

ENDORSEMENTS



Our Good Crisis Overcoming Moral Chaos with the Beatitudes

March 17, 2020 | \$16, 192 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4600-9

Behind every crisis we read about in the news lurks a moral crisis—a crisis of goodness. To properly address these issues, Pastor Jonathan Dodson thinks we must be formed as people of moral goodness. In this wise and practical book, Dodson takes us back to the Beatitudes, examining each teaching in the context of the new morality in our society today and presenting a compelling portrait of the truly good life.

"A Countercultural Solution to Our Moral Crisis"

"Pastor Jonathan Dodson poignantly unpacks the perennial truths of the greatest sermon of all time, revealing its ancient wisdom for our morally confused times. Replete with real-world examples, both historical and contemporary, this book offers a compelling countercultural solution to our moral crisis grounded in Jesus' upside-down kingdom."

—Allen Yeh, associate professor of intercultural studies and missiology, Biola University

"Jonathan has written an important book for followers of Jesus in our divided and hostile culture. Brimming with theological insight, genuine hope, and a beautiful way forward for these confusing times, I believe this book will greatly improve our credibility as disciples in the world."

—Jon Tyson, lead pastor at Church of the City New York, author of *The Burden Is Light*

"The Beatitudes can be intimidating to Christians, and more so the more we know what they mean. This book provides fresh and honest insight into the beauty and glory of these words of the kingdom. Whatever crisis you may face now or in the future, I pray this book will reframe for you what it means to be 'blessed.'"

—Russell Moore, president of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

"I can't think of a more encouraging and challenging way to spend our time than to dwell on these famous words of Jesus. Jonathan Dodson will help you understand their revolutionary meaning and also apply Jesus' teaching for our cultural moment."

—Collin Hansen, editorial director of The Gospel Coalition, author of *Blind Spots: Becoming a Courageous, Compassionate, and Commissioned Church*

"Our Good Crisis is a compass, drawing the reader back to our true north, to God himself. As we walk across the ever-changing landscape of our age, Dodson reminds us of the never-changing goodness of the Beatitudes. God in heaven is the source of virtue, of all that's good, of the very remedy needed for the crises we see in the world and in ourselves. This meditation on the Beatitudes will nourish your soul and exhort you to walk with Jesus, living out his kingdom here on earth, by the power of his Spirit."

—Jen Oshman, author of *Enough About Me: Find Lasting Joy in the Age of Self*

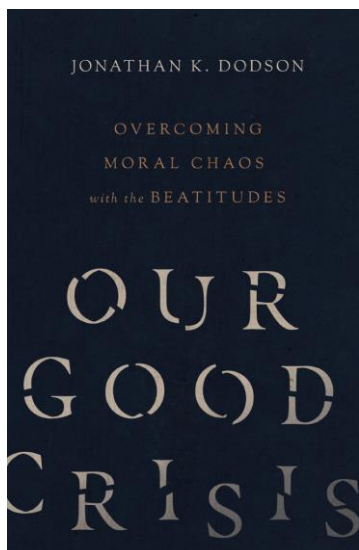


Tara Burns, print and online publicity
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or tburns@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



ENDORSEMENTS



Our Good Crisis Overcoming Moral Chaos with the Beatitudes

March 17, 2020 | \$16, 192 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4600-9

"Our Good Crisis is exactly the kind of Christian book we need more of—one that examines the text of Scripture carefully while listening to the anxieties of our age with sympathy. By applying this approach to the Beatitudes, the opening lines of the Sermon on the Mount, Jonathan Dodson achieves something wonderful. He encourages believers to live faithfully amid our moral and technological complexities, and he helps doubters imagine what it would be like to take Christ's ancient wisdom seriously today."

—John Dickson, author and historian, senior lecturer in public Christianity, Ridley College, Melbourne

"A keen look beneath the frenzied surface of our modern world to see what lurks there—how people think, both about themselves and their world. It is these attitudes that are here brought face-to-face with the truth of the Beatitudes. This book is direct and helpful."

—David F. Wells, Distinguished Senior Research Professor, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

"Reflecting on secular and nonsecular thinkers, Jonathan does an amazing job of pointing us to the message that brings about true human flourishing. This book will challenge and encourage you to boldly live out your faith. This is a must read!"

—Ivan Valdez, member at City Life Church, Austin

"It's easy enough to see the impending crises brought about by our technical, data-driven age; it's harder to believe that these difficulties present us with an opportunity for self-reflection, and yes, even spiritual growth. In Our Good Crisis, Jonathan K. Dodson guides us back to the ancient wisdom of the Sermon on the Mount, showing readers how the Beatitudes can lead us to blessing even in—especially in—the modern age. Confronting everything from our propensity to outrage to our fixation with self to our comfort addictions, Our Good Crisis reveals Jesus' words to be as good news to us today as they were to those who first heard them."

—Hannah Anderson, author of *All That's Good: Recovering the Lost Art of Discernment*

"We are in an age where the performance of the self is more important than the reality of the self, creating what Dodson calls a crisis of the good. Jesus' words, then, in Matthew 5 can feel alien to us—otherworldly. They demand that the inner self be the chief concern, rather than how the world sees us. Near the end of his book Jonathan Dodson writes, 'Each beatitude inspires and challenges us at once.' That's true and it's also true of Dodson's book. Each chapter is both compelling and exposing."

—John Starke, lead pastor of Apostles Church Uptown, New York City, and author of *The Possibility of Prayer*



Tara Burns, print and online publicity
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or tburns@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



Our Good Crisis *Overcoming Moral Chaos with the Beatitudes*

March 17, 2020 | \$16, 192 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4600-9

Jonathan K. Dodson (MDiv, ThM) is the founding pastor of City Life Church in Austin, Texas, and founder of Gospel-Centered Discipleship. He is the author of several books, including *The Unbelievable Gospel, Raised?*, and *Here in Spirit*. Visit his website and read his blog at jonathandodson.org. Follow him on Twitter: @Jonathan_Dodson.

How Do We Put Good in Our Moral Crisis?

What experiences led to the idea for *Our Good Crisis*?

Jonathan K. Dodson: I was motivated by a significant change in the questions people ask when considering Christianity. When I first planted City Life Church about twelve years ago, people asked questions about the reliability of the Bible, the fairness of hell, and the exclusivity of Christ. While these questions continue to be relevant for some, many are more interested in our views on gender, race, and justice. This book addresses some of these questions. Yet, underneath these questions a less conscious change has occurred—a profound shift in how people determine and practice what is good. People are less concerned about affirming religious pluralism, for instance, and more preoccupied with affirming individual expression. The good is now largely determined by how an individual feels, not how collective ancient wisdom has reasoned it to be. The self trumps tradition, philosophy or religion. As a result, a destructive moral chaos is building in our society. We are in desperate need for fresh moral vision that takes into account the new questions that arise from the privileged self. Jesus provides just what we need in the Beatitudes.

How is your book unique from others on apologetics and formation?

Jonathan: To be brief, this book combines cultural apologetics *with* virtue formation. This is a unique combination. Typically, books are one or the other.

We wake up to a crisis every day—mass shootings, political meltdowns, sex scandals, racial injustices. These issues polarize our society sending us into outrage, despair, or numbing indifference. Yet behind many of these crises is a greater crisis. Anger, pride, lust, and greed—the seeds of many crises—exist in us. Social change requires personal change. To make progress, we must face down the worst forms of distraction, comfort, self-expression, and tolerance. Then, by embracing the moral wisdom and presence of Jesus, we can cultivate the kind of virtue that enriches those around us: peace, humility, righteousness, and hope. Jesus enables us to put the good in our crisis.

What do you hope readers take away from *Our Good Crisis*?

Jonathan:

- Wisdom to navigate the cultural obstacles in becoming more like Christ
- Profound transformation of personal faith and character
- Inspiration to persevere as a humble, godly people in conflict and chaos
- Love for the Beatitudes and the Lord of the Beatitudes
- Resolve to contribute to the greater good



Tara Burns, print and online publicity
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or tburns@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com