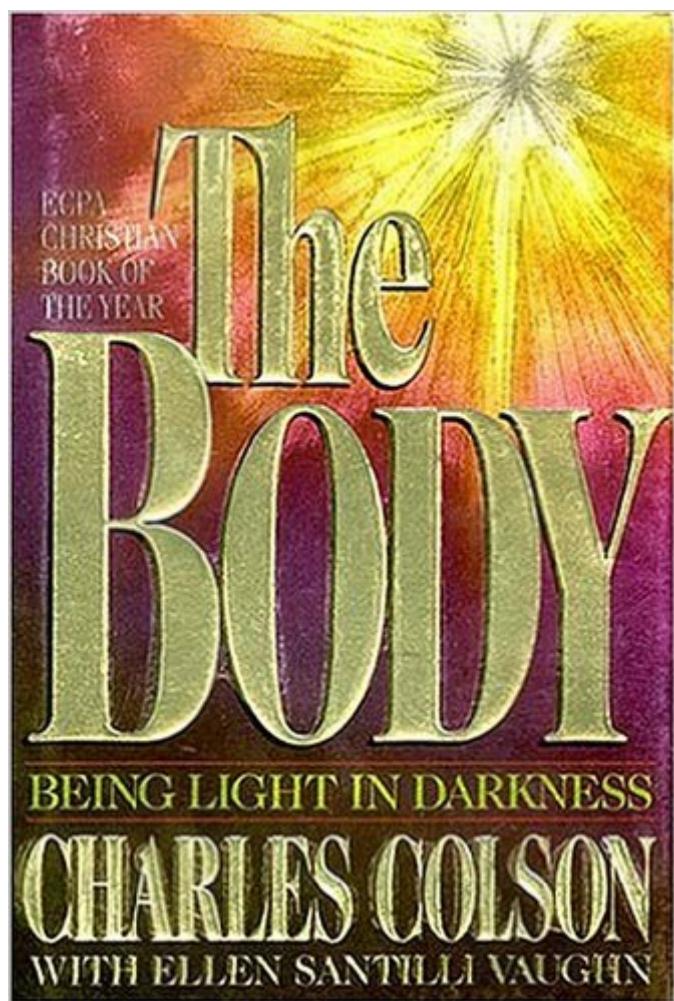


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The Body: Being Light In Darkness



Synopsis

In this 1993 ECPA Book of the Year, Colson sounds a clarion call for the church to rise above traditional divisions and market-driven programs to be what God has called her to be-His people. In doing so, the Body of Christ can reclaim God's holy vision for His church. Truly a modern-day classic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book based on a recommendation and am really glad that I did. In this book, Chuck Colson takes a very detailed look at the Christian Church (The Body). He discusses its history, purpose, and current state. Based on a lot of research and interviews, the authors gave me a lot to think about and really opened my eyes to what the Christian Church is all about. Overall, I was particularly impressed with three points that the author discusses: unity (tolerance) within the Body of Christ, active faith, and regular church attendance. First, I think that Chuck Colson "calls it like it is" when he describes the petty arguments that have divided Christianity for years. It is a shame that many who call Jesus Lord, cannot get along with other denominations. While we squabble over doctrine, more people become lost, and miss the greatest gift that God has to offer. The book calls for unity is well founded and supported. Secondly, Mr. Colson challenges today's church and its members to display the kind of active faith that marked Jesus during his time on earth and the early church. I totally agree with him that if the Church is to fulfill its purpose, Christians need to "get plugged in". Make a difference and bring light into the darkness that surrounds us everyday. This

call to action really challenged me to rethink my role in society as a Christian, and how I can help further God's kingdom. Thirdly, this book gives the best explanation of why regular church attendance is required that I have read. The authors point out that the Church is God's chosen instrument to spread his Gospel, save the lost, and further His Kingdom. As stated in the book "Christianity is about more than just you and your relationship with God".

I've read most of Chuck Colson's books, often recommend them to students, and I consider *The Body: Being Light in Darkness*, with Ellen Santilla Vaughn (Dallas: Word Publishing, c. 1992), one of his best. He's concerned not with specific Christian churches but with the Church of Jesus Christ, and he demands that the Church be the Church! So he divides this treatise into three sections: 1) What is the Church?; 2) The Church versus the World; 3) The Church in the World. The Church in America faces an "identity crisis," Colson thinks. Though nearly half the people in this nation "attend" church services, few of them seem deeply transformed in the process. "The hard truth is," he says, "that we have substituted an institutionalized religion for the life-changing dynamic of a living faith" (p. 31). At the heart of the problem lies the understandable desire to "succeed," to amass impressive statistics, to count in a calculating culture. In the midst of such endeavors, the Gospel slips away. For example, the fastest growing church in the world today is found in Japan. It's called the "Perfect Liberty Church," which declares: "we are all children of God who find The Way to eternal peace and welfare by freely exercising our individuality" (p. 39). Now that's the kind of a church lots of us could get into! If only we could believe it's true! You do your thing and I'll do my thing and we'll all move happily heavenward! In our "narcissistic," consumer culture, churches easily swell their crowds by appealing to "felt needs" (the desire to be happy) of individuals. Standing as a symbol for this, Denver's Full Gospel Chapel recently changed its name to the "Happy Church," a strategy which needs no other defense than the fact that it "draws people," the pastor says.

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