

**Life's
too
short
to
pretend
you're
not
religious**

David Dark

Religion's not dead

In his latest book, David Dark defines religion as the controlling story in which people are blessed and cursed to find themselves. He writes that your religion is what you do with yourself, your resources and your passions, and it matters deeply. *Life's Too Short to Pretend You're Not Religious* calls you to become more fully aware of your religion, making it the story of your life.

Dark examines such questions as

- Why does the word “religious” carry so many negative connotations?
- Why does the word “religious” keep us from forming meaningful relationships and developing strong communities?
- How can he assert that we are all religious on some level?
- Wouldn't it be easier to just get rid of religion altogether?
- Is there such a thing as the secular/sacred divide?
- Why is the judgment and narrow-mindedness that is directed toward the word “religious” so problematic to our culture?

“David Dark is one of our most astute and necessary cultural critics.”

Jessica Hopper

author of *The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic*

“David Dark is one of our most prophetic voices.”

C. Christopher

founding editor of *The End of the World*

A look inside

“Here’s what I’m up to. I come to you as one bummed out by the way people talk about religion. Be it an online rant, a headline, a news report or a conversation overheard, I feel a jolt of sympathy pain whenever someone characterizes someone else as religious. It’s as if a door just got slammed. And in a subtle, hard-to-get-a-handle-on kind of way, it’s kind of like someone’s been told to shut up.”

—Taken from the introduction, “Religion Happens”

of the most important
issues of our day.”

Stephen Smith
Angewandte Review of Books

“A bracing manifesto for modern
people and an optimism-infused
love song to humanity.”

Sara Zarr
National Book Award finalist, author of *The Lucy Variations*

About the author

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Follow David on Twitter: [@DavidDark.](https://twitter.com/DavidDark)

David Dark (PhD, Vanderbilt University) is a teacher at the College of Theology at Belmont University and among the incarcerated communities of Nashville, Tennessee. He is also the critically acclaimed author of *The Sacredness of Questioning Everything*, *Everyday Apocalypse* and *The Gospel According to America*. He contributed to the book *Radiohead and Philosophy* and has published articles in *Pitchfork*, *Paste*, *Oxford American*, *Books and Culture* and *Christian Century*.

A frequent speaker, David has appeared on C-SPAN's *Book-TV* and in the documentaries *Marketing the Message* and *American Jesus*, as well as being featured at such conferences as the Calvin Festival of Faith and Writing, Image Journal's Glen Workshop, the Greenbelt Festival in England and the Reel Spirituality conference at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles.

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