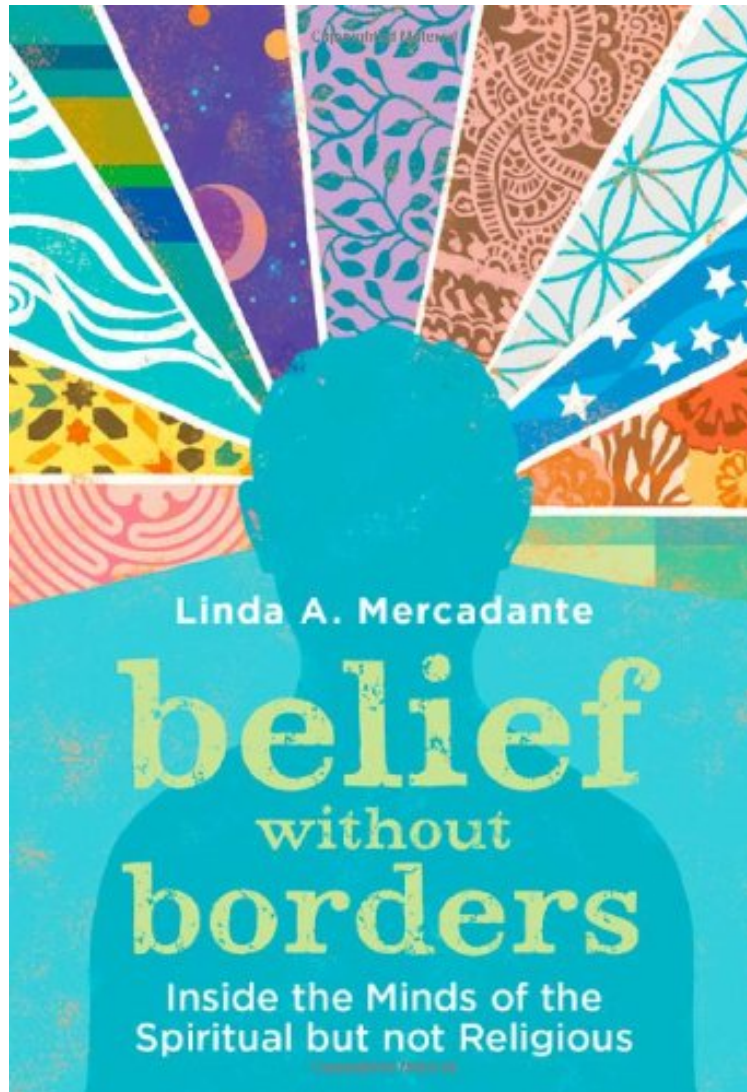


(Download) Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious

Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious

Linda A. Mercadante

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#577100 in Books Ingramcontent 2014-03-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.50 x 1.30 x 9.30l, .0 #File Name: 0199931003352 pagesBelief Without Borders Inside the Minds of the Spiritual But Not Religious | File size: 18.Mb

Linda A. Mercadante : Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Belief without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Church Leaders should be reading this bookBy Rev. Dr. William RandolphThis book is based upon an incredible number of personal interviews and great research methodology to give

a really complete picture of who the Spiritual But Not Religious, Non-affiliated, or Nones really are. More than theory, it is a sympathetic review of the voices of many SBNR's and why they are increasing. Other authors might write about them, but few have taken the time to really get to know and present them like this book does. Dr. Mercadante's book should be read by clergy, by those alienated by the church, and cultural anthropologists. Rather than dismissing the SBNR's as being responsible for their own disaffection with the church as an imperfect institution, she challenges church leaders to not only listen to the SBNR's but to explore what they have to offer the church for growth in spirituality. However, she also challenges SBNR's to strip away the baggage and the packaging of much of what is modern day church life, and explore the patterns of spirituality which has been practiced by some in the church for 100's of years, which offer new ways to actually be Spiritual but Not Religious.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. and to better relate to By RBM Very insightful and revealing of the "nones"; the author has a very accurate understanding of the culture of the population about whom she's writing; Well worth even a 2nd or 3rd reading to understand, and to better relate to, this significant segment of current American society. Besides, Dr. Mercadante is/was a professor at the same graduate school in central OH, of which I am an alumnus. She has brought further honor and distinction to the Methodist Theological School, Delaware, OH, with the publication of this very informative book!¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. Restored My Hope For the Church By DeeAnne L. Lowman Dr. Mercadante has a strong belief that the church that has survived and sustained the faith for so long can and must adapt and remain faithful. Her research and conclusions can help hold the church together, as well as teach it how to embrace, respect and find common ground with those who consider themselves spiritual but not religious. My personal faith has always been strong, and now my hope for the church and its future has been restored through her encouraging words. "Belief without Borders" is a must read for any church that desires to be both faithful and relevant.

Named A Best Spiritual Book of the Year by Spirituality Practice The last twenty years have seen a dramatic increase in "nones": people who do not claim any religious affiliation. These "nones" now outnumber even the largest Protestant denominations in America. They are not to be confused with secularists, however, for many of them identify themselves as "spiritual but not religious" (SBNR). The response to this dramatic change in American religion has been amazingly mixed. While social scientists have been busy counting and categorizing them, the public has swung between derision and adulation. Some complain "nones" are simply shallow dilettantes, narcissistically concerned with their own inner world. Others hail them as spiritual giants, and ground-breaking pioneers. Rarely, however, have these "nones" been asked to explain their own views, beliefs, and experiences. In *Belief without Borders*, theologian and one-time SBNR Linda Mercadante finally gives these individuals a chance to speak for themselves. This volume is the result of extensive observation and nearly 100 in-depth interviews with SBNRs across the United States. Mercadante presents SBNRs' stories, shows how they analyze their spiritual journeys, and explains why they reject the claims of organized religion. Surprisingly, however, Mercadante finds these SBNRs within as well as outside the church. She reveals the unexpected, emerging latent theology within this group, including the interviewees' creative concepts of divine transcendence, life after death, human nature, and community. The conclusions she draws are startling: despite the fact that SBNRs routinely discount the creeds and doctrines of organized religion, many have devised a structured set of beliefs, often purposefully in opposition to doctrines associated with Christianity. *Belief without Borders* is a captivating exploration of a growing belief system certain to transform the spiritual character of America.

"Rich with detail and nuance...[Mercadante] is a naturally gifted writer." --Nova Religio "Linda Mercadante has clearly touched a cultural nerve *Belief without Borders* is rich with detail and nuance. It is full of voices-Mercadante lets her interviewees speak for themselves, in their own terms-and is held together by her own voice, which is clear, concrete, and candid. And respectful: she takes her conversation partners seriously enough to challenge them." --Nova Religio "For those who think that being 'spiritual but not religious' is intellectually vague, it is time to think again. In *Belief without Borders*, Linda Mercadante explores the beliefs of the religiously unaffiliated regarding God, sin, community, the afterlife, and ethics and finds people living 'between' the worlds of secularism and traditional faith. By taking the new spiritual impulse seriously as theology, she affirms the power of spiritual experience as a force remaking the patterns of contemporary faith." --Diana Butler Bass, author of *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* "In the tradition of Robert Bellah's *Habits of the Heart*, Mercadante here offers us a brilliant narrative introduction to the theology and belief systems of the 'Spiritual but not Religious' among us. Highly accessible and rife with insightful commentary, *Belief without Borders* is far and away the richest study I have seen to date of the SBNR and is destined to become a classic in the field." --Phyllis Tickle, author of *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why* "Belief without Borders breaks new ground by describing the growing 'spiritual but not religious' population in the United States. Drawing on in-depth interviews, Mercadante finds that the 'spiritual but not religious' are critical of both organized religion and the secular world. The book offers an analysis of the role of belief in contemporary America. It is a welcome and much needed contribution." --John C. Green, Professor, Political Science, University of Akron "This informative, engaging, and

important book shatters the myth that those who describe themselves as 'spiritual but not religious' (SBNR) are self-absorbed theological illiterates self-indulgently 'pic 'n mixing' their way to objectively superficial spiritual self-satisfaction." --Journal of Contemporary Religion

About the Author Linda Mercadante is the B. Robert Straker Professor of Historical Theology at The Methodist Theological School in Ohio and is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).