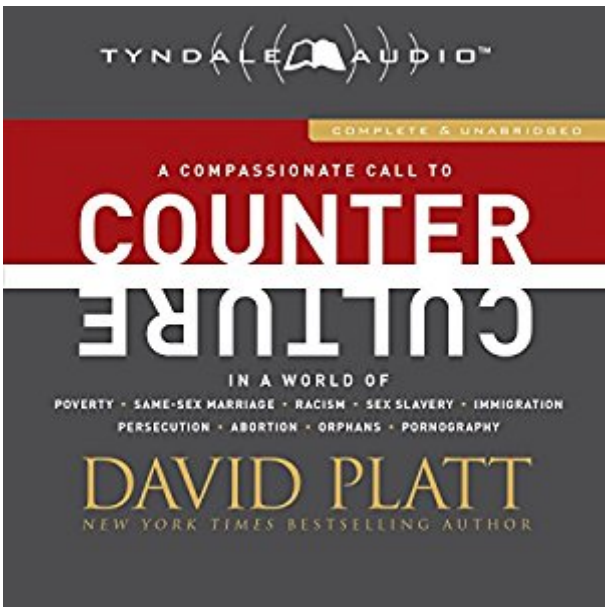
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Counter Culture: A Compassionate Call To Counter Culture In A World Of Poverty, Same-Sex Marriage, Racism, Sex Slavery, Immigration, Abortion, Persecution, Orphans And Pornography



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Synopsis

Welcome to the front lines. Everywhere we turn, battle lines are being drawn - traditional marriage vs. gay marriage, pro-life vs. pro-choice, personal freedom vs. governmental protection. Seemingly overnight, culture has shifted to the point where right and wrong are no longer measured by universal truth but by popular opinion. And as difficult conversations about homosexuality, abortion, and religious liberty continue to inject themselves into our workplaces, our churches, our schools, and our homes, Christians everywhere are asking the same question: How are we supposed to respond to all this? In Counter Culture, New York Times best-selling author David Platt shows Christians how to actively take a stand on such issues as poverty, sex trafficking, marriage, abortion, racism, and religious liberty - and challenges us to become passionate, unwavering voices for Christ. Drawing on compelling personal accounts from around the world, Platt presents an unapologetic yet winsome call for Christians to faithfully follow Christ into the cultural battlefield in ways that will prove both costly and rewarding. The lines have been drawn. The moment has come for Christians to rise up and deliver a gospel message that’s more radical than even the most controversial issues of our day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Platt’s new book shows all the signs of being the latest in a long line of Evangelical Jeremiads lamenting the fall of Western civilization. It’s not. Instead, it is a plea for Christians to live counter-culturally, and, in so doing, to love our neighbors.In the introduction, Platt asks, "What if Christ in us actually compels us to counter our culture? Not to quietly sit and watch evolving cultural

trends . . . but to courageously share and show our conviction through what we say and how we live, even (or especially) when these convictions contradict the popular positions of our day" (p. xiv). Platt is concerned with what he calls "selective social injustice" (p. xv). There is, he says, a hypocritical kind of political correctness in Evangelicalism causing us to counter the culture only on select issues while ignoring grave sins and injustice in other areas (pp. xiii-xv, 18).The issues which Platt adresses cut across party lines. He takes on poverty (ch. 2), human trafficking (ch. 5), and race relations (ch. 8), but he also addresses abortion (ch. 3), marriage (ch. 6), sexual morality (ch. 7), and religious liberty (ch. 9). No matter which side of the political fence the reader falls on, he will most likely agree with Platt at times and disagree at others. Though I could probably raise a few minor objections here and there, I think that, overall, Platt does an admirable job of applying sound, biblical thinking to each issue he addresses. Each chapter ends with a few suggestions to help the reader counter the culture through prayer, participation, and proclamation.This book made me uncomfortable at times. That’s not a criticism. It resulted in some prayerful self-examination, which is, I think, exactly what Platt intended.I do, however, have some concerns. First, I think this book could potentially lead to mission drift within the church. There is a tendency in Evangelicalism to confuse the good works that individual believers do in order to love our neighbors (the primary concern of this book) with the much narrower mission of evangelism and discipleship that belongs to the church as a whole (Matthew 28:18-20). Platt does, however, attempt to alleviate this concern in his final chapter by reminding his readers of the importance of gospel proclamation (pp. 244-247).Another concern is a subtle shift that takes place within the book. In chapter 1, Platt says, "The gospel . . . provides the foundation for countering culture. For when we truly believe the gospel, we begin to realize that the gospel . . . creates confrontation with the culture around--and within--us" (p. 1). However, by the final chapter, the focus has shifted from countering culture to changing or transforming the culture (pp. 245, 253). To put it bluntly, nowhere in Scripture is the church called to change the culture. Instead, we are called to be a faithful presence in a fallen world (Matthew 5:13-16). Cultural transformation, when it does take place, is a byproduct of the church’s work rather than the focus of the church’s work. Though Platt affirms this truth as well (pp. 245-246), the overall tone of the book is a bit too triumphalistic. Yes, we should hope, pray, and work to see greater obedience to God at every level of society, but we must also realize that, regardless of how faithful we are to our mission, we are not guaranteed to see any kind of grand, societal transformation this side of Christ’s return (contra postmillennialism). Again, Platt makes all the proper concessions and qualifications (pp. 244-246, 253), it’s just that the overall thrust of the book seems to be going in a transformationalist direction. While this detracted from my overall

appreciation of the book, others who differ with me on the relationship between Christianity and culture may view it more favorably.Counter Culture is not new territory for David Platt. Much like his earlier book, Radical, Counter Culture is an attempt to afflict the comfortable in order to spur us on to action. Also like his earlier book, Platt's newest is not perfect. It is, however, a much better book than its predecessor, and I hope that it enjoys similar levels of success. Recommended.I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and unbiased review.

Counter Culture is an AMAZING read!!! I'm one of the crazy people who believes that the gospel of Christ Jesus is the answer for all of our problems. Corrupt politicians, homosexuality/gay marriage, slavery, fortification, sex trafficking, pornography, prostitution, abortion, racism, systematic oppression, exploitation of the disadvantaged, and other ills are all sin issues. Without Christ and the Holy Spirit, everyone is a slave of sin. Our world issues, in which the common denominator is sin, will not be solved without Christ. I recommend this book for every follower of Jesus. You will not be disappointed.

An informed and passionate challenge! Platt looks at the yawning gap between the call and practice of the church. He does so in a challenging but grace-filled and winsome way. I was moved to acknowledge my own failings and to trust God for the grace to represent Him more fully in the world.

Wow. David Platt has done a wonderful job laying out what it means to live a Christ like life in todays society. Living counter culturally means that we do not conform to the norms of the culture that we are living in, and Platt puts this into a perspective that really hits home. He uses illustrations from his own life and his own experiences to help portray the need for us to stand up for right in a world that is full of so much negativity and neglect. Please take the time to read this book.

This is an incredible book that opens your eyes to the truth in the Gospel and the world around us. This book challenges is to not stand by idly and watch as many so called christians condone the actions of the world, while proclaiming they love Christ. It pulls at your heart strings and might even push you over the edge if God's been speaking to you about something...get ready to change your life and obey. This is an amazing book!

Excellent! Christianity is not about us. It all about God! Most so - called Christians live very safe and uninterrupted lives, never really being inconvenienced or going out of their way in proclaiming the

Gospel. They go to church on Sunday and think that's all they need to do. Yes, Jesus loves you and He's your personal savior and all that good stuff, but its more. Its about caring about what and who Jesus cared about. Platt talk about many social themes and what we should be doing as Christians.This book is a must read and will make you look at the Gospel, and your role as a Christian, in a whole new light.

Lately it seems that most Christian books are geared toward guilt, of making you feel that you aren't doing enough, that you aren't living as SuperChristian and that you should give away all that you have to live among the poor in a third-world country. This is not that book.Will you feel guilty? Absolutely you will. However, that guilt stems from the conviction that so many things that a Christian can do are right outside our door and not thousands of miles away. In this book, Platt calls on all of us as Christians to see how to live counter to what the culture wants but in line with what Christ compels of us. He does a great job of navigating the potentially murky political waters for some of these topics to drill down into the heart of them. A great read, and not one to skim through. Take your time and really let the topics sink in to get the most out of it.

David Platt hits another home run with this awesome book that challenges and opens up the heart to facing the depravity of the world with a compassionate view and burden like Christ has.

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