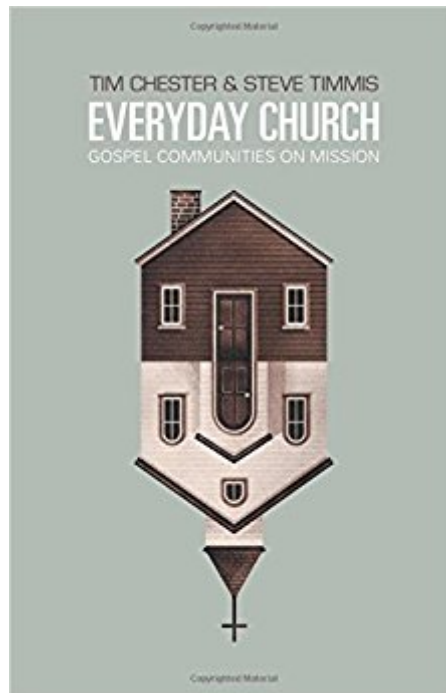




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Everyday Church: Gospel Communities On Mission



Synopsis

HOW DOES THE CHURCH REACH THE UNCHURCHED? We live in an increasingly post-Christian culture. More and more we find ourselves on the margins as less and less people have any intention of ever attending church. What used to work doesn't work anymore and we need to adapt. Helping us to see the way forward, this book offers practical ideas and personal stories for engaging with Western society. Find out how to effectively reach people in the context of everyday life and take hold of the opportunity to develop missional communities focused on Jesus.

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Customer Reviews

"Another book by Chester and Timmis that is full of biblical insight and much practical wisdom for daily, street-level ministry in our Western culture today."—Timothy J. Keller, Pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City; best-selling author, *The Reason for God*
"I was deeply convicted and excited after reading *Total Church*, so it was great to see the principles of that book further developed in *Everyday Church*. Because these principles are so clearly biblical, they are therefore not optional—which means we must all find ways to live out these truths if the church is to be the radiant bride she was meant to be. I look forward to the new joy that believers will experience as they pursue church as described in this book."—Francis Chan, New York Times best-selling author, *Crazy Love* and *Forgotten God*
Chester and Timmis have once again challenged us to think differently and diligently

about gospel-centered community and gospel-centered mission, and in so doing have given us in *Everyday Church* some answers of how to engage the growing chasm between the church and world with faithfulness to the Gospel.”

•Matt Chandler, Lead pastor, The Village Church, Dallas, Texas; president, Acts 29 Church Planting Network; author, *The Mingling of Souls* and *The Explicit Gospel*

“There are few whom God uses to rattle my bones about true gospel focus, few who can help me to organize and declutter the simple and sacrificial applications of the cross like Tim Chester and Steve Timmis. God has raised them up to help us to see the work of the church through a lens of soul conformity. God uses them to give us clear sight of why the church exists and what our gospel-empowered focus should resemble. Any church of any size and any location can hit the ground running with the biblically rich and accessible truths that resound from *Everyday Church*.”

•Eric M. Mason, Lead Pastor, Epiphany Fellowship, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; President, *Thriving*; author, *Manhood Restored*

“Chester and Timmis remind us that Christianity is no longer at the epicenter of Western culture; it has drifted to the margins. As sobering as this reality is, I found myself inspired and hopeful while reading *Everyday Church*. After all, Christianity began on the margins yet became a juggernaut that changed its world. If you’re tired of the same old, same old when it comes to church, and you long for something that pierces and transforms culture, then *Everyday Church* is for you.”

•Bryan Loritts, Pastor for Preaching and Mission, Trinity Grace Church, New York City; Founder and President, The Kainos Movement; Editor, *Letters to a Birmingham Jail*

Tim Chester (PhD, University of Wales) is a pastor of Grace Church, Boroughbridge, and curriculum director of the Acts 29-Oak Hill Academy, which provides integrated theological and missional training for church leaders. He is the coauthor of *Total Church* and is the author of over thirty books, including *You Can Change*, *A Meal with Jesus*, and *Good News to the Poor*.

Steve Timmis (MA, University of Sheffield) is the executive director of Acts 29 and lead pastor at the Crowded House in Sheffield, United Kingdom. He is the author or coauthor of several books. Steve and his wife, Janet, have four adult children and multiple grandchildren.

Is our mission the Gospel or is the Gospel our mission? No matter how one asks it, this question must be answered in our church today. *Everyday Church* opens up our hearts and minds to better understand the truth to that question. I now look at Sunday gatherings in a new way. Are we just playing Church or are we truly living out the Gospel? The answers to these questions are

paramount if we truly want to seek God's Glory. Everyday Church challenges us to rethink how we do "church" and inspires us to live our lives in a manner worthy of the calling.

Every Day Church is a practical and challenging call to live out the Gospel in Community. Chester and Timmis use the book of 1 Peter as their plot line for this book. The Chapters include; Life at the Margins (1:1-12), Everyday Community (1:13-2:8), Everyday Pastoral Care (1:22-2:3), Everyday Mission (2:9-3:16), Everyday Evangelism (3:15-16), Hope at the Margins (3:8-5:14). Chester & Timmis argue that 21st century Christianity is similar to 1st century Christianity in that we are at odds with the prevailing culture, we are strangers to the ways of the world and if we really live out the high calling of Jesus we will most likely face questions as to what we are doing (and why?) as well as persecution. As the authors argue, we cannot be content with programs, buildings and a "build it and they will come" attitude. More and more Americans are growing up with no biblical literacy and no understanding of the Jesus of the Bible. We must go out to them and meet them where they are. Living the Gospel for Chester and Timmis seems to boil down to properly understanding the Gospel and its implications for everyday living and the uber important concept of Christian community. While this book may be considered part of the missional church/church planting spectrum I would argue that Chester and Timmis go beyond that. Yes, they give biblical understanding to those ideas but they do so much more and that is why I heartily recommend the book. As I was reading last night, I realized this is a commentary on 1 Peter (I need to re-file where it is in my library!). However, by about half to three quarters of the way through the book I had to stop again and say - wait this is Biblical Counseling. Yes the book is a top read because it combines exegesis, commentary and application of 1 Peter with real Biblical Counseling in addition to being a manual on community, discipleship and church planting. The Chapter "Everyday Pastoral Care" is worth the price of the book (as are several other chapters!). In this chapter five principles of community-based, gospel-centered, mutual pastoral care are explained. 1. We pastor one another in everyday life 2. We pastor one another in community 3. We pastor one another over a lifetime 4. We pastor one another with grace 5. We pastor one another with good news The beauty of this chapter is the challenge, not to dispense with 'the Pastor' but to realize that we are all called to 'pastor' each other, to be a regular part of each others lives - challenging and equipping one another in love (deep love). Additionally, four liberating truths are presented (these alone are food for life). Because we tend to regularly exchange the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:24-25) we must be constantly reminded that; 1. God is great, so we do not have to be in control. 2. God is glorious, so we do not have to fear others. 3. God is good, so we do not have to look elsewhere. 4. God is gracious, so we

do not have to prove ourselves. The following indicators of our tendency to violate these principles are outlined in a separate blog post.[...]The Chapter on Everyday Mission challenges us to get out into the world and interact with our neighbors and make new relationships. Go for a walk and talk to someone, invite people over for dinner (not just your Christian friends). Ten questions are provided to help us evaluate ourselves in this area. The Chapter Everyday Evangelism provides a very helpful and much needed method of re-thinking our approach to bringing people to Christ. For people who have no understanding of the degree to which they are separated from God, but do recognize the struggles in life, Chester and Timmis provide a framework based on Creation (My Identity), Fall (My problem), Redemption (My solution), Consumation (My hope) in which they provide examples to re-orient our thinking to better understand what is really going on under the surface of peoples lives (and our own) as we cry out in frustration, usually demonstrating false views of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Consumation. This paradigm is then connected with the Liberating Truths prevented early, demonstrating the wholeness and Gospel contentedness of this approach and the book in general. If we want to see a movement of God in America in the 21st century then we must get back to basics - genuine understanding of the Gospel and its implications for how we live life, daily community where we help each other grow in Christ, public not private demonstrations of Christianity, all driven by a deep love - first for Christ and then for others. Great book! Read it and then Practice it!

In short, this book is excellent, buy it and read it. Gospel Communities are defined as "a group of people with a shared life and a shared mission." It offers practical insight as it walks you through the book of 1 Peter. The insights are not theories as the authors actually live this out in their church community. It is also a call for Christians to live with everyday Gospel intentionality. Contents Include: Intro 1) Life at the Margins 2) Everyday Community 3) Everyday Pastoral Care 4) Everyday Mission 5) Everyday Evangelism 6) Hope at the Margins Conclusion: Next Steps The book isn't very long, is an easy read and well worth the time. I also highly recommend Total Church as well as A Meal With Jesus.

I have read so many books on the church it's hard to remember all of them. Total church was an excellent read and one that I have gone back to many times, but this book is the best I have ever read. It's extremely practical. It manages to describe something revolutionary without it seeming overwhelming and without inventing something new. This book simply describes how the church can reclaim its purpose. This will be mandatory reading for all of our church leaders.

A community on mission to be the gospel in their city together. This is "the good life" according to Timmis and Chester. They point the Church, more an event than a community, to this. They are lovingly challenging the status quo in church life today. I encourage you to read this book (also a commentary on 1 Peter) and be challenged to live church life everyday. It will change the way you see the Church and live daily. It sure has for me.

The church in the west is terribly flawed and it shows in so many ways. Consumerism, rugged individualism and privacy have all crept their way from the world into the church. It's sad and not the way God meant it to be. This book is a follow up to Total Church, but it is not necessary to read Total Church first. I probably would read it first if you plan to read both. They cover similar material from different angles. I wholeheartedly agree with the over glowing reviews here and don't feel the need to restate it all, but I would say the highlight of the book for me was the chapter on evangelism and how the authors positioned people's story in contrast to God's story in the Creation/Fall/Redemption/Consummation model. It really is a brilliant way to interpret people who you meet and I need to do it more. I have used the approach not only evangelistically but also in the counseling I do. If you are interested enough in the book to be reading this review then you ought to buy it and read it. If you get hooked like I did you will be done in a week and it could change your whole philosophy of ministry in practical, everyday ways.

Perspective is key to missional ministry and everyday church teaches how to broaden perspective without preaching. Little dense in places but that is more than appropriate for such an important topic in 21st century ministry leadership. Loved it.

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