



BIO



***Following Jesus in a Warming World***  
*A Christian Call to Climate Action*

February 21, 2023 | \$18, 192 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0445-6

## Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, Climate Change Educator and Advocate

*"This book was important fifteen years ago, and it's absolutely urgent today. Everywhere we look, there are clear signs that creation is in crisis. Following Jesus in a Warming World offers a warning, a wake-up call, and a way forward for Christians striving to be faithful disciples in the twenty-first century. Rather than pile on the guilt and shame, Kyle Meyaard-Schaap winsomely invites readers to embrace a faithful life that accounts for the ecological state of our world. This book is a balm for the climate-anxious soul!"*

—Jonathan Merritt, contributing writer for the Atlantic and author of *Learning to Speak God from Scratch*

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**Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap** serves as the Vice President for the Evangelical Environment Network. Previously, he was the national organizer and spokesperson for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action. Kyle holds an undergraduate degree in religious studies from Calvin College (B.A. 2012), a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary (M.Div. 2016), and is ordained in the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). Much of his professional experience has involved the integration of theology, science, and action toward a deeper awareness of the Christian responsibility to care for God's earth and to love one's neighbors, both at home and around the world.

Kyle has been named to Midwest Energy Group's 40 Under 40 and the American Conservation Coalition's 30 Under 30 cohorts for his work on climate change education and advocacy. Most recently, he was named a Yale Public Voices on the Climate Crisis Fellow for 2020. He has been featured in national and international news outlets such as CNN, PBS, NPR, NBC News, Grist, Reuters, and *U.S. News and World Report*. He is married to Allison and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with their son, Simon.

Follow Kyle on Twitter: @kmeyaardschaap.



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Many young Christians are waking up to the realities of climate change but just don't know how to help. Through stories from the field, theological and scriptural exploration, and practical advice, this field guide from Christian climate activist Kyle Meyaard-Schaap helps us take meaningful action grounded in the joy of caring for creation.

# Christian Discipleship as Care for Creation

Who did you decide to write *Following Jesus in a Warming World* for?

**Kyle Meyaard-Schaap:** This book is primarily for Millennial and Gen Z readers who know enough about climate change to be scared of it but not much more. They need to be empowered to come back from the brink and to take hopeful, meaningful, faith-rooted action.

Why did you decide to write this book at this particular time?

**Kyle:** I have spent close to ten years educating and mobilizing young Christians to take climate action, and the same story keeps cropping up over and over: a story of being let down by their church communities and of paralysis, apathy, and cynicism to address the crisis at the speed and the scale required. I wanted to write this book to offer actionable hope to generations of young Christians who are terrified of what their future will look like in a warming world and who are hurt and disillusioned by their faith community's near-silence. I want this book to help the church understand that we have a moral responsibility to respond to the climate crisis with hope and love precisely because of our faith and not in spite of it.

What is unique about this approach to climate change?

**Kyle:** My book argues that the gospel not only allows Christians and the church to be concerned about and active on climate change, it requires it. I take a discipleship approach, arguing that climate change cuts to the heart of what it means to follow Jesus in the twenty-first century.

There are other books on the market about creation care and ones that even make a discipleship argument for why Christians should be engaged. There are also Christian books about climate change. This book is one of the only attempts to bring the tradition of Christian creation care discipleship into direct conversation with climate change and to argue that Christian discipleship requires not only general care for creation but direct action to address the climate crisis.

What do you hope readers take away from *Following Jesus in a Warming World*?

**Kyle:**

- Following Jesus requires action to address climate change.
- They aren't alone in their faith-informed concern for climate action.
- There are meaningful actions we can all take, rooted in the gospel, that can make a difference.
- Personal steps to address climate change are more than a laundry list of obligations—they are spiritual disciplines that form our hearts more closely after the heart of the Creator.
- Advocacy for strong climate policy is a concrete act of neighbor-love.



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