



DAVID E. FITCH

FAITHFUL PRESENCE

SEVEN DISCIPLINES THAT SHAPE
THE CHURCH FOR MISSION



*Faithful Presence: Seven
Disciplines that Shape the
Church for Mission*

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*"Faithful presence is not only
essential for our lives as
Christians; it's how God has
chosen to change the world."*

Being the Church in Post-Christian North America

In the post-Christian world of North America, we're asking the question: Is there a way to be a church that engages the world, not by judgment nor accommodation but by becoming the good news in our culture?

In *Faithful Presence*, David Fitch, a noted pastor and scholar, introduces a vision for the witness of the church in today's world that addresses this question. Recognizing that people struggle to see God's presence in their lives outside the walls of a Sunday church service, Fitch examines seven disciplines from Scripture that reintroduce the church to the reality of God's constant presence in their midst.

"Faithful presence names the reality that God is present in the world and that he uses a people faithful to his presence to make himself concrete and real amid the world's struggles and pain," Fitch writes. "When the church is this faithful presence, God's kingdom becomes visible and the world is invited to join with God."

Grounded in the foundational disciplines of the Lord's Table, reconciliation, proclaiming the gospel, being with "the least of these," being with children, the fivefold ministry, and kingdom prayer, the church can become a world-changing force.

In *Faithful Presence*, Fitch addresses the following:

- Does the church have anything to offer a world full of injustice?
- Can the church reach out to the world in a way that doesn't judge or alienate people?
- Can the church engage the hurting, the poor, and the broken with something more than just handouts?
- What "faithful presence" looks like in daily life
- Why the church needs to practice the seven disciplines included in the book to become what it truly means to be "the church"
- How we overcome the distractions of life and recognize that God is always present with us
- The reality that in God's presence there is forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, transformation, patience, and love
- Why God has chosen the church to change the world
- How to reimagine what the church is, using historical, Scriptural practices of the church but with a post-Christian understanding

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INTERVARSITY PRESS PUBLICITY TEAM:**

Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, broadcast and online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com

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