



Suggested Interview Questions for Jonathan Merritt

author of *A Faith of Our Own: Following Jesus Beyond the Culture Wars*
(Hachette Book Group/FaithWords, \$19.99 hardcover, May 8, 2012)

Do you see the influence of Religious Right leadership waning?

You were the first commentator to predict in print that young evangelicals would vote for Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election. Are you ready to make a prediction for this year's election?

What is the most significant change you've seen among Christians of your generation as far as political engagement?

Why do younger Christians embrace a broader agenda of social issues?

Even though young Christians are firmly pro-life, you mention that their understanding of that position has changed. How so?

Why do younger Christians have such a different perspective on homosexuality and same-sex unions than their elders?

What are examples of some of the pressing concerns that young Christians are working on, globally and in their own communities?

Are there other issues percolating that you believe will become central concerns for this generation of Christians?

Why is the issue of race still so problematic for the church? Tell us about the diverse membership of your own church in Atlanta.

Tell us about your spiritual journey. You grew up in a family with many close ties to the Religious Right. How did you come to understand your Christian faith as something that must be lived, not voted?

Rev. Jerry Falwell was a close family friend and mentor to you. You attended the school he founded, Liberty University. What is your assessment of Rev. Falwell's role in building the Religious Right, now that you reject that kind of religious politicking?

You spent time working in Mother Teresa's home for the sick and dying in Calcutta. How did that experience change you?

You incurred the wrath of the Religious Right when you began advocating on behalf of creation care and founded the Southern Baptist Climate Initiative. How did they come after you?