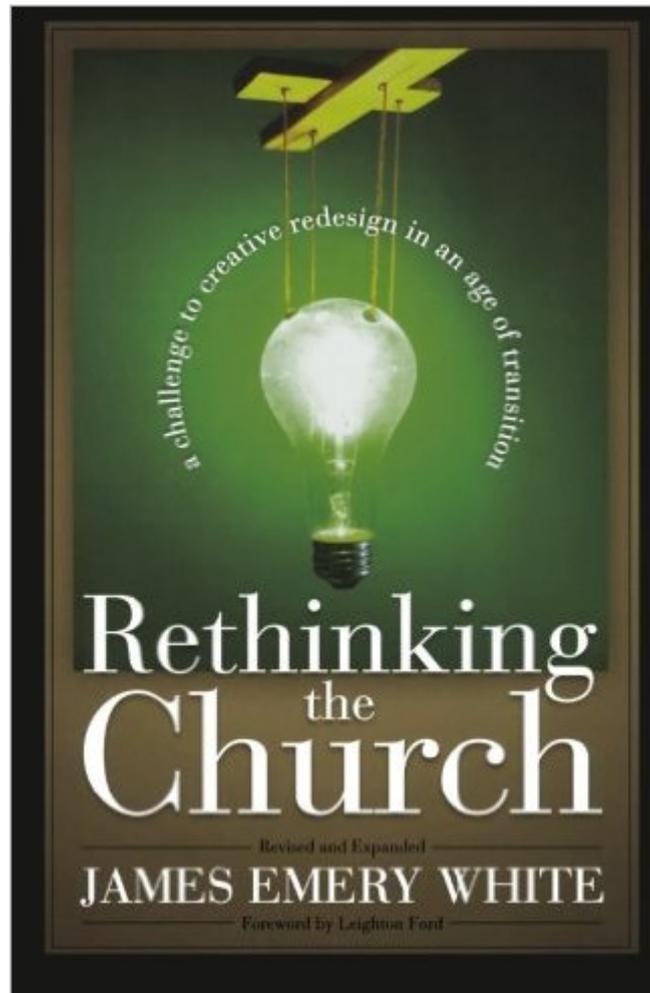


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# Rethinking The Church: A Challenge To Creative Redesign In An Age Of Transition



## Synopsis

Why is it important to rethink the church? Today many leaders focus on how their ministries can be run more efficiently. But the foundational question, according to James Emery White, should be Why do we have this ministry? and then, Why do we do this ministry the way we do? Is it effective?

Rethinking the Church helps pastors and lay leaders work through questions that must be answered if a church is to rethink evangelism, discipleship, ministry, worship, community, and the structure of the church. Break old molds, check assumptions, and be sensitive, says White. He uses the language and aims of "seeker targeted" churches but urges readers not to tie themselves to any model without understanding the individual purpose of their church. Now thoroughly revised and expanded, Rethinking the Church contains more emphasis and key material on how to move from rethinking to transition. White blends biblical reflection and hands on experience and uses the early church as described in the Book of Acts as the ultimate example.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book that brings us to rethink who the church is and what the church is about. James Emery White takes us through rethinking evangelism, discipleship, ministry, worship, structure and community... every aspect vitally important to the life of any church. In his introduction, Emery states 8 reasons people give for not attending church: 1. There is no value in attending (74%). 2. Churches have too many problems (61%). 3. I do not have the time (48%). 4. I am simply not interested (42%). 5. Churches ask for money too frequently (40%). 6. Church services are usually

boring (36%).<sup>7</sup> Christian churches hold no relevance for the way I live (34%).<sup>8</sup> I do not believe in God, or I am unsure that God exists (12%). When you read a list like that, how do you feel? Would you feel compassion for the lost, or would you feel that we are not here to please the lost? The book does not ask us to compromise God's standards, but to look closely what we hold on to, and whether they are God's standards, or just something we created to protect God's standards. When Emery talks about "rethinking", he is referring to the effectiveness of the church, i.e. doing the right things. Any church can be efficient, i.e. doing things right, but efficiency does not mean that the church is effective in what she does. Emery does not give us a set of methods to follow, but draws for us the picture of the current culture and society that we live in, asks questions for us to reflect on what is happening, and at the end of the day, we need to decide what needs to change and how the change is to take place.

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