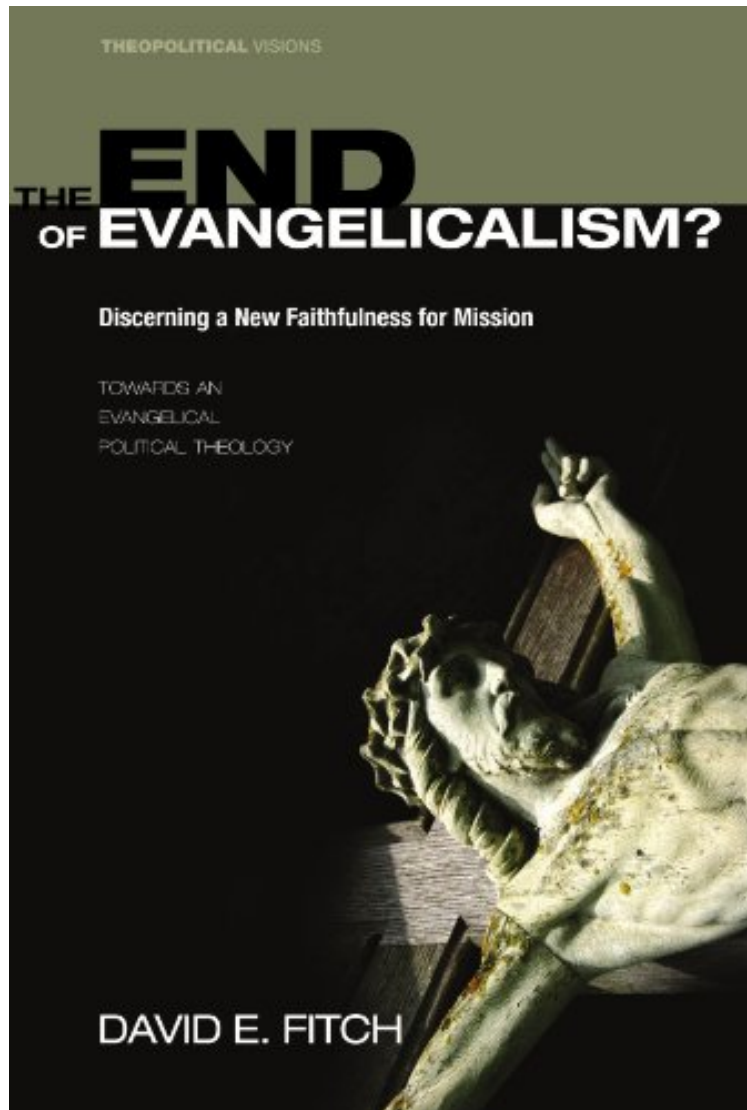


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## **The End of Evangelicalism? Discerning a New Faithfulness for Mission: Towards an Evangelical Political Theology (Theopolitical Visions)**

*David E. Fitch*

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#778590 in Books 2011-02-04 2011-02-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .63 x 6.00l, .80 #File Name: 1606086847252 pages | File size: 47.Mb

**David E. Fitch : The End of Evangelicalism? Discerning a New Faithfulness for Mission: Towards an Evangelical Political Theology (Theopolitical Visions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of Evangelicalism? Discerning a New Faithfulness for Mission: Towards an Evangelical Political Theology (Theopolitical Visions):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fitch's 4 theses nailed into the cloud  
By Joseph W. Holbrook  
This is the book I wanted to write, but I could never have done it justice in the way that Fitch did. He put it all together for me in a way that made sense. I have been observing 'anomalies' (to use Thomas Kuhn's term) in Evangelicalism for years, but I was not sure why. These anomalies are the discrepancies between what Jesus taught and what Evangelicals practice (love your enemies vs. Kill terrorists for example). The chapter showing how the "Christian Nation" paradigm (another of Kuhn's terms) becomes a "master-signifier" or abstracted symbol to rally Evangelicals around a conservative political ideology continues to be especially helpful for me. This book will be a significant marker for change in the years to come.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Too difficult  
By Andrew van  
I think this book mostly went over my head? However, I was able to take some truths and preach a sermon. Great synopsis of Brian McLaren.  
13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Hope for a New Faithfulness for Mission  
By Brian Houghtaling  
As Dr. Fitch warns in his blog, "there's some intense political theory in this book alongside some intense theology." While I lack formal education in both political theory and theology, I still found this book to be both accessible and full of hope. It's accessible because Fitch provides a comprehensive overview of the methods he uses to understand the 'fact' of experience (political theory) of Evangelical theology. He covers a lot of ground as he helps the reader understand and apply Slavoj Žižek's social critical framework. After a couple of sessions of reading and rereading, I was prepared to use Žižek's framework to explore Evangelicalism. Fitch goes on to systematically investigate three central Evangelical theological commitments: "the inerrant Bible," "the decision for Christ," and "the Christian Nation." He clearly shows how these commitments have led to the establishment of an ideology that tends to be against much more than it is for. The good news is that he doesn't finish with a mere critique. I found hope as Fitch goes on to truly discern a new faithfulness for mission. Faithfulness focused on the formation of God's people, socially, into the Body of Christ, "the very extension of "the Sent One" participating in the *missio Dei* - the restoration of all things. On several occasions, I have struggled to understand the opinions of some of my Evangelical friends and colleagues. Having a desire to live together in unity (Psalm 133: 1-3), I have sometimes remained silent especially when confronted with strongly held group opinions. Fitch's book has given me a way to both understand where these opinions come from and a renewed hope for change. A hope that is based on faith in a loving God, a hope that claims that redemption, not suffering, is the final word.

In *The End of Evangelicalism?* David Fitch examines the political presence of evangelicalism as a church in North America. Amidst the negative image of evangelicalism in the national media and its purported decline as a church, Fitch asks how evangelicalism's belief and practice has formed it as a political presence in North America. Why are evangelicals perceived as arrogant, exclusivist, duplicitous, and dispassionate by the wider culture? Diagnosing its political cultural presence via the ideological theory of Slavoj Žižek, Fitch argues that evangelicalism appears to have lost the core of its politics: Jesus Christ. In so doing its politics has become "empty." Its witness has been rendered moot. The way back to a vibrant political presence is through the corporate participation in the triune God's ongoing work in the world as founded in the incarnation. Herein lies the way towards an evangelical missional political theology. Fitch ends his study by examining the possibilities for a new faithfulness in the current day emerging and missional church movements springing forth from evangelicalism in North America.

"In your hands is one of the sharpest and informed evaluations of the state of evangelicalism. Read it slowly. Ponder it. Plot a better evangelicalism."  
--Scot McKnight  
Karl A. Olsson  
Professor in Religious Studies  
North Park University  
"In compelling fashion, Fitch digs deep to examine how key U.S. evangelical beliefs actually function as an ideology rather than gospel. He calls us from a Christianity that acts as 'ideology' to one that authentically incarnates Jesus' life and mission. What a book! This one will knock you back on your heels."  
--Howard A. Snyder  
Professor of Wesley Studies  
Tyndale Seminary, Ontario, Canada  
"This is a significant book for those wrestling with the theological and cultural integrity of the Evangelical movement in a post-Christian setting."  
--John R. Franke  
Clemens Professor of Missional Theology  
Biblical Seminary, Hatfield, Pennsylvania  
"David Fitch explores three key issues that symbolize the evangelical conundrum—the inerrant Bible, the decision for Christ, and the Christian nation—by reframing them through missional theology. This is a timely and crucial read for those concerned about the evangelical movement."  
--Craig Van Gelder  
Professor of Congregational Mission  
Luther Seminary, St. Paul  
--Wipf and Stock Publishers  
About the Author  
David E. Fitch is B. R. Lindner Professor of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary, Lombard IL. He is also a pastor at Life on the Vine Christian Community in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago. He is the author of *The Great Giveaway* (2005).