

Confessions of a Reformation Rev

By Mark Driscoll

Sarcasm and overstated metaphor dominated this book. The desire of any author formulating opinions of their success requires passion in writing. Mark Driscoll delivered in unparalleled fashion. After wading through harsh attempts at humor, his heart is truly a treasure that need not be masked by his uncontrolled or untamed tongue. His heart is clear, and I truly believe, well-spoken and well intended. He wants to see Seattle reached for the Kingdom of God through connecting passionately with culture while remaining true to his theological and foundational beliefs.

Throughout Driscoll's tale of his experience in founding and growing Mars Hill Church in Seattle, it is apparent that he is a student of the Word. This, for me, was perhaps the most personally challenging aspect of the book. Though I may not have agreed with his presentation, his conviction to continue to scour the Word for Truth through each phase of his growth was undeniable.

In the introduction, his equation of Gospel+Culture+Church was a clear presentation of both a life and church mission statement. As he continues through the growth process, it becomes clear that as the size increased, certain truths remained constant (the Gospel), but that the culture and the demographic targeted adjusted itself to their location, their personnel, and their size. This, obviously, begs the question of what is appropriate and necessary to be attached and completely connected to the culture. The culture of Seattle is unique, and their approach initially was very limited in its overall appeal. Through consistency of vision, however, they continued to grow and create new avenues to appeal to a wider people base.

The reason he is successful, though, is simple. He does not allow dead weight. He has structured his church to be full of missionaries who clearly take control of the mission. The class they require members to take is bold, and the accountability of service, giving, and involvement is perhaps the most revolutionary touch to his model. This "Get-involved-or-get-gone" approach allows people to take ownership of their commitment, even of their community which Mars Hill created, to create passionate followers of their vision, and much more importantly, of Jesus Christ.

The power of the book is the conviction with which it is written. Driscoll's vision for Mars Hill has established him as an expert in his arena. He is open with his opinion, and honest in his words. I found value in his desire to follow Christ completely and clearly and to, when needed, admit fault and create solid boundaries. *Mark, your confessions were helpful. Simply watch your words wisely, my friend.*