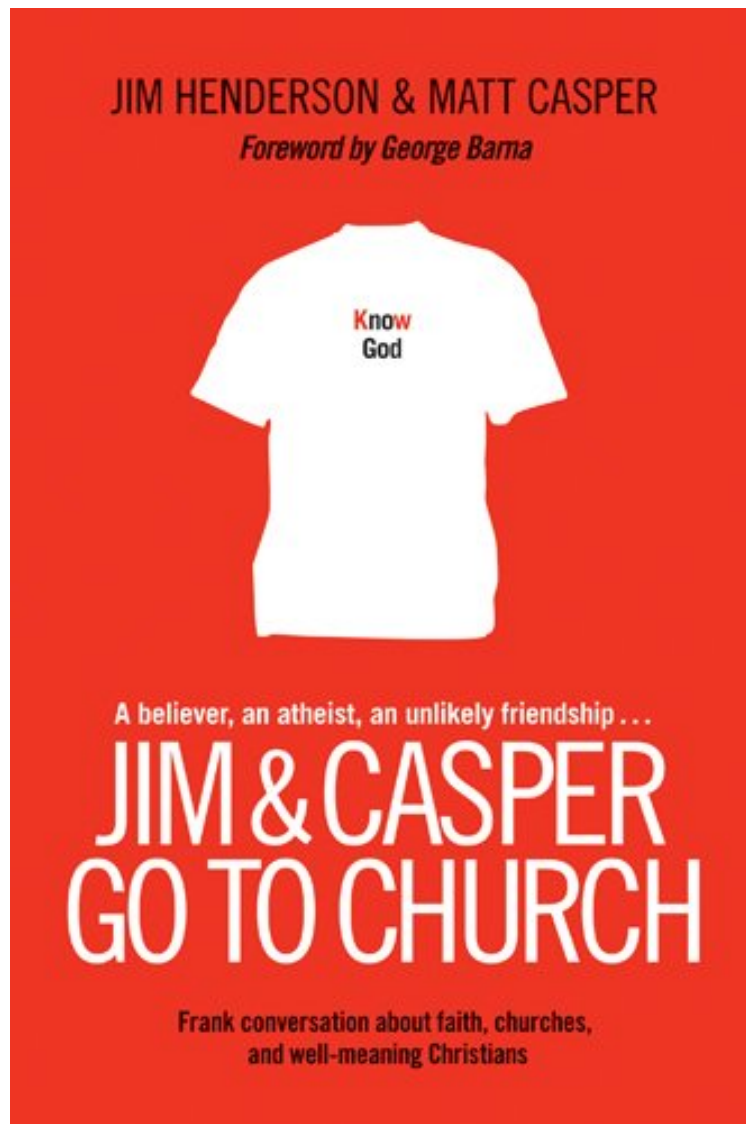


(Online library) Jim and Casper Go to Church: Frank Conversation about Faith, Churches, and Well-Meaning Christians

Jim and Casper Go to Church: Frank Conversation about Faith, Churches, and Well-Meaning Christians

Jim Henderson, Matt Casper
*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#121404 in Books Tyndale House Publishers 2012-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .50 x 5.50l, .50 #File Name: 141435858X208 pages Jim and Casper Go to Church Frank Conversation about Faith Churches and Well Meaning Christians | File size: 70.Mb

Jim Henderson, Matt Casper : Jim and Casper Go to Church: Frank Conversation about Faith, Churches, and Well-Meaning Christians before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jim and Casper Go to Church: Frank Conversation about Faith, Churches, and Well-Meaning Christians:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Looking at the familiar from the outside
By M. Chesner
A good meditation on the state of church (little c) today, and how Christians present ourselves to the world. Interestingly, the primary concerns of the skeptic here were not generally those we worry about as church leaders. He didn't care about "polish" or having a "visitor center" or "coffee time" or a "welcoming committee". (Actually, he was generally put off by these things.) Instead he had two primary concerns (among others): 1. Engagement with the community (What he calls Jesus's "call to action"), and 2. Christian jargon (not the 10-dollar words but things like singing "nothing but the blood of Jesus" without explanation). The author had his own drum to beat, and it was primarily that Christians need to do more dialogue and less debate with atheists specifically and non-Christians in general. It is a point well-taken, but seemed defensive and self-serving at times. Overall, a good read and worth your time if you are a Christian trying to understand why non-believers aren't coming out in droves.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Church through the lens of an unbelieving guest
By D. Nichols
I read this book several years ago when it first came out. I really enjoyed it. It helped me take a walk around the church and see a bigger picture. I think to many Christians never venture outside (if only to visit) different denominations and Christian tribes. The added bonus of this book is that Matt Casper is an atheist. So not only does the reader experience the worship styles of different communities, but it gets to experience those events through the lens of an unbelieving guest.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought inspiring
By Customer
I liked the objectivity that Casper gave throughout this book. How his outside view really made me think of what I thought of "well that's just how it is". Thank you Casper for your honest thoughts, and thank you both for being open minded to befriend someone who doesn't believe or think like you.

What does an atheist think about church? Jim Henderson decided that the best way to find out was to ask! So he recruited an atheist Matt Casper to visit twelve leading churches with him and give the first impression perspective of a non-believer. Week after week, this spiritual odd couple attended services at churches all over the country and documented their experiences and reactions to each one. Along the way, they found the real value of their journey in the open and authentic friendship that developed as they talked, questioned, joked, and most importantly listened. Follow along with Jim and Casper on their visits, and eavesdrop as they discuss what they found. Their articulate, sometimes humorous, and always insightful dialogue offers Christians a new view of an environment where we've become overly comfortable: the church.

From Publishers Weekly
It could be the pilot script for a sitcom: a pastor hires an atheist to help him critique several Christian churches throughout the United States. For the authors, however, this experiment was no joke. Henderson, a veteran Protestant minister, truly believes that evangelism requires listening to the good, the bad and the ugly about Christianity in order to be a better minister. So he hired Casper, an atheist copywriter and musician, to serve as "fresh eyes" and observe how a variety of Christians engage the Divine through worship. Their travels took them to a mission-minded church, an Emergent church and to Joel Osteen's megachurch, among others. In the book, Henderson peppers his partner with questions about each service, and Casper comments on everything from preaching to music to the geographical location of the churches. The take-home point, which is simultaneously simple, profound and of great importance to Christianity is, "Why are there such glaring discrepancies among churches regarding what it means to be a follower of Christ?" The two authors include some banal dialogue at times, but this is a minor distraction. Anyone interested in contemporary evangelism, especially pastors, will enjoy and learn from this humorous and heartening travelogue. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From the Back Cover
Is this what Jesus told you guys to do? Light shows, fog machines, worship bands, offering plates—is this what Jesus intended? Atheist Matt Casper wants to know. Longtime Christian Jim Henderson realized he'd been immersed in church culture for so long that he had no idea how a nonbeliever might interpret a usual Sunday service . . . or what might inspire him or her to come back. So he decided to ask! Jim invited an atheist Matt Casper to visit twelve leading churches with him and give the first impression perspective of a skeptic. Week after week, this spiritual odd couple attended services at churches all over the country and documented their experiences and reactions. Along the way, they found the real value of their journey in the open and authentic friendship that developed as they talked, questioned, joked, and most importantly listened. Follow along with Jim and Casper on their visits, and eavesdrop as they discuss what they found. Their articulate, sometimes humorous, and always insightful dialogue offers Christians a new view of an environment where we've become overly comfortable: the church.
About the Author
Jim Henderson is cofounder and executive director of Off The Map, a nonprofit organization focused on reinventing evangelism by encouraging Christians to connect with people in small, ordinary, and doable ways. He and his wife, Barb, have been involved in church planting, pastoring, and leadership development for over twenty-five years. They have three children and live in Seattle. Matt Casper is a marketing copywriter, a freelance writer, a guitar slinger / rock singer, an avid reader, and a halfway decent cook. His dream job is "gadabout . . . maybe raconteur." He is happily married to Yvonne and is a proud, hands-on father of Evelyn and Cole. He and his family live in San Diego.