

“...eagerly awaited....Followers will rejoice as McLaren articulates his thoughts with logic and eloquence.....
All sides will flock to this with glee.” —*Publishers Weekly*

***Headline-making Activist & Leading Voice in the Emergent Church Tells Key Issues for
Christianity’s Next Generation
New Brian McLaren Book Proclaims the Birth of
A New Kind of Christianity***

Brian McLaren, the heading-making activist and best-selling author who helped start the emergent church movement, identifies the ten key issues that will shape next generation Christianity in his new book *A New Kind of Christianity: The Questions that Are Transforming the Faith* (HarperOne, \$24.99, February 2010). McLaren says that new approaches to issues such as sexuality, pluralism, and biblical authority, and to questions about whether God is violent, why Jesus matters, and the future of the church, will reform the Christian faith.

McLaren, whose groundbreaking bestseller *A New Kind of Christian* helped shape the emergent church movement’s exploration of new ways of being Christian in the postmodern era, has never shied away from hard questions. Nor has he been deterred by criticism. The former college English instructor, musician, and pastor says he never planned to become a “controversial religious leader.” Yet he has been called “heretic” and worse by fellow believers threatened by his willingness to challenge conventional religious thought.

McLaren believes that the Christian faith must be renewed in every generation, and that now is the time for a major overhaul. Christians have made a mess of what Jesus started, he says, turning it into a “Disney-esque simulacrum, fossilization, or travesty.” So five centuries after Martin Luther’s 95 theses, and in a move sure to set his critics abuzz, McLaren proposes a 96th: a quest for a new way to believe, live and serve in the way of Jesus. Among the provocative questions that will shape the future of Christianity:

- **The Sex Question: Can we find a way to address sexuality without fighting about it?**
- **The God Question: Is God Violent?**
- **The Jesus Question: Who is Jesus and why is he important?**
- **The Pluralism question: How should followers of Jesus relate to people of other religions?**

This new kind of Christianity leads to a better world in which God's will is done, McLaren says, not just to better beliefs in our heart and heads. He sums this up with the African word *ubuntu*, which connotes a profound commitment to the well-being of all. To that end, other urgent issues beckon the new kind of Christians, such as crises of the planet, poverty, peace, and religion.

McLaren knows it will be difficult, even painful, for many people to let go of their conventional beliefs. What will reinvigorate the dialogue is that so many people are, like McLaren, admitting that they've been asking these questions. "We must stop being ashamed of our questions and stop pretending to be content with unsatisfying answers," McLaren says.

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About Brian McLaren <http://www.brianmclaren.net/>

McLaren, 53, called one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals by *Time Magazine*, is the author of several books that have helped shape postmodern Christianity and emergent church conversations. Among his groundbreaking titles are *A New Kind of Christian*, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, *The Secret Message of Jesus*, and *Everything Must Change*.

A social activist and former pastor, McLaren has served as a board chair for Sojourners/Call to Renewal (sojo.net), and is a founding member of Red Letter Christians. He served on the board of directors for Emergent Village and is active in global networking among emerging leaders, having spoken to groups in more than thirty countries.

McLaren helped form Cedar Ridge Community Church more than 25 years ago, an innovative, nondenominational church in the Baltimore-Washington region. A former college English teacher, he left higher education in 1986 to serve as the church's founding pastor until 2006.

A graduate of the University of Maryland with degrees in English (BA, summa cum laude, 1978, and MA, in 1981), McLaren also received a Doctor of Divinity Degree (honoris causa) from Carey Theological Seminary in Vancouver, BC, Canada. He is also a musician and songwriter. McLaren and his wife Grace have four young adult children. They live in Maryland.

A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that Are Transforming the Faith

by Brian McLaren

HarperOne

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