

Endorsements

Brad Jersak is an accomplished theologian, thoroughly grounded in Scripture and Patristics, but in *A More Christlike Way* he also writes from decades of pastoral experience. This is what makes his sequel to *A More Christlike God* so compelling. We have academic theologians and seasoned pastors, but it's rare to find both so beautifully combined in a single person. *A More Christlike Way* is a book for our time and place in North America, where so much of what is called Christianity has been hijacked to serve agendas that are decidedly unChristlike. *A More Christlike Way* sets forth a vision for following Jesus that is in keeping with the kind of faith that first turned the world upside down two thousand years ago.

Brian Zahnd

Lead Pastor, Word of Life Church, St. Joseph, MO
Author of *Postcards from Babylon*

Nobody has taught me more about the character of God than Brad Jersak. Together, *A More Christlike God* and *A More Christlike Way* are nothing less than the theological, pastoral foundation for a brewing revolution. This is the clear, bold, defining articulation of the Jesus path we desperately need. In this apocalyptic time, when so many people have become rightly disillusioned with religion that is anything but Christlike, this book is revelatory. If your faith has been unraveling or “deconstructing”—here is the new construction on the other side.

Jonathan Martin

Lead Pastor, The Table OKC, “Son of a Preacher Man” podcast
Author of *How to Survive a Shipwreck & Prototype*

In *A More Christlike Way*, Brad Jersak invites the weary, angry, cynical, struggling, deconstructing, numb, overwhelmed ones into a way of faith that cuts through triumphalistic, ego-driven, striving religiosity to resurrect resilient hope in a living, loving, and life-transforming God.

Jersak's voice rings with the honest authenticity of a disciple who walks out what he seeks to teach. This book is no silver bullet to a richer, more meaningful faith life. Jersak has traversed the hills and valleys of faith for too long to offer such an empty promise.

Rather, if you have reached the end of your best efforts; if after discarding the trappings of religion you find yourself empty; if you feel lost in the meaninglessness of it all and overwhelmed by the chaotic, violent mess of the world, then this book might just be the invitation you're seeking to step into a faith that embraces the paradox of liberation and surrender, sets mercy and compassion as its compass, and teaches the practices that allow us to live into a more Christlike way.

Dr. Wendy VanderWal Gritter

Executive Director, Generous Space Ministries

Author of *Generous Spaciousness: Responding to Gay Christians in the Church*

If a college course were named *A More Christlike God* I might see it as "Recovery of the Faith 101" and accordingly, *A More Christlike Way* would be "Recovery of the Faith 201." Dr. Jersak takes on the deviations of polytheistic Christianity which present us with gods "masquerading under the Christian brand." His embrace of Eastern Christianity provides a different lens to Western readers, giving a means to see how what is canonical and acceptable in some expressions of the faith can be challenged by a longer-standing version, which opens a door for us to ask essential questions of ourselves. Such questioning is critical to our wellbeing because we might otherwise surrender to a system that constricts, preventing us from becoming as beautiful as we should. Or we might just give up on the Spirit altogether, which is unnecessary because, as Brad writes, "many of our wounds are inflicted by systems and individuals that identify as 'Christian.'"

Rev. Dr. David N. Moore, Jr.

Lead Pastor, New Covenant Worship Center, Santa Barbara, CA

Activist, educator and ecumenical teacher

Author of *Making America Great Again*

Brad Jersak's new book, *A More Christlike Way*, is a refreshing breath of theological air! I've seen Brad preach. It was an encouraging, challenging and happy experience, so was the reading of this book.

David Hayward

The Naked Pastor

Author of *Questions are the Answer*

The Cross means no one else needs to die to make the world right again, not one more person. Instead, we become human as God is human by joining God in his death for the sake of all, for the sake of the world God makes and loves. This life of dying as God dies is a journey the first Christians called

“The Way.” Brad Jersak is here your Sherpa, a reliable guide who has seen Love in the face of Jesus Christ, a fellow traveler in the twists and turns of this foolishness that Christians call wisdom. Don’t put this book back on the shelf, don’t leave home without it. Put in your pack, keep it close, and may your walk with God flourish.

Fr. Kenneth Tanner

Pastor, Church of the Holy Redeemer, Rochester Hills, MI

Brad describes his own humanity by exposing his fails, his faults and his fractures. Yet through these self-same cracks the light of the restorative God of love shines through. The theology is thorough, and I love the dialogue with contemporary themes and topics. Brad bridges the distance from ancient wisdom to Instagram posts and Facebook activists. This demonstrates how the feminine voice of the Spirit’s song is heard across the eras. He comes into his own as he dismantles the strain of violence in our societies and hearts. His voice echoes the voice of the (hu)man. Brad shows us by his life, and particularly the tender portrayals of family pain, a more Christlike way. I want to be ‘woke’ but I want love more, and Brad is a wonderful example of how to be awake to God’s love and woke in God’s world by “locking our gaze, not on our performance, but on Jesus.”

Azariah France-Williams

Black British priest and storyteller

Author, *Chains Shall He Break* (Summer 2020)

Even though we know Jesus said, “I am the way . . .,” still many of us are confused on what that means. Is it a verb, a practice, a rhythm, a path? *A More Christlike Way* shows us it’s all of the above and more than we can even imagine. Brad Jersak is the kind of loving guide you want on this journey to the center of what it means to know and follow Jesus.

Scott Erickson

Artist/Performer/Author

Author of *Prayer: Forty Days of Practice*

Brad Jersak's book is a challenge to anyone who would like to lead a life shaped by Christ. It's not easy. As Jersak points out, the "Jesus" many Christians seem to revere is far removed from the actual Jesus we encounter in the Gospels. The biblical Jesus eats meals with people whom the "upright" avoid, is a threat to no one's life, waves no national flags, reaches out with love to enemies, calls on his followers to live lives shaped by the double helix of love of God and love of neighbor, and prefers to die rather than kill.

Jim Forest

Peace Activist, Orthodox Peace Fellowship

Author of *Loving Our Enemies: Reflections on the Hardest Commandment*

A More Christlike Way is a timely, loving, intelligent, disarmingly honest and challenging look at how we can live as Christ-followers in the complexities of the twenty-first century.

What fuels this excellent treatment of learning to walk the *Jesus Way* is Dr. Brad Jersak's deep passion for objective, intuitive experiential truth and an even deeper love for people.

He is a profound thinker and brilliant scholar with the heart of a shepherd who cares deeply for people. Not so he might bask in their adulation to prop up his identity or because he has some power-driven agenda to proselytize others to his beliefs, he simply and genuinely cares for others. I know from personal experience that Brad actually does "love God and his neighbor," which has become quite a rarity in the spreading wasteland of North American religiosity. Don't let your familiarity with Jesus' words inoculate you to their power and truth, turning them into a phrase that upon hearing feels like someone just tossed a nickel on the counter for a cheap, plastic trinket.

In *A More Christlike Way*, Brad has shared a way forward for us to walk. I intend to walk with him in the *Way*.

John MacMurray

Director, Northwest School of Theology

Author of *A Spiritual Evolution*

With Grace, Brad has captured how we live and move and have our being in the circle dance of Love with Jesus, the incarnate one. For too long, the body of Christ has stood on the bridge of the Way proclaiming, “O Bridge, O Bridge. We love you, Bridge. We give our lives to this bridge. Bridge, you are our everything, our very breath,” while failing to actually live the *Way*. All bridges are a connection between two points. In *A More Christlike Way*, Brad offers us the *Way* of Christ as a bridge—a bridge to Jesus’ *Abba*, our *Abba*, and a bridge connecting us (humanity) to one another. Masterfully compelling us to turn toward Love, Brad encourages us with a strong prophetic warning to examine the ways in which we ourselves are complicit of pharisaical tendencies. However, he does not leave us without hope. If there was ever a time in history that we needed a guide, the time is now. If there was ever a time in history that we needed wise sages saturated in the ways of Love, that time is now. Brad Jersak, in *A More Christlike Way*, has delivered a gift to the Bride from Spirit steeped in *Abba’s* love. May all who read it answer the invitation that lies within its pages. This is the way, may we sojourn together on the path.

Felicia Murrell

Copy Editor

Author, *Truth Encounters*

I loved Brad Jersak’s book, *A More Christlike God: A More Beautiful Gospel*. I assigned it to students and shared it with people in our church community. It seemed counter-intuitive to speak about the weakness of God but this truth unlocked key concepts that made a great deal of sense.

In this new book, *A More Christlike Way: A More Beautiful Faith*, Brad may have done something even more valuable. With wit, with story, with sparkling insight, he has held our understanding of how to live close to the fire of Jesus’ words and example. This affects everything, from political discourse to a way of being in the world that welcomes *all* others into an appreciation of their full humanity. I think it will be very difficult to read this material and come away unchanged.

Peter Fitch (D. Min.)

Professor of Religious Studies

St. Stephen's University

Any new book by Brad Jersak is a reason to celebrate, but this one is exceptionally remarkable if for no other reason than it offers real answers to difficult questions that all of us wrestle with. In *A More Christlike Way*, Jersak doesn't play it safe but tackles some of the most profound mysteries of faith and discipleship to Christ imaginable. Like, how do we love our enemies, how do we forgive injustice and how do we incarnate Christ in our own lives? The answers aren't easy, but they are honest, vulnerable and profound. If you're serious about following Jesus and putting his Sermon on the Mount into practice, this is a great place to start.

Keith Giles

Author of *Jesus Unbound*

In *A More Christlike Way*, Brad Jersak takes us on a journey of deep, often soul-searching, honesty. He confronts many of our twenty-first century western church assumptions, instead pointing us to the radical (root) realities of living the Jesus Way. This book is for all those who so hunger for a more authentic and abundant life in Christ that they are willing to leave the known in order to follow Him—no matter where He takes them.

Steve Stewart

President and Founder, Impact Nations

A More Christlike Way is an invaluable gift, and Brad Jersak is a trusted voice for anyone who's serious about taking up the cross of self-giving love, evading deceptive pseudo-ways and lazy othering, filling the void after deconstruction with a cruciform life, and transcending political spectrum dualism by instead, "tracing imperfectly Jesus' blood-stained tracks" on a path that leads to radical participation in God's rule on earth. Heed the time-tested wisdom in these pages . . . listen with ears to hear. Jersak entices us away from the temptation of partisan squabbles and knocks us off our ego-supported soapboxes from which we declare everything that we're against and instead invites us into a more beautiful life-giving alternative—*the Christlike Way*.

Dr. Andrew P. Klager

Director, Institute for Religion, Peace and Justice

Author/Editor of *From Suffering to Solidarity*

Brad is not always right, but he's always kind. The sort of wise-kindness that results from learning to receive who we truly are as a gift. This book is for all of us who need twelve-step programs, a warm community, honesty and healing. More than detoxing or deconstructing damaging religion, Brad wants to take you hiking through the fresh air and rough terrain of grace-filled discipleship to 'a more Christ-like God.' I love this brother and read everything he writes.

Jarrold McKenna

Larrikin activist trainer, pastor, writer

Host of the InVerse podcast

Founding CEO of CommonGrace.org.au

Brad Jersak's *A More Christlike Way* stands up there with books like Hauerwas and Willimon's classic *Resident Aliens*—painting an alternative picture of what following Jesus Christ might look like in this world. With his conversational style, Brad is able to lead his readers through the “either/or” false dichotomies that can often tempt and trap us. Instead, we see fresh possibilities open up. Rather than pointing fingers at enemies—real or imagined—this book invites us to take a deeper look into our own hearts, and to discover that a more Christlike God has already preceded us there.

Each chapter concludes with “Thoughts and Prayers,” which I read as a kind of prophetic challenge—to those who are weary with trite lip-service in the face of pain and tragedy, and to others who have severed or compartmentalized contemplation and action. As the twentieth-century monk Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica taught, “our thoughts determine our lives.” *A More Christlike Way* reorients us to St. Paul's advice—“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Rom. 12:2), and then offers concrete ways to practice that kind of radical faith. I'd highly recommend this book for personal or parish reflection.

Fr. Matthew Francis

Parish Priest, Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Chilliwack, British Columbia