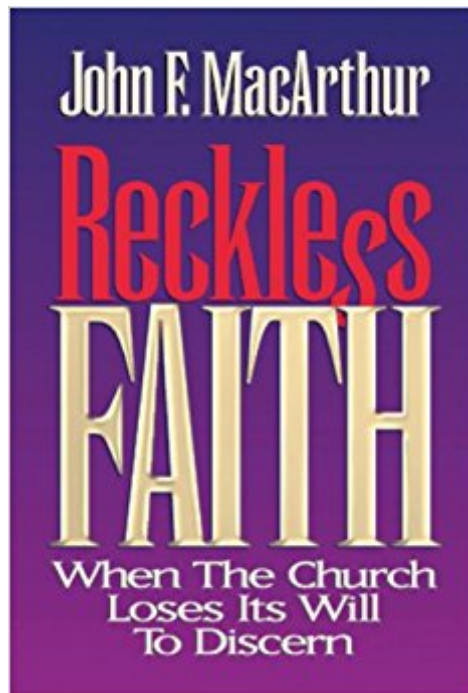




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Reckless Faith: When The Church Loses Its Will To Discern



Synopsis

In a society that is hostile to anyone who declares absolutes, that tolerates faith in any form, that values emotion over reason and trendiness over conviction, it's no surprise that many American churches have lost their ability to discern between biblical truth and doctrinal error. John MacArthur attempts to set them straight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Arrived on time and as expected. John MacArthur spells out Biblical truths once again.

Old John MacArthur books are amazing and this one definitely fits into that category

Absolutely excellent! A must read book. It's a straight forward approach no nonsense. He fully understands the goings on in many churches that you think your the only one that knows. I even suggested to a couple of church associate pastors that there entier administration system would do them good to read this book, of course I didn't even get a reply, I guess the name of the book in it's self must of convicted them enough to shut me out. You can relax somewhat in the sense after you read it (maybe not)in knowing were not the only ones that know. It's a book I find easy to pass on to those in era.

THIS is the book that explains the modern misuse of the "judge not" heresy.

It seems unusual, does it not, that at a time when the church is in such dire need of discernment, there are few books to be found that address this critical issue. Or perhaps it is this dearth of books dealing with discernment that have contributed to the problem. Regardless, at a time when the shelves at Christian bookstores are groaning under the weight of the tens of thousands of books published each year, it is exceedingly difficult to find one that deals with discernment. A survey of several of my friends, avid readers all, yielded a grand total of one suggestion: John MacArthur's *Reckless Faith*, which is out of print. We are fortunate, I suppose, to live at a time when even books that are out of print are not terribly difficult to acquire. I was grateful to see that and other companies selling used books have many of this title available. I quickly purchased one and am glad that I did. *Reckless Faith*, in classic John MacArthur style, began as a series of sermons. MacArthur argues for the importance of reason in the Christian faith, proving first that a reason-based faith has largely been abandoned within the evangelical world. In its place has arisen a faith based on feelings and, humans being what they are, a faith that feels good. It is this faith, faith that bypasses and ignores the mind rather than being built upon it, that MacArthur terms restless. Opposed to reckless faith is true biblical ministry. "We must take an unmovable stance on all issues where the Bible speaks plainly. What if people don't like such dogmatism? It is necessary anyway. Sound doctrine divides, it confronts, it separates, it judges, it convicts, it reproves, it rebukes, it exhorts, it refutes error. None of those things is very highly esteemed in modern thought. But the health of the church depends on our holding firmly to the truth, for where strong convictions are not tolerated, discernment cannot survive." Later MacArthur teaches that discernment cannot survive in an atmosphere of doctrinal confusion and will not survive where relativism is tolerated. "It cannot survive if we compromise with the world." The heart of the book is "The Biblical Formula for Discernment." Expositing 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, MacArthur teaches the three requirements of a discerning mind. First, we must judge everything. Paul sets this exhortation in the context of some very basic commands for the Christian life, showing that it is not an extraordinary duty, but a part of what He expects of every Christian. Having judged all doctrine, we are to cling to what is good. We need to cultivate our love for truth and have a faithfulness to sound doctrine. And finally, we must shun all that is evil. We are not given permission in Scripture to expose ourselves to evil or to tamper with it. We are to flee evil doctrine as we flee sins such as sexual immorality. The final chapters of the book deal with specific issues where the church has failed in its discernment. MacArthur first provides some teaching on the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and then points to the ecumenical movement and the Word Faith movement as examples of the church failing to

judge doctrine and flee from what is unbiblical. The chapter dealing with Evangelicals and Catholics Together is particularly useful as a brief examination and refutation of that dangerous document. When I began this book I thought it was the only book available dealing with spiritual discernment. I was glad to see that MacArthur often referenced a book written by Jay Adams also dealing with the topic. A quick Internet search shows that this book is also out of print, but like Reckless Faith is widely available from used bookstores. I ordered it immediately. Reckless Faith is an excellent book and one that ought not to be out of print. I hope that, like other MacArthur titles, Crossway will see fit to publish it again. Rarely has the church needed this type of teaching more than it does today.

John MacArthur is a no nonsense author who clearly describes how the church has become less courageous than previous times when people would gladly die for the Truth. Now people just want to be "nice" and have no meaningful discussions about what the Christian faith is really about. This is an excellent resource.

Interesting to flip through a book from 1994 and see how what MacArthur writes about has come to pass. It's really amazing.

Excellent book that exposes the watered down faith movement that has become the norm in many of our churches. John MacArthur speaks boldly and clearly about this growing trend and the emerging church. Also recommend his recently updated book "Ashamed of the Gospel".

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