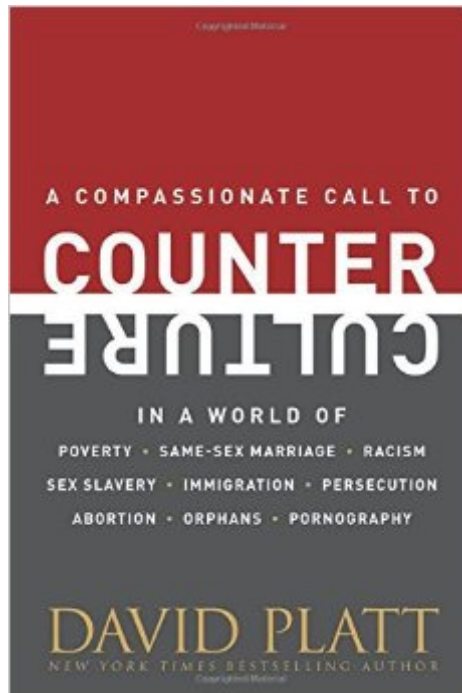


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Counter Culture: Following Christ In An Anti-Christian Age



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 bestselling 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.

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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 addresses 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.

In his best-selling book *Radical*, David Platt challenged American Christians to become radical followers of Jesus, in other words to actually do those things that Christians are supposed to do. In his newest book, *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*, Platt calls on Christians not to conform to the world's views on all of these issues, but to let their actions conform to the attitudes and teaching of Jesus and the Bible. In one sense, this book is easy to describe. Platt is a conservative Southern Baptist pastor. If you know what conservative Christians in general, and conservative Southern Baptists in particular, believe about all the issues listed in the rather cumbersome subtitle, then you have a pretty good grasp on what Platt believes. However, *Counter Culture* is more than a simple "what we believe" pamphlet. As Platt delves into the scriptural foundation for each of the stances he takes in the book, he gives a very personal spin. On each issue he tells how he has struggled to follow Christ's example. Further, he helps the reader by ending each chapter with steps to pray--suggestions for prayer time, to participate--ways the reader can be involved, and to proclaim--scriptures to meditate on regarding the issue of the chapter. Overall, Platt maintains a very positive tone. He offers the hope of the gospel for those involved in sexual sin, for those struggling with materialism or poverty, for those in slavery. The weight of the issues he discusses began to feel very heavy, and our response, inadequate. But as he reminds us, "God alone is able to bear these global burdens."

*this is a shortened review as the original was rejected. What is the end result of a culture that doesn't honor God's boundaries? Platt covers the result in his book Counter Culture. Counter Culture is about more than just the devastating impact of human trafficking and sex slavery. He covers poverty, same-sex marriage, immigration, and racism to name a few. All for the purpose of drawing Christians out of our lethargy into doing something about each one of these things. What's amazing is that Platt has this compassionate way of throwing cold water in your face and making you take stock of your Christianity. He does not make the claim, or the promise, that doing something about any of these things will make you a better Christian, or earn favor with God, or wipe away your sin. Rather, he makes it clear from page one that if we are going to claim Christ as our Savior then shouldn't we do those things that Christ called us to do? The primary task of any Christian is to spread the Gospel - the good news that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, and this is what I appreciate about Platt's book. Platt makes it clear that no human plan is going to put an end to any of these problems; the Gospel is what makes the difference. Our culture has led us to believe wrongly about sex. As Christians we need to think and respond counter to the culture in the way that Christ has taught us. In the time I had I was not able to read the entire book, but the chapter on sex slavery caught my attention and that's what I'm reviewing. According to Platt's book, sex trafficking has brought us to the devastating statistic that there are more slaves in the world today than there were during the years of transatlantic slave trade.

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