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Discussion Questions

For Book Clubs and Small-Group Study

1. Of the issues that Gushee outlines, what were some of your reasons for feeling disillusioned by evangelicalism or feeling like you needed to leave Christianity all together? Do you identify as an evangelical exile?
2. What has been your experience getting stuck in the theoretical evangelical maze that Gushee describes?
3. Do you see a way forward for post-evangelicals by reviving earlier, healthier, “pre-evangelicalism” traditions and distinctions? What traditions would you like to see return to evangelicalism?
4. In the book, Gushee says that if the only Christianity we offer people is corrupted, then people will leave the church. What kind of Christianity did you grow up with, and did you experience the disillusionment Gushee describes as you grew older?
5. In what ways does Gushee challenge or question the notion of biblical inerrancy and/or infallibility? How can you set aside biblical inerrancy without abandoning Scripture?
6. How do human experience, reason, and relationships contribute to our understanding of Christianity and the Bible? What do the arts and science bring to the table when we are considering them in relation to our faith?
7. In chapter 4, Gushee explores six theological-ethical influences on his faith. Do you identify with any of these influences or are there others that have influenced your understanding of your faith?
8. Think about building your own theology: what would it include? How much of evangelical theology would you keep?
9. Gushee describes different Jesus figures that feature prominently in US evangelicalism but remain inadequate to accurately contain the figure of Jesus. Have you noticed other inaccurate portrayals of Jesus with your experience in evangelicalism?
10. What are some nonnegotiable changes you would like to see in post-evangelical church life? Are there faith communities or traditions you’ve found that provide community and belonging?
11. Gushee describes the Song of Solomon as a joyful celebration of the healthy sexual ethic that he outlines in chapter 7. Where in the Bible have you found other examples? Do you agree with Gushee’s proposal that recovers the concept of covenant and a renewal of marriage?
12. Gushee lays out seven marks of healthy Christian politics (pg. 149). Which is most important to you? Are there any marks that you would add?
13. How is white supremacy a heresy and a sin? How can a healthy post-evangelicalism engage with race to not repeat the mistakes of the past, which Gushee explores in chapter 9?