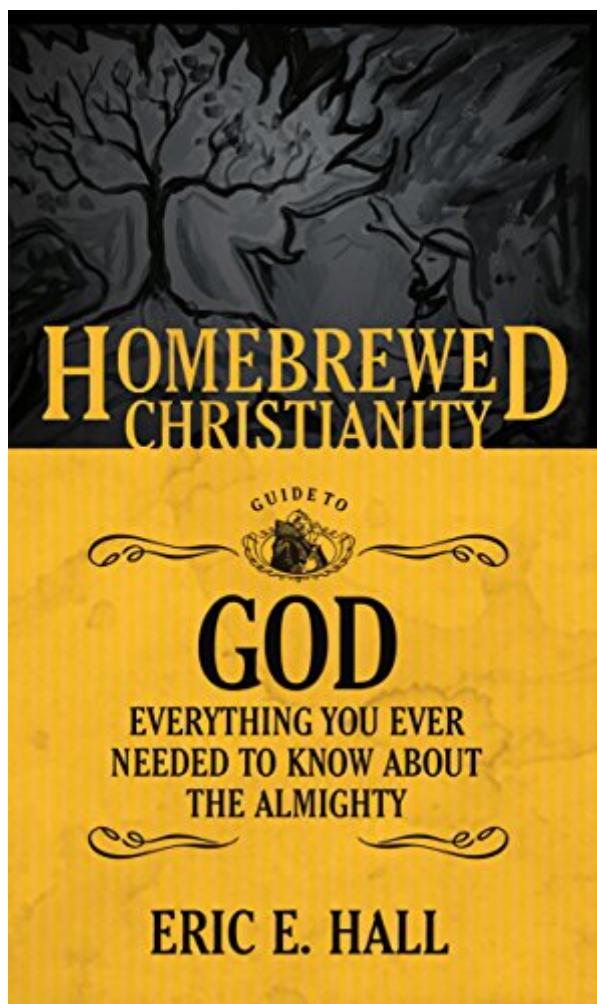


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The Homebrewed Christianity Guide To God: Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The Almighty



Synopsis

Is God the First Cause? The Unmoved Mover? Mr. Miyagi? In this latest installment of the Homebrewed Christianity series, edited by Tripp Fuller, Eric E. Hall approaches the question of God from various perspectives, including philosophy, personal revelation, Christian tradition, and other religions. The classical conception of God is like the famously stoic-yet-lethal character in the Karate Kid. Competing versions of God include Your Hippie Aunt, St. Joan of Arc, and even the muscle-headed goons from Jersey Shore. Hall uses each of these analogies to elucidate a version of God that has held sway at one point or another. For each, he shows strengths and weaknesses, pros and cons. After proposing this nouveau-pantheon, Hall takes on atheism, religion versus science, and popular images of Jesus. At the end of this romp through history and pop culture, Hall argues that the God you need may be the very God you rejected years ago.

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Customer Reviews

I found this book thought provoking, funny and thoughtful. The book aims to impart structure and tools for thinking about the concept of God. A huge span of theology and philosophy is covered in a

small number of pages. The casual tone and great metaphors make complex concepts approachable, with humor and heart all along to keep things grounded. I kept finding myself thinking "yea, but..." and then turning the page to the next chapter that pretty much says "you may be thinking..." and being rewarded with a satisfying discussion of the topic. On top of that, the writing style is very conversational, so I feel like I was having an ongoing conversation with the author, answering my questions with plenty of heartwarming and hilarious color (just look at the chapter names and you'll get a sense for what I mean!). An enjoyable read that kept me thinking well after I'd put the book down.

Dr. Hall's text is an easy read and well worth your time. His expertise is on full display as he condenses multiple understandings of God into a garage band of theological goodness -- and that's just the first four chapters! The fourth chapter, which synthesizes the various understandings, repays close study, but doesn't harm the rest of the text if you skip it the first time through. The rest of the book turns these God-concepts against some of the major problems of our day, from ecumenicism to atheism & from violence to a first century homeless Jew (Jesus). In each chapter, the wit and erudition of the author shine forth, guiding you through territory you thought you needed a Ph.D. to understand. The book closes with a discussion of Jesus, which segues perfectly into Tripp Fuller's "Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Jesus," even if they have distinct viewpoints. This book is sure to ruffle some feathers, especially given the state of cultural Christianity today; In my mind, such a ruffling is needed. The broadening of theological, intellectual, and philosophical horizons that attends this book As my grandmother once said "sometimes you have to read something you disagree with to know what you actually believe" and there is no one I'd rather have amicable disagreements with than Dr. Hall. In sum, the book makes for excellent reading, no matter your theological position, and would heartily recommend it to any and all trying to grapple with the big question, of God?

What Hall manages to accomplish in this relatively short work is outstanding. He has taken heavy theological trains of thought (normally chock full of jargon) and through use of relatable and entertaining analogies, made them into easily digestible formats. His conversational style makes this an approachable read for newcomers to theology, yet reminds the experienced of a conversation with a friend at the local brewery! At the same time he has given us a great set of tools to start having meaningful dialogue about God, and the many conceptions of who he/she/it is. I find myself connecting outside readings back to this book, such as recognizing what constitutes a jersey shore

God in a particular theology. Hall's commitment to transparency and dialogue was greatly appreciated. There are no straw man arguments here, but a willingness to recognize the tough and unanswered questions. Overall I loved this book. I have and will continue to recommend this book to anyone who is interested in God, theology, or spirituality. A great book for beginners and masters alike. I can't wait for his next one!

God's a tough subject, because, well you know "God. Eric Hall takes us on a tour of some of the ideas and concepts we use when we think about the ultimate symbol of human reflection and readers will enjoy thinking about the ineffable and inconceivable in new ways. He doesn't shy away from why atheism is an attraction for some people and shows how the true atheist may sometimes be closer to God than the most pious believer. Written in the irreverent style of the rest of the Homebrewed guides, this book is full of theological and philosophical thinking presented in an accessible and engaging way. If you want to think about God uniquely, get this book and read it. Professor Hall knows a thing or two about God and takes his readers on a wild ride.

I'm too old to get some of Eric Hall's cultural references, but hey, aren't we supposed to approach the kindom as children? This book is a lot of fun, and there was a lot more that was thought provoking than the cultural references.!

A witty but genuine exploration on the philosophy of God. Loved every minute of it. Five more words are required.

I've been a fan of Homebrewed for quite awhile, so I was surprised at how disappointing this book was. I was especially disappointed by the chapter on Buddhism. It seems like if you are going to write a whole chapter on Buddhism you would do a little more research. For example, the author refers to the "portly" founder of Buddhism. As far as I know Siddhartha Gautama lived on one meal a day after his enlightenment. Before that he went through a period of extreme asceticism during which he ate even less. Therefore, I'm guessing that the author is thinking of the fat smiling statues often seen at Chinese restaurants. The figure, known as Budai to the Chinese after his cloth bag, was likely not even an actual historical figure. Beyond that, I just felt like this book was the author riffing about his own personal philosophy and criticizing anyone who might disagree. If you're a newbie to theology or philosophy then you might enjoy this. However, if you have spent even a little time thinking about the concept of God, I don't think this book adds anything new or interesting.

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