

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

OCTOBER 2007

YES, I WROTE A BOOK

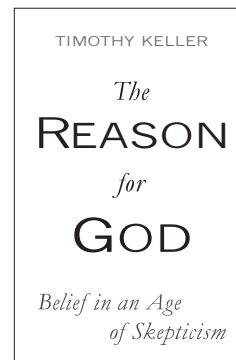
BY TIM KELLER

How do you tell people something they probably want to know without playing into the great American hype machine? I've been getting so many questions about this I thought I would write a simple newsletter article to members and friends to let you know that, yes, I wrote a book.

I've been working for some time on a book for the ordinary (which means very sharp) spiritually skeptical New Yorker. Ever since I got to New York nearly two decades ago I've wished I had a volume to give people that not only answered objections to Christianity (what has been called 'apologetics') but also positively presented the basics of the gospel in an accessible yet substantial way. I had some books that did the one and some that did the other, but only one did both—*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. As

you know, I think Lewis' book is peerless, and foolish would be the author who tried to replace him!

However, the issues in the public discourse around Christianity have become much more



complex than they were in the mid and late 20th century. The questions are now not just philosophical (e.g. Is there evidence for God's existence?) They are also now cultural (Doesn't strong faith

make a multicultural society impossible?), political (Doesn't orthodox religion undermine freedom?) and personal. Also fifty years ago, when C.S. Lewis was writing, there was general agreement that rational argument and empirical method were the best ways to discover truth. That consensus has vanished. Today there are deep disagreements over how we know things and how certain we can be about anything. Most of the older books presenting Christianity now are only persuasive and even comprehensible to a very narrow range of people.

All this means that there is a great need for new literature that speaks to our time and says, "Christianity makes sense." I know I'm only one of many who are trying to do this over the next

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WORKING ALONGSIDE ALL ANGELS

BY KENNY MARCHETTI

In this place where the sound of traffic never ceases and people move like a ghostly traffic from home to work and home, and the poor in their tenements speak to their gods and the rich do not hear them...

— Mark Strand, "Night Piece," *Poems of New York*

On the morning of August 11, about twenty people from Redeemer and Apostles churches left our work and our homes to enter into a quieter sanctuary known as All Angels Church on

the Upper West Side. We went there to do a different kind of work along side a few men who have no place to call home. And we went in response to the unfamiliar voices we often don't hear: the voices of the working poor.

"Working poor." Those words put together sound different, unfamiliar, even ghostly. Imagine working hard every week, yet remaining poor. Imagine having to choose whether to buy groceries or medicine, to pay your rent or to pay for food. As Com-

munity Ministries Pastor, Mark Swanson, explained to us, these are the very real choices for thousands of our New York neighbors.

To provide much-needed relief for the working poor, All Angels Church maintains a Food Pantry, from which they distribute bags of groceries on a monthly basis to those in need of assistance. Clearly, this ministry requires a fair amount of volunteer effort. So, our team of volunteers came to do what simply had to be

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COUNSELING SEMINAR: PORNOGRAPHY IN RELATIONSHIPS

On Saturday, October 27th from 9:00AM to 12:00PM the Redeemer Counseling Center will offer a seminar on *Pornography In Relationships: How Pornography & Lust Destroy Intimacy & Loving Relationships & How To find Healing*.

This is a seminar for both men and women to learn about and discuss the ways pornography and lust prevent us from experiencing true intimacy and loving, Godly relationships. There will be teaching that explores how to repair the damage done to relationships and begin to live in sexual purity and to communicate honestly. We will explore what creates the framework for truly intimate relationships and marriages. We will have a panel composed of two married couples who have experienced the damage that porn and lust created in their marriages and families. They will share how they are finding continued healing and deeper intimacy with God and each other.

There will also be time set aside for you to discuss with each other some of the pain that lust and sexuality outside of God's order has brought into your life.

Whether you are a man or woman, married or single, or someone who wants to understand how to minister to those who battle with sexual addiction, this is the place to seek Biblical wisdom and the tools for healing from any sexual brokenness that you or those you love are facing.

The seminar will be led by Dave Wanner. Here are Dave's words:

For seventeen years I have had a full time counseling and support group ministry to those caught in the lust and sexual addiction trap. The problem has grown exponentially in our society and has made huge inroads into the church. The Internet has provided a sewer line into every home. Many have stumbled onto porn sites out of curiosity and have gotten sucked into secret sin. Shame has kept them from getting help. Others have

rationalized their actions. As a man whose life was nearly destroyed by sexual addiction, I have experienced the destruction that choosing lust over love causes in our lives and the lives of those we care about.

Matthew 7:24-27 says, "Everyone who hears these words of mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

Are your relationships built on lust or love? The foundation you choose will determine if your house stands or falls.

ALONGSIDE ALL ANGELS

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done: organize the food into grocery bags. Thanks to the ingenuity of Henry Ford, our food assembly line was efficient and effective. And thanks to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our labor was joyful and loving.

New voices were heard that day, as those from All Angels, Redeemer, and Apostles talked with one another, meeting new people and making new friends. And new words came into exist-

tence, too, as questions of concern for the working poor were raised and prayers for their welfare were lifted.

Most importantly of all, a Voice behind—and yet beyond—every other voice was heard that day. And the Voice spoke these old words of a New Commandment: *By this we know love,*

that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in Him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.

— St. John the Apostle,
1 John 3:16-18

To volunteer at a Hope For New York ministry, email faith@hfny.org or call (212) 808-4460 x114.

REDEEMER REPORT

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HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington) services at 10:30AM • 6:00PM	ETHICAL CULTURE West 64TH and CPW service at 9:15AM	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Corner of West 79TH and Broadway service at 5:00PM & 7:15PM
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“EACH FOR THE OTHER: MARRIAGE AS IT’S MEANT TO BE” BY BRYAN CHAPELL

REVIEWED BY KALLEN TSIKALAS

As a single person, I read *Each for the Other: Marriage as it’s Meant to Be* for three reasons: 1) I wanted to learn what was truly possible in a God-centered marriage; 2) I wanted to see how my dating process might change by having a clearer vision of the true relationship I hoped to attain; and 3) I’ve always had trouble with the concept of sacrifice as it pertains to human relationships, and I wanted to see how this author treated the subject. This book did not disappoint me. I felt my heart softening as I read it and, weeks after having finished it, I still find myself reflecting back on its gentle lessons.

The book includes sections on The Sacrificial Husband (To Scale the Heights); The Sacrificial Wife (Noble Love); and Sacrificial Partners (Shared Love). In these sections, the author describes the responsibilities, reasons for, joys

and challenges of living in loving partnership as God intended, where each lifts the other to know more of His love and care. Dr. Chapell uses biblical references and modern parables as well as real-life examples from his own experience as a husband, father, pastor, and counselor to illustrate why and how sacrificial, marital love can work in today’s society.

Far from formulaic, this book was very tender and insightful. For example, in describing the husband’s role in a marriage, Chapell writes that the husband is to help his wife “realize her eternal preciousness and value.” In doing so, he must become conscious of the ways he may rob her of her sense of value by small acts of denigration or simply by neglecting to communicate to her the ways in which he sees her beauty and worth. Chapell uses examples from his own marriage as illustra-

tions of how this may occur.

Similarly, in the section on the sacrificial wife, he explains that while husbands may try to use their power and physique to dominate their wives, wives may be tempted to use words and emotions (shame and guilt) to diminish their husbands and take control.

He reminds us that by contributing to her husband’s sense of worth, a woman increases her delight of him as well as the possibility for greater intimacy and growth. Finally, in the section on shared love, the author provides “building blocks” for creating a Christian family. He notes: “My relationship with my wife should so confirm her personal security with the Lord that she can afford to do what is best for our children, even if that threatens a child’s acceptance of her. My

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CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK EVENTS IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Thurs.	10/4	7:00PM	Law Fellowship Dinner, Redeemer Offices
Tues.	10/9	7:00PM	Graduate Students Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Thurs.	10/11	6:30PM	Educators Event: Chuck Stetson, “The Bible in Schools,” Redeemer Ofcs.
Thurs.	10/11	7:00PM	Health Care Fellowship, www.faithandwork.org/healthcare
Fri.	10/12	7:00PM	Inter Arts Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Sun.	10/14	12:15PM	A Christian Walk Down Wall Street, Hunter College, Room 507
Mon.	10/15	7:00PM	Entrepreneurs Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Tues.	10/16	7:00PM	The A.D. Group, Redeemer Offices
Wed.	10/17	7:00PM	Marketing & Sales Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Thurs.	10/18	8:00AM	Law Fellowship Breakfast, Redeemer Offices
Sun.	10/21	12:00PM	Health Care Luncheon, Meet 69th St. entrance at Hunter College
Mon.	10/22	7:00PM	Financial Services Monthly, Redeemer Offices
Fri.	10/26	7:00PM	Juried Art Exhibition, Reception & Silent Auction, Redeemer Offices
Tues.	10/30	6:30PM	FSM Speaker Event: Carla Harris, American Bible Society
Fri.	11/2	6:30PM	Law Fellowship Speaker Event: Tim Keller, Redeemer Offices

Please go to www.faithandwork.org to RSVP or register for all CFW events. We hope you’ll join us!



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REDEEMER OFFICER OPEN HOUSE

Friday, November 9 at 7:00PM
Redeemer Offices, 1359 Broadway, 4th Fl.

You are cordially invited to meet Redeemer's elected leaders, the members of the Session and the Diaconate. Come learn what the Session and the Diaconate do, hear about what it is like to be an elder and a deacon/deaconess and find out how you can be involved.

Light refreshments will be served. RSVP for this event to jenny@redeemer.com

YES, I WROTE A BOOK (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

few years. My contribution is slated to be released February 14, 2008, by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Books. Its title is *The Reason for God: Belief in Age of*

Skepticism. You can find a little more information about it on Amazon.com.

Even though the book is not addressing believers, I still hope it

will be a help to the members and friends of Redeemer. It may make it easier to represent your heart-felt beliefs to people you love. That's my prayer.

"EACH FOR THE OTHER..." , A REVIEW (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

wife's relationship with me should be such a reinforcement of my own security with the Lord that I do not need to discipline my children for my ego's sake. A healthy

relationship between a husband and wife provides the spiritual support that grounds discipline in love for the child rather than concern for the parent" (p. 135).

I would recommend *Each for the Other: Marriage as it's Meant to Be* for both singles and couples seeking to grow in faith and in relationship with a loved one.