

EXCERPT



Healing Our Broken Humanity

Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World

August 28, 2018 | \$17, 208 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-**4541**-5

Nine Practices That Heal Our Broken Humanity

This book shows what it means to be the church, the new humanity in Jesus Christ, as Paul writes about in Ephesians 2:15. This is the biblical basis for our understanding of what it means to become new in Christ. The church shows the world God's perfect design for humanity, which is a reconciled, unified, whole, multiethnic, peaceful, loving life together. As a beacon to the world, the church shows the world what God calls it to be. The church shows the world its destiny and future. In an era where Christian identities seem so enmeshed with race, politics, nationalism, and material goods, we need to imagine a different reality.

This book unpacks what it means to be the new humanity in Christ, as we embrace nine transforming practices that we hope you can adopt into your life. The practices aren't necessarily sequential. You don't need to practice the fourth before you can go to the fifth, for example. These practices may be taking place concurrently, and different people might have different entry points.

- 1. Reimagine church as the new humanity in Jesus Christ.
- Renew lament through corporate expressions of deep regret and sorrow.
- Repent together of white cultural captivity, and racial and gender injustice, and of our complicity.
- Relinquish power by giving up our own righteousness, status, privilege, selfish ambition, self-interests, vain conceit, and personal gain.
- Restore justice to those who have been denied justice.
- Reactivate hospitality by rejecting division and exclusion, and welcoming all kinds of people into the household of God.
- Reinforce agency by supporting people's ability to make free, independent, and unfettered actions and choices.
- Reconcile relationships through repentance, forgiveness, justice, and partnership.
- Recover life together as a transformed community that lives out the vision of the Sermon on the Mount.

These nine practices enable us to be the new humanity in Jesus Christ. These nine practices transform the church and the world. They lead to reconciliation, justice, unity, peace, and love.

—Adapted from the introduction

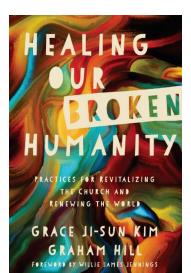












BIO



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"In Healing Our Broken Humanity, two authentic voices from two continents offer the Christian church practical reflections to renew our mission, lives, and world. This work touches on critical contemporary issues facing our communities, and offers individual and communal responses that make a difference."

—Joel Edwards, advocacy director for Christian Solidarity Worldwide, London



Grace Ji-Sun Kim (PhD, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto) is associate professor of theology at Earlham School of Religion. She is author or editor of thirteen books, including Embracing the Other, Christian Doctrines for Global Gender Justice, and Intercultural Ministry. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Visit gracejisunkim.wordpress.com to learn more and see her speaking schedule.

Follow her on Twitter: @Gracejisunkim.



Graham Hill (PhD, Flinders University) teaches applied theology at Morling College in Sydney, Australia. A former church planter and pastor, he is the founding director of theglobalchurchproject.com. He is also the author of GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches.

Learn more about Graham and read his blog at grahamhillauthor.com.

Follow Graham on Twitter: @GrahamJGHill.



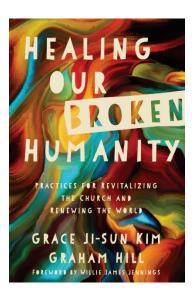












ENDORSEMENTS



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We live in conflicted times. We want to see justice restored because Jesus calls us to be a peacemaking and reconciling people. But how do we do this? Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill offer ten ways to transform society, from lament and repentance to relinquishing power, reinforcing agency, and more. Embodying these practices enables us to be the new humanity in Jesus Christ.

"Most relevant, hands-on, how-to manual" for diversity and reconciliation

"Healing Our Broken Humanity isn't so much a banquet as it is a big tasting plate, introducing us to a rich set of practices, rooted in the missional, contemplative, and progressive traditions of the church. Kim and Hill have packed their short book with such a vast array of ideas, resources, and stories, the reader's appetite to learn more and put it all into practice is thoroughly piqued—a wonderful introduction to the field."

—Michael Frost, author of To Alter Your World and Surprise the World!

"There are many books dealing with diversity and reconciliation. Of all those books, including my own, I believe Healing Our Broken Humanity is the most relevant, hands-on, how-to manual on the subject you will encounter! Grace and Graham draw you into practical application from the earliest pages and they never let go. Regardless of whether you have been seeking ways to do the gospel in the midst of present brokenness or have become somewhat jaded to the theorizing of it, Healing Our Broken Humanity will not disappoint. Written by two powerfully seasoned and wise mentors, they have found the missing link on this subject that everyone and every church should read. Healing Our Broken Humanity lives up to its subtitle, Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World, and what could be better than that?"

-Randy S. Woodley, author of Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision

"In these pages two voices that I respect harmonize beautifully to sing of what the church can be. Part road map for forming a community in the healing purposes of God, part primer on intersectional theology, part Bible study on how justice is at the center of following Jesus, this book is wholly about the practices that make us a people who live together more like Jesus (and less like jerks).'

—Jarrod McKenna, cofounder of the #LoveMakesAWay movement and #FirstHomeProject for refugees

"Kim and Hill have marvelously provided what the church needs today: a road map for ways Christians can contribute to the common good and accordingly aid in the transformation of the world. Healing Our Broken Humanity is biblically grounded, sensitive to context, and eminently practical, as each chapter ends with concrete suggestions for 'practices, challenges, and activities for small groups' to move all those who encounter their book to immediate action. I heartily commend this book to all justice-seeking Christians."

—Grace Yia-Hei Kao, associate professor of ethics at Claremont School of Theology, codirector at Center for Sexuality, Gender, and Religion

"Kim and Hill in this courageous book are not simply offering us another account of Christian practices, but Christian practices that necessitate diverse communities for their performance. The crucial matter today for Christian discipleship is not what you practice but who you practice with. . . . If through our practices we follow Jesus into the depths of the world,



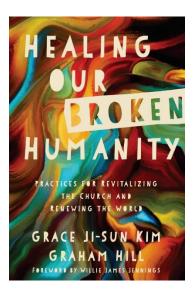












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then we will learn that the healing we all seek for ourselves and our world is offered to us not in our own strength but in God's power, if only we would seek it together."

—From the foreword by Willie James Jennings, Yale Divinity School

"This book is a clarion call for all those who dream of a church that is whole, holy, and humble, a church that acknowledges its own failings and seeks justice, and a church that seeks to join those who hope for a better humanity. It will inspire those who eschew the pursuit of power so they may better amplify the voices of the powerless and those who believe in community. This is a superb, clear-eyed call for all of those who dream of a better church and world, to begin to work toward it, and draw strength from the transformative power of love. There can be no greater and more urgent work than this."

—Julia Baird, presenter on the Drum, columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald and the International New York Times

"In this outstanding work—thought provoking, theologically sound, wonderfully practical, and comprehensive in scope— Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill effectively synthesize and ultimately advance key tenets of varying mindsets and movements within the church today, all in pursuit of a common goal: disruptive innovation in the local church whereby it is repurposed and positioned to advance a credible witness of God's love for all people in an increasingly diverse, globally connected, painfully polarized, and cynical society. Healing Our Broken Humanity is a thorough guide and inclusive playbook for pastors and parishioners alike seeking to engage the complexities of race, class, culture, gender, politics, and more, in a biblically accurate and informed way, and in so doing recognize that such things as lament, corporate repentance, reconciliation, and justice are not peripheral but intrinsic to the gospel."

—Mark DeYmaz, directional leader of Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas, president of Mosaix Global Network

"This marvelous book is a practical and relevant resource that will help the church work with God to build renewed communities based on the new humanity in Christ. It will empower Christians to deal with the problem of racism and all forms of injustice. This book emphasizes the importance of corporate expressions of pain, grief, repentance, and lament. This comes at a time when the world is faced with fresh upheavals of tensions and a resurgence of racism, nationalism, and white supremacy. I commend this book to all pastors and churches that are looking to equip the saints to face the challenges of racism, misogyny, nationalism, tribalism, and any other form of injustice."

-Ngwedla Paul Msiza, president of Baptist World Alliance, Pretoria, South Africa

"There are plenty of reasons to throw our hands up in the air and walk away from the church. If we're honest, many of us have experienced it as a neutered counterfeit to the life and community Jesus invited us to embody. In this book, Grace and Graham remind us who we have been called to be all along, a new humanity in Christ who actively participate in healing our broken world. Rich in theological thought and firmly rooted in tangible practice, they invite us to be liberated into a cross-shaped ministry that leads to the flourishing of all. This isn't a church-growth strategy; it's holy provocation guiding us onto a path of confession, repentance, and new life. May this book be read and lived!"

—Jon Huckins, cofounding director of Global Immersion, author of Mending the Divides: Creative Love in a Conflicted World











