



Messy Spirituality

By Mike Yaconelli

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Messy Spirituality By Mike Yaconelli

I Guess I'm Not a Very Good Christian . . . Do you feel like: I don't pray enough I don't read my Bible enough I don't share my faith enough I don't love God enough I'm not committed enough I'm not spiritual enough Then this book is for you. Messy Spirituality was written for the silent majority of us who have been convinced that we just don't do Christianity right. We spend most of our lives worried about what we don't do instead of what we have done, focused on our imperfections instead of God's fondness for the imperfect. Why? Because we've been bombarded with books, tapes, talks, seminars, and movies convincing us that real Christianity is all about perfection. Michael Yaconelli dares to suggest that imperfection, infiniteness, and messiness are, in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity; that real Christianity is messy, erratic, lopsided . . . and gloriously liberating. What if genuine faith begins with admitting we will never have our act completely together? Maybe messy disciples are exactly the kind of imperfect people Jesus came to earth for and whose company he actually enjoyed--and still enjoys. If you want to find Jesus today, look for him in the midst of burned-out believers, moral misfits, religious incompetents . . . men and women whose lives are, well, messy. Messy Spirituality is a strong antidote for the spiritual perfectionism in us all. Here are truths that can cut you loose from the tyranny of ought-to's and open your eyes to the deep spirituality of being loved, shortcomings and all, by the God who meets you and transforms you in the midst of a messy and unpredictable life.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Yaconelli has an annoying habit of speaking the truth. As an author, he changed the face of youth ministry over the past three decades with his honest approach to the challenges of today's youth. As former editor of *The Wittenberg Door* (now simply *The Door*), he and his staff humorously challenged what they saw as the church's many hypocrisies and inconsistencies. Here, Yaconelli explores the perfectionism that plagues so many in the church, an examination that is both challenging and deeply personal. He does an excellent job of naming some of the unspoken assumptions in today's church context, arguing, for example, that the church "has communicated that competence is one of the fruits of the Spirit." But even more effective are his vivid stories, where he gives blood and flesh to the idea of grace lost and found again in the church. The power of these stories makes the book reminiscent of Philip Yancey's *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, but Yaconelli's stories are more personal, many coming from his own congregation. His honest reflections on his own frustrations and deep feelings of inadequacy are unusual for a book about Christian spirituality. While he seeks to connect with and help Christians who feel secretly ashamed about their lack of discipleship, he may lose some readers who feel uncomfortable with such levels of honesty. Those who persevere will discover a wonderful treasure.

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Review

Yaconelli has an annoying habit of speaking the truth. As an author, he changed the face of youth ministry over the past three decades with his honest approach to the challenges of today's youth. As former editor of *The Wittenberg Door* (now simply *The Door*), he and his staff humorously challenged what they saw as the church's many hypocrisies and inconsistencies. Here, Yaconelli explores the perfectionism that plagues so many in the church, an examination that is both challenging and deeply personal. He does an excellent job of naming some of the unspoken assumptions in today's church context, arguing, for example, that the church 'has communicated that competence is one of the fruits of the Spirit.' But even more effective are his vivid stories, where he gives blood and flesh to the idea of grace lost and found again in the church. The power of these stories makes the book reminiscent of Philip Yancey's *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, but Yaconelli's stories are more personal, many coming from his own congregation. His honest reflections on his own frustrations and deep feelings of inadequacy are unusual for a book about Christian spirituality. While he seeks to connect with and help Christians who feel secretly ashamed about their lack of discipleship, he may lose some readers who feel uncomfortable with such levels of honesty. Those who persevere will discover a wonderful treasure. (Mar.) -- Publisher's Weekly

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Reck:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled Messy Spirituality your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a reserve then become one application form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The Messy Spirituality giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Timothy Holeman:

Messy Spirituality can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Messy Spirituality although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into new stage of crucial contemplating.

Andre Smith:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to your account is Messy Spirituality this guide consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That is why this book ideal all of you.

Christopher Parker:

As a pupil exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or make

summary for some publication, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's internal or real their pastime. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring along with can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Messy Spirituality can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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