



Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity

By Nancy R. Pearcey, Phillip E. Johnson

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Does God belong in the public arena of politics, business, law, and education? Or is religion a private matter only--personally comforting but publicly irrelevant? In today's cultural etiquette, it is not considered polite to mix public and private, or sacred and secular. This division is the single most potent force keeping Christianity contained in the private sphere--stripping it of its power to challenge and redeem the whole of culture.

In *Total Truth*, Nancy Pearcey offers a razor-sharp analysis of the public/private split, explaining how it hamstringing our efforts at both personal and cultural renewal. Ultimately it reflects a division in the concept of truth itself, which functions as a gatekeeper, ruling Christian principles out of bounds in the public arena.

How can we unify our fragmented lives and recover spiritual power? With examples from the lives of real people, past and present, Pearcey teaches readers how to liberate Christianity from its cultural captivity. She walks readers through practical, hands-on steps for crafting a full-orbed Christian worldview.

Finally, she makes a passionate case that Christianity is not just religious truth but truth about total reality. It is total truth.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As a religiously adrift young adult in the 1960s, Pearcey found her way to the Swiss retreat, and the intellectually rigorous faith, of the Calvinist maverick Francis Schaeffer. This book continues the Schaeffer-inspired project that Pearcey and Chuck Colson began in *How Now Shall We Live?*—awakening evangelical Christians to the need for a Christian "worldview," which Pearcey defines as "a biblically informed perspective on all reality." Pearcey gives credibly argued perspectives on everything from Rousseau's rebellion against the Enlightenment, to the roots of feminism, to the spiritual poverty of celebrity-driven Christianity. She also provides a layperson's guide to the history of America's anti-intellectual strain of evangelicalism. Unfortunately for the book's chance at a wide audience, several chapters are devoted to a critique of Darwinism and defense of Intelligent Design—with no substantive engagement with the many thoughtful Christians (John Polkinghorne, Ken Miller, Nancey Murphy, etc.) who dissent from Intelligent Design's scientific and philosophical program. Still, Pearcey deftly applies Schaeffer's core insight that modernity has been built on a "two-story" view of reality—with "facts" on the ground floor and "values" up in the air. Her critique of this view is compelling, and her final chapters, which begin to sketch an integrated Christian way of living and thinking, are exceptional. This is the rare long book that leaves one wanting to read more.

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Review

A vitally important work for the church today . . . Pearcey explains the secular/sacred dichotomy that continues to permeate society. -- *Sarah Flashing, The Foundation for Women of Faith in Culture, February 22, 2005*

An outstanding writer. If you buy only one book this year, this would be at the top of the list. -- *Charles Dunahoo, Christian Education and Publications, November 2004*

Brilliant analysis and perspective, designed to . . . equip evangelicals apologetically. -- *Catez Stevens, Allthings2all, April 12, 2005*

Fabulous . . . Pearcey's worldview guide [is] getting rave reviews from many sources. We highly recommend it. -- *Byron Borger, Hearts & Minds, January 5, 2005*

Pearcey advances well beyond Schaeffer, both in the maturity of her thought and in her original work. -- *Bill Wichterman, Townhall.com*

Pearcey argues passionately. . . . [she] can help Christians develop a more consistent orientation to all of life with a Christian worldview. -- *Jim Skillen, Public Justice Report, 2nd quarter, 2005*

Probably the most significant book of 2004. I pray its influence and impact will be felt for decades. -- *Ray Bohlin, Probe Ministries, February 2005*

Total Truth is probably the most significant book of 2004... its influence and impact will be felt for decades. -- *Probe Ministries, February 2005*

Very well written and spiced with anecdotes. Would that every Christian pastor and youth group leader read this book. -- *Angus Menuge, Touchstone, December 2004*

Viewed by many as the Francis Schaeffer of her generation . . . essential reading for all serious-thinking Christians. -- *Adrian Warnock, UK Evangelical Blog, February 2005*

From the Author

Readers who purchase the original version of *Total Truth* (instead of the new study guide edition) can download the study guide free of charge. The guide includes not only questions but also lots of fresh stories, examples, and illustrations. It is ideal for personal study, reading groups, and Sunday school classes.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Merideth Davis:

Do you considered one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity book is readable by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer connected with Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different such as it. So , do you even now thinking Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Barbara Tucker:

The book Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you will get the point easily after looking over this book.

Martin Williams:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Doris Cobb:

Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

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