

Preface: What does it mean to Christian today?

1. WHY (Problems and Assumptions)

- A burning question: what is the heart of Christianity?
- Every Christian must answer to this question; for it has to do with Christian identity and subsequent life formation (--Taken for granted).
- The problem is that old vision (earlier paradigm) does not make much sense to most people.

2. WHAT (Thesis)

- Borg asserts that Christianity makes sense and “satisfies both head and heart”(xiii).
- The heart of Christianity is what Christianity and the Christian way of life are all about(xiv).

3. HOW (Argumentation)

- Borg has conviction that Christianity does not asks us to sacrifice the intellect. Christianity makes sense.
- The author also has passion to communicate a new way of seeing Christianity to the people of “church alumni/ae association” for whom earlier vision/understanding of Christianity makes little sense.
- “Earlier paradigm” has been a major voice within Christianity (including North America). It emphasizes the Bible as the unique revelation of God and its literal meaning. Christian life today is only meaningful for the sake of salvation later (life after death).
- “Emerging paradigm” is the product of Christianity’s encounter with the modern and postmodern world and secular scholarship.
- This book is a product of the author’s faith journey as well as an outcome of numerous lectures in academic settings. Marcus Borg was a historical Jesus scholar. (Deceased in 2015)

4. EVALUATION

- Well disclosed the fundamental issues and problems surrounding Christianity today.
- The “heart” metaphor is particularly useful and relevant to the question as to What Christianity is and ought to be. The heart symbolizes a life, consequently a Christian life.
- What is Christian? How do you define?
- How does your definition/understanding of Christian/Christianity influence your way of living?