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“It’s a lot to expect authors themselves to live up to the magic of their words, and it’s very special when they do. Philip Yancey has a way about him that can only be described as Graceful. Not vanishing at all...very present.”

–Bono, lead singer of U2 and co-founder of ONE and (RED)

Vanishing Grace:
**New Book by Bestselling Author Philip Yancey Explores the Endangered
State of Grace in a Post-Christian World**

Twenty years after writing his award-winning classic, *What’s So Amazing about Grace?*, Philip Yancey finds the church failing in its mission to dispense grace to a thirsty world, one in which public opinion about Christians has shifted dramatically. There is hope, however, for the church to once again be seen as a place where grace is “on tap,” Yancey writes in his new book, *Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?* (Zondervan, \$22.99 hardcover, October 21, 2014).

For nearly three decades, Yancey has given voice to those who feel burned by the church. In his trademark blend of journalism, storytelling, and personal narrative, he explores whether the church truly does have good news to offer the modern world—and if so, why aren’t Christians presenting it more convincingly? He tackles questions such as:

- Why do Christians turn people off when they share their faith?
- Does the gospel leave people feeling judged instead of loved?
- Has political involvement made Christians look like another special-interest group?
- How can Christians communicate to a culture running away from faith?

In a post-Christian world where more people are skeptical of faith, followers of Jesus must rethink the ways in which they share the gospel. “We do not always do so in love,” says Yancey. “It makes all the difference in the world whether I view my neighbor as a potential convert or as someone whom God already loves.”

Yancey identifies three types of Christians who are effective grace-dispensers:

- Pilgrims: ordinary people walking a path of faith with vulnerability and humility may be today’s best preachers;
- Activists: change agents motivated by their faith in Jesus to confront the world’s problems may be today’s best evangelists;
- Artists: creative individuals and communities seeking to illuminate human experience with the light of the gospel may be today’s best apologists.

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“Unless Christians demonstrate truth with our lives, what we say about what we believe will sound like empty slogans,” Yancey says. Christians should stand out by showing a different way to live in a society that runs by competition, self-indulgence, and power. “Perhaps the most powerful thing Christians can do is to live fulfilled lives, exhibiting proof that Jesus’ way truly leads to a life most abundant.”

As Yancey illustrates, pilgrim, activist, and artist Christians demonstrate how a person and a society can best thrive. “Instead of fighting a rearguard action against secular opponents, we can communicate our good news message by living it out among the uncommitted,” he writes. “Our faith does after all have many benefits to offer the world”—and he goes on to spell out those benefits, often overlooked.

Philip Yancey (<http://www.philipyancey.com/>), a journalist by profession, is a bestselling writer of books of popular theology exploring universal human questions. He speaks on these topics around the world. His books have sold more than 15 million copies worldwide, and include *The Question That Never Goes Away*, *What’s So Amazing About Grace?*, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*, *What Good Is God?* and *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* He lives in Colorado.

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Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?

by Philip Yancey

Zondervan

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