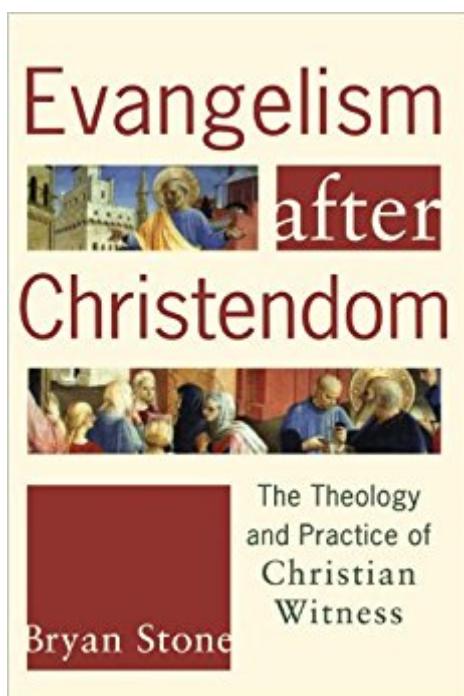


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# Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology And Practice Of Christian Witness



## Synopsis

Most people think of evangelism as something an individual does--one person talking to one or more other people about the gospel. Bryan Stone, however, argues that evangelism is the duty and call of the entire church as a body of witness. *Evangelism after Christendom* explores what it means to understand and put to work evangelism as a rich practice of the church, grounding evangelism in the stories of Israel, Jesus, and the Apostles. This thorough treatment is marked by an astute sensitivity to the ways in which Christian evangelism has in the past been practiced violently, intentionally or unintentionally. Pointing to exemplars both Protestant and Catholic, Stone shows pastors, professors, and students how evangelism can work nonviolently.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Not often, but every now and then, a book comes along that not only draws together the literature of the last thirty years but also pushes the conversation forward for decades to come. Bryan Stone has written such a book. Everyone writing in the field of evangelism cannot go around, only through, this masterpiece."--Leonard Sweet, author of *SoulTsunami*"Bryan Stone's *Evangelism after Christendom* takes the study of evangelism to a new depth. This book brings hope to those perplexed by the popularity of evangelism techniques that seemingly contradict the faithful witness of the church. *Evangelism after Christendom*, theologically framed and biblically grounded, is essential reading for those seeking an in-depth treatment of evangelism as a constitutive Christian practice."--Lacey Warner, Duke Divinity School"Bryan Stone has provided a significant contribution

to the important, ongoing discussion of what evangelism is and how it is best practiced. Evangelism after Christendom takes seriously Christ's call to bear witness in the North American context in the twenty-first century. He is attentive to issues of ecclesiology, history, and politics, and he carefully considers conflicting theological interpretations of evangelism. This is a challenging and important book for all those who seek to study how the church can embody a truly Christian evangelistic practice."--Scott J. Jones, Bishop, The United Methodist Church"This book is thoroughly believable. It brings evangelism into the twenty-first century with the wit of a scholar and the force of the church as its champions."--Robert G. Tuttle, author of *The Story of Evangelism: A History of the Witness to the Gospel*

Bryan Stone (PhD, Southern Methodist University) is E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at the Boston University School of Theology, where he is also cofounder and codirector of the Center for Practical Theology and founder of the Center for Congregational Research and Development. Stone has written books such as *Faith and Film: Theological Themes at the Cinema*, and served as editor for the *Journal of Christian Theological Research*.

I write and speak some about the concepts of Christians living in God's Alternate Kingdom while temporarily living at a postal address in this world. Stone's book serves as one of my reference texts in this area. It's a very good read for guidance on living as a Christian in modern, liberal, western cultures. A professor friend of mine, Dean Fleming, recommended the book to me. As it turns out, he studied with Bryan Stone. This book is worth a read for any serious Christian who wants to understand the world in which he/she is living.

Stone does a good job arguing for evangelism as an offer to participate in the peaceable reign of God. In my opinion the view could be more balanced with some scriptures that demonstrate a very outgoing form of announcing the good news. A good read for pastors and theology students, perhaps not for your average Christian.

This book is a good contribution to the Christian discussion of what it means to evangelize faithfully. It asks good questions and works hard to propose a carefully constructed theological response. It is a little inaccessible to the average layman, especially as it seeks a deep philosophical foundation from which to build its case.

Refreshing! in world concerned with progress, success, and the commodification of the Other, this book gives an alternate way forward. It refuses reduction of evangelism to marketing, with simplistic system based on consumerist, capitalistic models.

Interesting and relevant read. Stone identifies real struggles with evangelism and offers some thought provoking solutions.

Stone's work is a challenging read, but well worth the investment for anyone who wants to get beyond the mere techniques of Christian evangelism. He offers an historical perspective on God reaching out to humanity, and offers a deeper way of understanding what it means to be a Christian witness. Whoever reads this book might need to check on certain academic terms used by the author. It reads like a graduate text. But this in no way diminishes the value of this book. I recommend it for every pastor, church leader, and missionary.

My book club and I will love reading this book. Thanks for sending it in a timely manner.

Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian WitnessÂ Â This is the best book that I've ever read on evangelism! I highly recommend it.

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