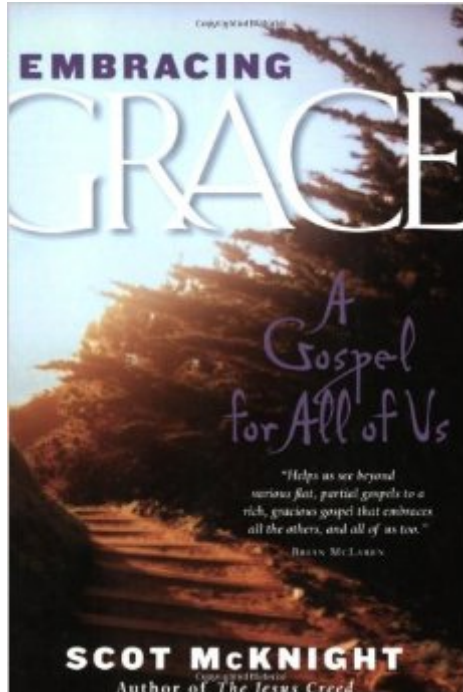


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# Embracing Grace: A Gospel For All Of Us



## Synopsis

This fascinating book explains that the gospel is about the restoration of "cracked Eikons" (fallen humans) so that humans can be in union with God and in communion with the saints. In the candid and lucid style that has made McKnight's *The Jesus Creed* so appealing to thousands of pastors, lay leaders, and everyday people who are searching for a more authentic faith, he encourages all Christians to recognize the simple, yet potentially transforming truth of the gospel message: God seeks to restore us to wholeness not only to make us better individuals, but to form a community of Jesus, a society in which humans strive to be in union with God and in communion with others.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Scot McKnight's *\*Embracing Grace\** is a redeeming book and the object of redemption is "the gospel." The US American (or "western") gospel is a shrivelled specimen of the gospel presented in the Bible and lived and proclaimed by Jesus, the apostles and early church. One line in the book captures a boatload of truth. Scot writes about the younger generation of Christians who are aware of a bigger gospel than the previous generation could imagine. Scot states, "That gospel comes in the shape of a community." Think about that. The gospel comes not in the shape of a sermon or a pamphlet or 3 steps to this and 4 steps for that. A community. Weaving together the grand story of God's redemptive purpose, McKnight brings together the broken strands of God's creation design for humanity. Sin shattered the eikons of God, that is, sin corrupted men and women who bear God's image and who exist to live a life of love with God, with each other and with creation itself.

This design includes being content within ourselves as well. The western monkey-wrench that clogs up the process of God's gospel of restoration is our renegade worship of the idol of "individualism." Sin made Adam and Eve primarily individuals which was a devastating crack in God's majestic Eikons. We've been in a deep, gooey mess ever since. In McKnight's unfolding of the marvels of the biblical gospel we appreciate the wonder of the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is breath-taking, no doubt. But forgiveness is the foothills of the Rockies. Restored relationships are the peaks of the gospel. Sin destroys relationships as well as muddies up our lives. The gospel is about restoring relationships with a joyful, divine Community called God the Father, Son and Spirit.

In this wonderful book, Scot McKnight provides a fresh picture of a gospel of restoration. Humans were created as images ("eikons" is the term Scot prefers) of God, and the gospel is the message of Jesus acting to restore "cracked Eikons" to their original state. According to McKnight in the introduction, "The gospel is the work of God to restore humans in union with God and communion with others, in the context of a community for the good of others and the world" This restoration is an active process, intimately entwined with living a 'Kingdom lifestyle' in line with the life of Jesus and his teachings, summed up in the "Jesus Creed" of loving God and others (see Scot's other excellent book for more about that.) Hence the restoration also involves the healing of relationships with God, other people, and creation as a whole, and thus cannot take place in isolation. McKnight identifies western individualism as one of the biggest stumbling blocks preventing us from completely embracing this gracious gospel. Individualism is essentially a process of exclusion, diametrically opposed to the gospel of Jesus which is one of embrace, towards God and others. Scot quotes quite a bit from Miroslav Volf's "Exclusion and Embrace" a book that I've had on my wishlist for quite some time, but have now finally gotten around to ordering, as a result of reading this book. This is a very powerful, deeply thought out, yet easy to read book. Scot McKnight has the knowledge and depth of a theologian (which he is) with the heart of a pastor - actually more than that - the heart of an eikon being restored to its true state. His writing style is engaging and never bogs you down. In fact he's almost too down to earth at times (what on earth is "tohu va-bohu" Scot??

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