

A Letter to My Anxious Christian Friends: From Fear to Faith in Unsettled Times By David P. Gushee  
Nor do I feel it will promote dialogue between these factions within the Christian community who are anxious for very different reasons (it's telling to me for example that he is silent about issues of religious liberty). Perhaps the places they differ might open up the safe space for Christians to wrestle toward an ethic of societal engagement that is neither left nor right but distinctively Christian. A Special Thank You to Westminster John Knox Press and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review I thought I would look this Arthur on google and I found this interest article. It seems to be just the author expounding his personal opinions on all the hot button issues of the day.

The current election season is causing a lot of angst among the American people. For the most part he urges calm but at times as is true with the words about climate change he finds it necessary to encourage his readers to get a better focus on the issue at hand. Because Gushee's roots are evangelical his primary audience is the white evangelical community that seems beholden to a particular party that could be acting contrary to their best interests. The first half of the book focuses on foundation issues such as American identity the role of Christians in America the relationship of Christianity to democracy political parties divisions in the country the role of judges character and patriotism (a must read). If you were to judge Gushee's positions according to party he would probably look more Democrat than Republican but while he recognizes the role of parties and that the two party system isn't going away he wants us to think beyond party. And at first thought it began to fall apart in chapter 7 with: "I think we have good reason at this time in our long national sojourn to be anxious about the erosion of the moral (and religious) ethos that once formed and constrained our expressions of the maximized liberty of our political system. The delicate balance that the founders expected—a free people but not utterly free because they are shaped and constrained by the force of a powerfully religious and moral culture—is in the process of being lost. But what about the right and their rejections of civil rights you've gone on about in the previous 6 chapters? And another example chapter 9 doesn't seem to mesh with many conservative viewpoints - with its devotion to equality figuring out your privilege and how extensive racism truly is. But then about one-third of the way through the book I realized what Gushee was actually trying to do here! He's taking a page from Lakoff's Don't Think of an Elephant! Know Your Values and Frame the Debate He's framing! Holy crap! This is the holy grail! The above quote is obviously from a Christian perspective. For a book that was supposed to be from a Christian to fellow Christians he did not cited the Scripture nearly as much as I felt like he should especially in talking about the Christian response to various issues. But what about today's Christians where are we? Do we just stand by as our nation makes changes we don't like? What should a faithful Christian do? The author's purpose in writing this book is to inform Christians. A foremost expert in the field of Christian ethics he is the author or editor of twenty books including Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust Kingdom Ethics The Sacredness of Human Life Changing Our Mind and Evangelical Ethics . A Letter to My Anxious Christian Friends: From Fear to Faith in Unsettled Times The dedication page of this book sets the tone immediately with: To every Christian who tries to love America. So how does the Christian today stay faithful and keep his/her eye on the prize Christ set before us without losing the very essence of what Christ taught us? Gushee brings things to a simple answer. 0664262686 Summary: Written as a series of letters this is an exploration of what it means as a Christian to both love and be anxious for one's country as people of faith committed to the global kingdom of God. Gushee thinks there are good warrants for American Christians who love their country to be anxious—the erosion of a Christian consensus the economic jolts we have faced as a country the deep fractures along lines of race and values that we have experienced the violence of our streets and the instances where police have also exercised force unjustly. Written in the run up to the 2016 presidential election Gushee explores what it means both to face the issues that arouse such fear and step back from the fractured political discourse to try to think as Christians about what it means to live into our faith instead of being governed by our fears (and perhaps those who play upon them). The first

eight are an exploration of who we are as a country of Americans the place of Christians within that how we understand our form of government and the development of political parties the state of our civic character and how Christians might think about patriotism. What I appreciated best were some of his reflections on how we are and are not a Christian nation--both the Christian influences upon our institutions and the fact that no nation can be a Christian nation as Israel was the people of God. He commends a kind of patriotism that is not an America first mentality but rather a wanting what is best of this country for all of its people while being mindful of our place in the world. The second part of the book then considers how we might move from fear to faith in addressing some of the fearsome challenges we face: Race: a call for white majority Christians to listen. Sex: as one who has previously endorsed gay marriage in the civil sphere he argues that our focus is better spent on the more casual and thoughtless expressions of sexuality and its heart-wrenching consequences. Abortion: while deeply troubled by a casual approach to abortion especially late-term abortions and favoring some legal restrictions on abortion with exceptions for rape incest and threats to the life of a mother he argues for greater focus on preventing pregnancies that would lead to abortion. Aliens: here he would like to see reforms proposed before our recent election cycle for comprehensive immigration reform that both secures borders while providing some path for undocumented persons who have not broken other laws to gain some kind of legal status. While nations must protect themselves he argues there are many tools and Christian should press for the nonviolent ones to be used insofar as possible and for constitutional processes to be protected. Because Gushee tries to cover so much ground especially in the second part of the book in a series of short reflections many of his recommendations which tend to echo more progressive positions in most cases come with relatively little biblical or theological argument nor is there much of an effort to address opposing views. As a result my sense is that the book will be re-assuring to those of Gushee's anxious friends from a more progressive outlook an ethic of faith working through love is much preferable to one that resides and responds in fear. I have many friends that have homeschooled with great success and he affirms that as well but he also and I will use his own words Sometimes the students who resulted from these efforts were wonderful sometimes they were poorly prepared for college and sometimes they were just odd. There probably was less than a handful of scripture if any included in this text which makes my point that this is more of rambling instead of addressing the issues with the gospel. I'm not quite sure who the anxious Christians are - those who agree with the author or those who do not - but I don't see much here that would ease anxiety on either side. Gushee is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University Chair of Christian Social Ethics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Senior Research Fellow International Baptist Theological Study Centre. Gushee is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University Chair of Christian Social Ethics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Senior Research Fellow International Baptist Theological Study Centre: I found Russell Moore's Onward a far more helpful resource for promoting this kind of engagement. It is rather long but I did have a hard time reading this book because I felt like I could not get a grasp on what the Gospel was to him. As always the gospel is good news but you have to know the bad news as well to embrace the good: 0664262686 I'm not sure who the intended audience for this book is. It's also causing Christians to deal with uncomfortable questions about our relationship to culture and nation: There is need for a calm word to Christians so that they might live by faith rather than fear. Of course there is also a need for Christians to be challenged by their faith to live in the nation with their faith as their guide: There are few better guides in our day than David Gushee: Gushee writes a letter to anxious Christians living in America a letter that is long enough a book, Whether one is part of that particular community or not this is a prescient book: It speaks to our times and our anxieties calling forth from us wisdom and courage to go against the grain: He theologizes about public life in a way that is accessible thoughtful and challenging, You're going to find yourself in agreement at points and disagreement at others, The book is comprised of twenty chapters most of which are relatively brief. In each of these chapters Gushee invites us to consider what it means to be Christian and American, He reminds us much as John Fea does in his books that the debate over whether America is a

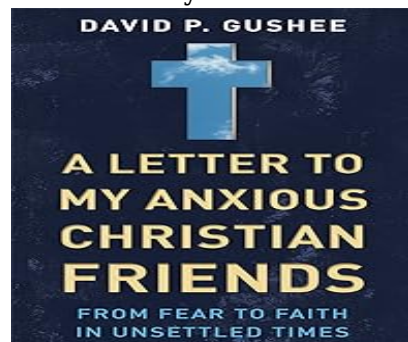
Christian nation is a diversion: The fact is Christians have formed a majority of residents since the beginning of the nation: At the same time the Constitution never established Christianity, Today the nation is increasingly pluralistic and so even if were once Christian we're no longer as dominant as was once the case. While democracy isn't a Christian way of governing it does reflect certain Christian insights, The remaining chapters focus on specific issues ranging from race to health care. In between he discusses police sex abortion immigration guns money climate war executions education: On abortion he stands on the pro-life side of the equation. On sexuality he's conservative in one sense but wants to open the question about inclusion of LGBT folks in church and culture. AS we traverse this difficult season he would like us to live faithfully, That means looking to faith as a guide and recognizing our responsibility for each other, That is one important reason why he takes such an impassioned position on climate change. As the son of a climate scientist he has a good background on environmental issues, He challenges the global warming is a hoax crowd with science but he also reminds us that it's the poor who are most vulnerable: Hopefully in time we'll deal with the issues in a responsible way, In the meantime we need to do some introspection and commitment to doing the right thing. I went through a lot of thoughts and a lot of emotions reading this book. Though I did begin to wonder how he could remain objective about the right and the left when so many ways he characterized these issues didn't seem quite so objective, " And I thought this because what I see too often is that the religious ethos often acts against the moral ethos, I am seeing that secular people act in more moral ways than religious people. And here he wants to connect morality directly to degrading entertainment and corrupt corporate heads, Gushee is a Christian talking to Christians from a Christian perspective. It really is a great work - and it took me a couple times of reading to get that: Patriotism left vs right guns abortion race climate change the death penalty: One of the first examples I've seen of truly trying to frame the issues in this manner. Thanks to NetGalley and Westminster John Knox Press for a copy in return for an honest review: 0664262686 I like gusheepossibly because the path I followed is similar to his own: I've enjoyed many of his books but this book was too basic to be helpful. On each topic he chooses to set the landscape and then to only give a few words of wisdom regarding each topic. Of course This is the problem when you pick the most controversial subjects and try to keep a book short. It is a good introduction to controversial issues in the church and culture: Perhaps that is because he wants you to realize there aren't answers there is only wisdom: However I felt like the author was just skimming the surface of most of the issues he discussed, He often provided very few details to back up his opinions and did not provided evidence to back up his opinions, In fact discussion of the proper Christian response was not explained fully and not supposed with evidence, 0664262686 In a little less than a month Americans will be voting for a new president, history? Or will we choose someone who has never been in politics? Author David P: Gushee covers many items that are on our minds in his new book `A Letter to My Anxious Christian Friends. He covers such topics as homosexuality illegal immigrants racism border control and abortion, His book is a social issues book written to every Christian who tries to love America, There are many social and political changes in America today. Changes that would have our founding fathers standing on their heads. His goal is to help American Christians see our reality more clearly assess that reality more thoughtfully and act more faithfully. What makes this book different from all the rest is the author hopes to inject realistic and empowering hope into a culture and Christian climate filled with pessimism, Many Christians have lost hope and need real authentic encouragement: While this book is authentic it does not have lots of footnotes or fancy words that would make it a chore to read. So what can Christians do? They can advocate for what they believe in, Gushee is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University: A regular blogger for Religion News Service Gushee was recently elected to Vice President of the American Academy of Religion and to President of the Society of Christian Ethics: If you are a Christian in America today you know exactly where this book is headed. It is headed to the fall of a great nation encouragement to the Saints of today and the promise of a new world to come: Gushee is new to me as I haven't read any of his works before, This book couldn't have come at a

better time in America's history, All the while Christians are faced with the ever increasing de-Christianization of America. If we stand up for what we believe in we're called fanatics: But then we are told Wide is the gate and narrow the road, And we must stick to that narrow road that leads to our rewards: And a message that lets us know we are not in this alone: DISCLAIMER: This book was provided by Amazon Vine in exchange for an independent and non-biased review. the assumption lying behind this book is that it is okay for Christians to care enough about the country they live in to be anxious about it. It is indeed perfectly acceptable for Christians to be patriots to love their country with a robust and full heart, Many of my fellow Christian leaders do not agree with me on this and they have good reasons for their views, Mainly their worry is that American Christians in particular have a hard time distinguishing between God and country when they attempt to love and serve both: I think that I can point to a path of critical informed patriotism through the various reflections offered here. But I acknowledge that I do love this country and precisely because I do I want it to be the best country it can be, The rest of the book consists of twenty reflections (letters) divided into two parts, He helps his readers understand the changing place of the church in this country and how we might think about that, Gushee is able to speak honestly both about our flaws and injustices as a nation as well as commend the cultural goods that might be observed and built upon, Police: while commending most law enforcement personnel pressing for greater oversight and rooting out of unjust policing practices, Guns: this is one he speaks deeply and passionately about questioning whether the founders had in mind the proliferation of weaponry we see, Money: he calls us beyond competitive greed to a generosity with our resources, Climate: he decries that denial of climate change and the partisan impasse that leads to doing nothing while creation suffers and with it many of the most vulnerable. Executions: the death penalty is an anomaly the consequence for only a handful of murders and often inequitably applied at great cost to our system, Education: a call to pursue the best possible education for all our people: Surprisingly he calls for removing tenure and union protections of incompetence while saying students teachers and parents all are required to make this work: Health-care: all of God's children should have access to affordable and adequate care, A generous patriotism doesn't want any to fall through the cracks: The strength of this book is that it articulates an ethic that is broadly pro-life and expands upon what would be a generous and faith-informed vision of patriotism, I personally took issue with what I thought a cavalier treatment of Romans 13 about authority that imputed Paul's statements to his privileged status as a Roman citizen. I thought this was biblical eisegesis and unnecessary to make his case against unlawful use of police force: \_\_\_\_\_ Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher via a pre-publication e-galley through Edelweiss, 0664262686 I have to say that after reading this I am more anxious, The author by chapter goes from topics to abortion to education: odd? That may be true but odd comes in all walks of life social status and secular schools as well: He seems to be pro choice which many Christians are and he lists why abortion is necessary however he is adamant about gun control with all the stats, Where are the stats when it comes to abortion and the life that it takes? In fact his wording of fetus vs: It is the weak and the oppressed as Christians we must always stand up for. I don't condemn those that choose abortion but we must speak out on what abortion is. The gospel many times can be offensive when it comes to social issues and rights of others: You cannot be on the fence with abortion and that was his direction with his text, There are many ministries available to help there are choices, (this was not encouraged)There was other issues that I turned off by and very little that I was encouraged by. Was this book helpful? No it seems that culture needs to influence the church instead of the church influencing the culture. 0664262686 Gushee's book presents a sort of drive-by commentary on a range of hot button issues basically endorsing progressive(ish) positions in each case: Because there are a dozen or so of these and because the letter is pretty short the chapters are not very satisfying: Each devotes 5-6 pages to an issue that has occupied entire volumes elsewhere. In order to reach its anxious Christian audience the letter needs to be short and relatively simple and it needs to cover a range of issues: But in doing so it forfeits a lot of its persuasive force, In my understanding of Christianity the fearful Christian is a contradiction in terms: I find it incredibly bizarre that so many are taken in by this

gun-toting cultural paranoia. To his credit Gushee seeks to calm their fears and I hope he succeeds, He is also the elected past president of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Christian Ethics, Gushee is the author co author or editor of 28 books including the bestsellers Kingdom Ethics and Changing Our Mind: His other most notable works are After Evangelicalism Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust Introducing Christian Ethics and The Sacredness of Human Life: He is widely regarded as one of the world's leading Christian moral thinkers: He is also the elected past president of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Christian Ethics. Gushee is the author co author or editor of 28 books including the bestsellers Kingdom Ethics and Changing Our Mind. His other most notable works are After Evangelicalism Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust Introducing Christian Ethics and The Sacredness of Human Life. He is widely regarded as one of the world's leading Christian moral thinkers[1]

But dismissed by his conservative anxious friends.Perhaps the two might better be read together. I think that is what both authors would want. And for Gushee.

I would not recommend.<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/ar>. To do this we'll need an expert guide. In this book/letter Gushee covers a multitude of issues.Gushee is an ethicist and a public theologian. That's the way it should be. Thus the two are compatible. So let's get busy. This is a book for our times. 0664262686 A short book full of so so much. At first I followed a lot of what he said. And he even gives evidence of this in previous chapters. And it seems to continue in that vein. And he's talking to Christians. It really makes sense. He talks about it all. Wow. This book is amazing. This suggests a direction but gives no answers. 0664262686 This book was okay. It got better as I read it. This will be a landmark year for the presidency. Will a woman become president for the first time in U.S. It's more like a fellowship with other Christians.Disclaimer: I received this book from Net Galley. 0664262686 David P. Visit his website at . But I am fully on board with his style. And mostly his message. Our Country has been torn apart from the latest elections. Recessions. Depressions. Lack of moral fiber. Laws protecting the accused but not the victim in crimes. We can't post the 10-Commandments. We can't say the Lord's Prayer in our schools. We're ostracized and put down. It's always been simple. It's just not the easy road to follow. We cannot give in to the ways of the world. We must live in the world but not of the world.This is a must read for all Christian in America today. A very real eye opener.This book is available in print or Kindle.I give this Five Stars and.a big Thumbs Up!I also give this my Highly Recommended Award. You can find the book Here for purchase.David P.He writes:. If you agree read on.War: we have been at war for most of the last century. Obviously not all will agree with all he commends. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. Each chapter is short and conversational. I was put off by several things. One of them being home schooling. . Another put off for me was the issue of abortion. baby is telling.abortion does not have to be only the choice. Our need for the gospel was not prevalent. With deep regret opinions based on.well actually I don't know because he doesn't tell us. Ultimately I think this book is caught in a bind. 0664262686



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