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Read: 90%

Book Review: Healing Our Broken Humanity

Healing Our Broken Humanity, Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill, 2018 is a book that breaks down the author's nine steps to healing the relationship between the church and the world. They believe that the church needs to be the "new humanity in Jesus Christ" and that there are many Christians who fail to take strides in transforming the church into a multicultural family through Jesus.

Reading the book, the reader will be uncovering and digging into moral theology, which is the study of morality and what is right and wrong. In addition to reading about moral theology, the book will also inform the reader why and how those things matter. Through the processes of reimagining the church, renewing lament, repenting together, relinquishing power, restoring justice, reactivating hospitality, reinforcing agency and reconciling relationships the church can step into a life that reflects Christ's goal for the church.

Healing Our Broken Humanity is organized in a very clear and consistent format. Each chapter introduces the topic of the chapter through the who, what, when, and why question model, followed by explaining what the topic looks like in everyday life and how to practice it with the church or small group. The target audience is the average person following Jesus. The book addresses the church life and the social life of a Christian. For example, *Healing Our*

Broken Humanity introduced the issue of racial injustice, how the church should break the cycle, and practical steps one can take.

In addition to the predictable and clear format mentioned earlier, the book is also written in vocabulary that is easy to understand and refers to many other sources. An example of simple but powerful vocabulary is found on page 57: “Sometimes this brokenness comes through no fault of our own. At other times it’s a direct consequence of choices we’ve made, values we’ve embraced, and behaviors we’ve adopted. We must repent of these things before healing and reconciliation can occur.” This quote explains the complicated topic of repentance in a simple manner. This is just one example of their exceptional use of vocabulary.

Also, the authors use plenty of books to support their nine points which enhances the validity of their position and it shows the reader that the book being read has been studied and thought through. For example, on page 101, the author references a book called *Roadmap to Reconciliation* by Brenda Salter McNeil in order to explain the steps to people should take to bring justice; this book is used again on page 139 talking about reconciliation. Another great element about this book is the frequent use of scripture (page 152- 172) as well as the application of the information the authors wrote. This is shown on page 123 which has a title that says “Practices, Challenges and Activities for Small Groups” and then provides the material within the footnotes. This is a book that requires action, to receive the most from it.

However, the rhetoric the author used was redundant and it was often hard to decipher who was writing. For example, on page 57 the long lists of adjectives did not enhance the reading. Throughout the book, Kim and Hill alternated and indicated the change in who was writing by putting their name in parentheses. However, despite that attempt at clarification it was

easy to be unsure which author was writing when there was a transition in subject. Despite the shortcomings it was an enjoyable read because the authors were clearly passionate about rectifying humanity and their personal testimonies were applicable and relatable.

Overall, *Healing Our Broken Humanity* was impactful. It excelled in “easy to read” formatting of ideas and engaging personal stories. Although there were parts that were redundant and drawn out Kim and Hill accomplished the goal of informing the readers of the issues that they have recognized and the solution they found to fix it. The book does offer a sense of deep hope for change, and encourages the reader to be a part of that change. This book should be read by all people, those who grew up in church and those who do not even know Christ. Although the target audience was for those in church, the book effectively breaks down stereotypes and steers away from religious cliches which creates a perfect opportunity for those who are not yet part of the faith to see the genuine heart and intentions of Christ- like people.