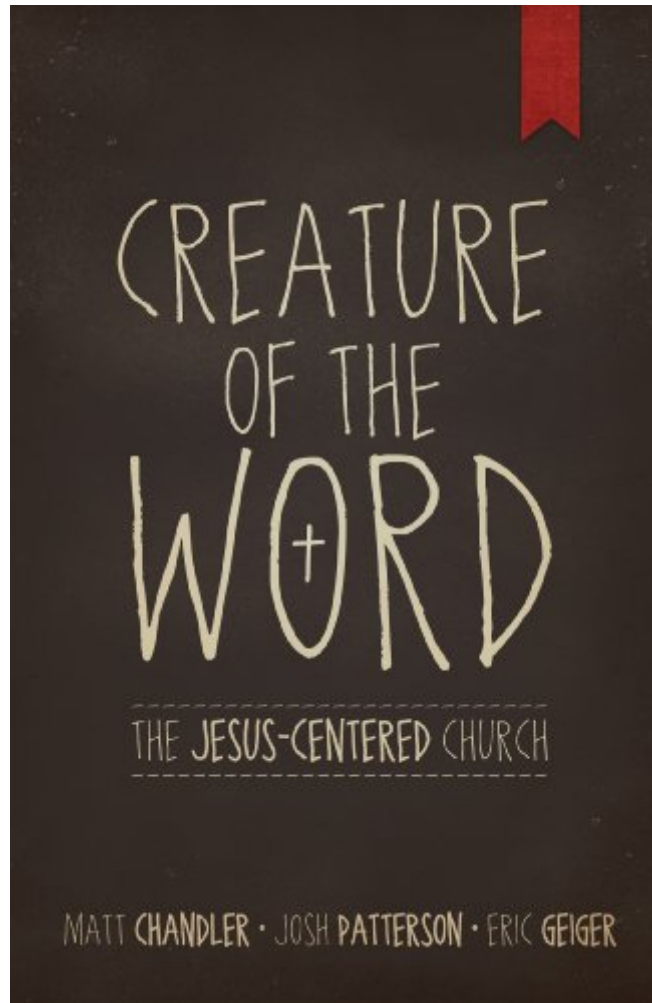


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# Creature Of The Word: The Jesus-Centered Church



## Synopsis

The Reformers viewed the gospel as not merely one thing among many in the life of a church but rather the means by which the church exists. When the gospel is rightly declared and applied to God's people, the church becomes a creature of the Word. She understands, embraces, and lives out the reality of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection in more than her doctrinal statement. The gospel impacts all the church is and does. Creature of the Word lays out this concept in full, first examining the rich, scripture-based beauty of a Jesus-centered church, then clearly providing practical steps toward forming a Jesus-centered church. Authors Matt Chandler, Eric Geiger, and Josh Patterson write what will become a centering discussion piece for those whose goal is to be part of a church that has its theology, culture, and practice completely saturated in the gospel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoy reading thematically--following a certain theme through a variety of books. Recently I noticed that some of today's most popular Christian mega-pastor authors had released new books and I thought I'd work my way through that list. The list includes new titles by Francis Chan, Matt

Chandler, Mark Driscoll, James MacDonald and David Platt. Not surprisingly, the books and their authors are all tightly connected. Driscoll and MacDonald endorse Chandler's book; Chandler and Driscoll return the favor in MacDonald's Vertical Church. Chan's book has a foreword by Platt and Platt's book has a foreword by Chan. And so on. Having reviewed MacDonald's Vertical Church, I turned my attention to Chandler's Creature of the Word (co-authored with Josh Patterson and Eric Geiger). Written primarily for pastors and church leaders, but applicable to all Christians, this is a book that looks to gospel-centrality, a very popular theme today. It calls Christians to "view the essence of the gospel as the foundation for all of ministry." After all, there is a huge difference between "knowing the gospel and being consumed by the gospel, being defined by the gospel, and being driven by the gospel." Chandler wants the reader to "start a fresh journey into the heart of the gospel, prepared to be newly amazed by it, resolved to let its principles begin shaping how our churches worship, serve, and operate." Rather than focusing on the individual, he focuses on the gospel in the local church, calling the church "a Creature of the Word." "Yes, a Creature. She is alive. A living, breathing movement of God's people redeemed and placed together in a collective community. But she is not alive in her own doing. She has been made alive by the Word.

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