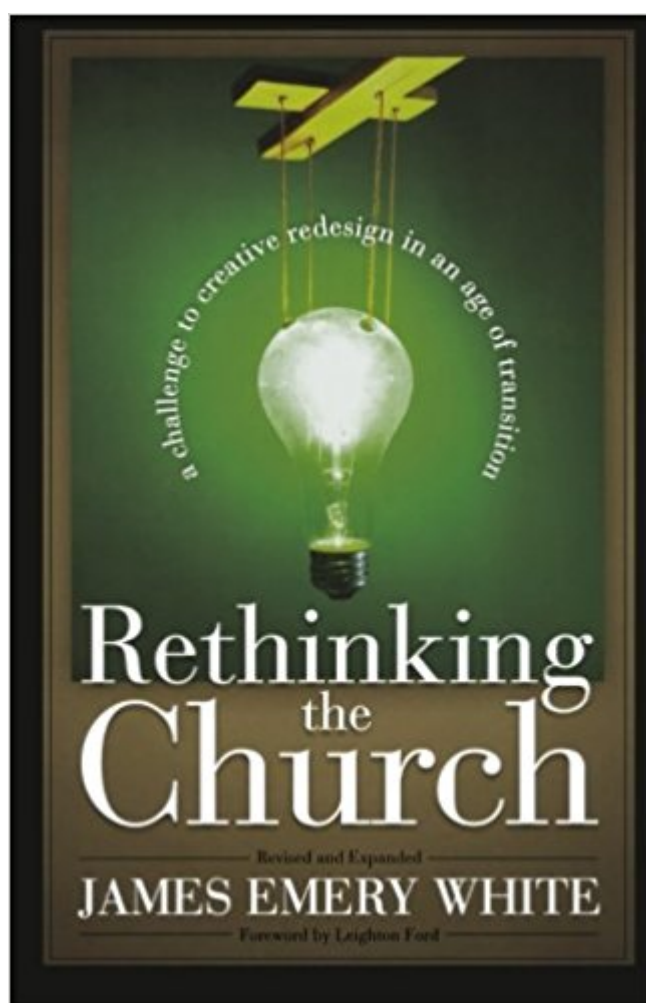


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Rethinking The Church: A Challenge To Creative Redesign In An Age Of Transition



Synopsis

Why is it important to rethink the church? Today many leaders focus on how their ministries can be run more efficiently. But the foundational question, according to James Emery White, should be Why do we have this ministry? and then, Why do we do this ministry the way we do? Is it effective?

Rethinking the Church helps pastors and lay leaders work through questions that must be answered if a church is to rethink evangelism, discipleship, ministry, worship, community, and the structure of the church. Break old molds, check assumptions, and be sensitive, says White. He uses the language and aims of "seeker targeted " churches but urges readers not to tie themselves to any model without understanding the individual purpose of their church. Now thoroughly revised and expanded, Rethinking the Church contains more emphasis and key material on how to move from re thinking to transition. White blends biblical reflection and hands on experience and uses the early church as described in the Book of Acts as the ultimate example.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book is a rich blend of thoughtful, biblical reflection and hands-on experience. It will make an enormous contribution to the lives of those who believe that the local church is the hope of the world." "Jim White has done it again. I heartily recommend this book."

James Emery White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. He holds M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary and has

completed advanced graduate study at Vanderbilt University and continuing education at the University of Oxford, England. White is also an adjunctive professor of Christian Theology at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and the author of several books, including *A Search for the Spiritual and Life Defining Moments*. He and his wife, Susan, have four children.

Purpose: To lead the reader through rethinking the areas of ministry listed below in order to assist the reader with bringing about change from the rethinking. **Content:** The book is divided into 8 chapters: Rethinking | The foundational questions: Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, Worship, Structure, Community. From rethinking to change. **Analysis:** Rethinking is defined as "the radical redesign of church processes for dramatic improvement in the fulfillment of the church's purposes and mission." The author identifies the most important word in the definition of "rethinking" as "process." By process he means "a complete end to end set of activities that together fulfill the purposes and mission of the church." The exercise of rethinking, measuring and judging our "processes" is a needed one. I recommend this book to the pastor that sees the need for this exercise and is willing to pay the price to carry out that exercise. Instead of rethinking our processes churches have been focused on repairing their church. Peter Drucker stated "there is a great difference between increasing efficiency-which is doing things right-and effectiveness, which is doing the right things." **Application:** Who will benefit? The pastor and his leadership team then the congregation and community once the exercise is implemented. How will they benefit? It will serve as a guide and instructional tool for rethinking every aspect of your ministry. It will help the leaders to "rethink why they do what they do the way they do it." Where does it fit in the process? At the front end of your ministry design process.

White wrote this book in 1997. I first read it then. He updated it in 2003 (the Kindle version) which still makes the book over a decade old. Yet, it is still relevant because White focuses on the kind of questions a church must ask about its purposes and mission that will lead to appropriate methods and programs in any age. Any church going through transition (like a change in pastor), desiring to increase its impact on its community, or attempting to anchor itself again to its Biblical mission would do well to read through the book and go through a process of "rethinking." I strongly recommend it.

Though written a number of years ago, still contains helpful insights for helping churches today

reach the current generation.

I had a hard time at first with the truth of how many people leave the church without finding Christ. A cursory knowledge of spiritual things hurts the soul. Change is required in the church. We need a leader to point us in the right direction. Here's your leader.

Although written over a decade ago the volume carries a message that rings true for today's church as well. It is a read that cuts straight to the heart of the mission of the 21st Century Church if we are to reach generations X & Y...we must change our methods without in any way "watering down" the message of Christ and this volume gives a road map to do just that. Jim Neal Pastor

Very pleased with the product

Great book and it was delivered in a timely manner. I have had no issues and i appreciate the smooth transaction. Thanks... I truly appreciate it.

If you are stuck in the ruts of tradition and quagmire of inwardness, this book will bring a perspective that is the pathway to growth. If heeded, the layout of vision and mission within will yield kingdom fruit for ages to come. Just be sure to wear your cup when reading.

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