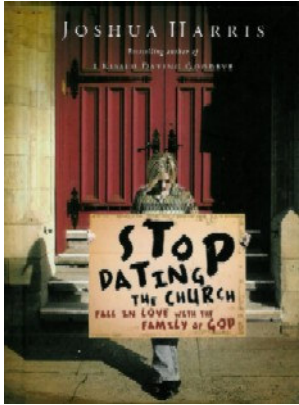


# Read 'Em and Reap!

Evangelical Christian Book Reviews  
Hebrews 5:14



## Stop Dating the Church – Joshua Harris

It is probably safe to say that most Christians are “dating” the church. That is, they are being involved when it is convenient, showing up when they don’t oversleep or have other plans or simply going for what they can get from it. Whatever one wants to call it, it is a far cry from being totally committed.

Josh Harris, the author who first brought us books about dating (or not dating) other people has issued a challenge which needs to be taken. He has challenged the Christian community to stop dating the church and to become committed. Whatever

your attitude about church may be, it probably could use some adjusting.

Harris identifies some key issues regarding what we think concerning church. In the first chapter, he discusses what is missed when believers date the church. He says, “when we resist passion and commitment in our relationship with the church, *everyone* gets cheated out of God’s best...yourself, a church community, the world”(p.18).

After giving a great explanation of the church from Heaven’s perspective (bride and body), he challenges the reader to consider why we need the local Church and shows what passion in action looks like. When someone is passionate about an organization or club, they do a number of things: they join, make it a priority, find ways to serve, give, connect with people and they share their passion with others. Passion for the church is the same.

Chapters 5 & 6 are probably the most practical and helpful in the book. Chapter 5 is a list of the 10 things that matter most in a church. This is a list of the essentials that is required for a church to be considered biblically Christ centered. This chapter ends with a difficult and sensitive subject: when it’s time to find a new church home.

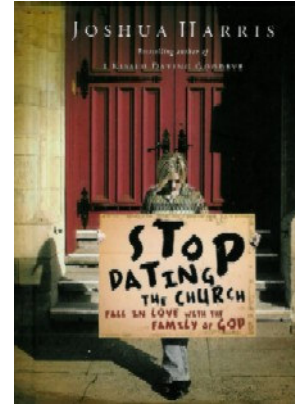
Then he moves into chapter 6 for those who have a biblically sound church and need to rescue Sunday. He gives some very basic, but extremely practical tips for getting more from the best day of the week, including tips for before, during and after the service.

Finally, he issues the challenge to commitment in the last chapter. No matter what you think your commitment level may be, this is an eye-opening and challenging book. *Read ‘em & Reap!*

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