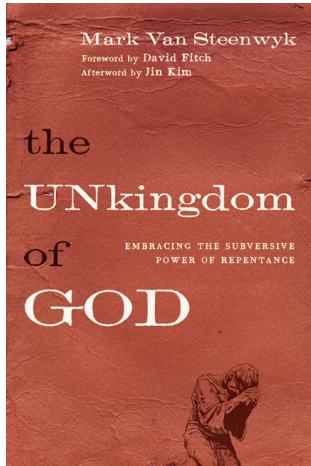




# TALKING POINTS



*The Unkingdom of God:  
Embracing the Subversive Power  
of Repentance*

September 2013

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## What if the biggest obstacle to following Christ is our Christianity?

In his new book, *The Unkingdom of God*, Mark Van Steenwyk unpacks the idea that our Christianity has become too closely tied to systems of domination. Because of this, he writes, “we need to relearn the gospel. This comes through honest confession, discernment and humble action.” Van Steenwyk draws readers into a conversation about the call to repentance on behalf of the organized church by:

- Bringing together political analysis, spirituality and a decade of experience
- leading a Mennonite intentional community
- Providing a critical look at contemporary and historical Christian movements
- Exploring repentance as a personal and communal discipline
- Offering plans for action by weaving in his own personal stories as models of success and failure

In the book, Van Steenwyk asserts that our Christianity has become enmeshed within systems of domination, which was not the intent of the early church. “This book grew out of my own ‘repentance’ from the way Christianity has become an ideology that supports imperialism and oppression,” says Van Steenwyk. “For me, this is personal—I share my own journey and call people to a similar journey. To me, the call to repentance is a deeply spiritual and mystical thing. I find many people trying to move away from imperial Christianity yet don’t know what to replace it with . . . they end up frustrated, burnt out or angry. This book is my attempt at articulating a new posture that is honest, challenging and deeply spiritual.”

Drawing together anarchist political analysis, mystical spirituality and a decade of experience leading a Mennonite intentional community, *The Unkingdom of God* calls the reader into a conversation to start bringing about repentance, both individually and as a Christian community.

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