



Glenn Packiam is a pastor, author and practical theologian who currently serves as the lead pastor of Rockharbor Church in Costa Mesa, California. Prior to taking on this role, he served as associate senior pastor at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and as the lead pastor of New Life Downtown, a congregation of New Life Church. Glenn is the author of several books, including [The Resilient Pastor](#) and [Blessed Broken Given](#), and co-authored [The Intentional Year](#) with his wife, Holly. He earned a doctorate in Theology and Ministry from Durham University, is a Senior Fellow at [Barna Group](#), a Visiting Fellow at St. John's College at Durham University and an ordained priest with the Anglican Church of North America. Glenn has written over 65 worship songs published with Integrity Music, including "Your Name," co-written with Paul Baloche. Glenn and Holly have four children and live in Orange County, California.

EXPERTISE

- Drawing from historic practices to enhance spiritual depth and unity within modern congregations
- Exploration of ancient practices to inform modern faith
- Helping people live purposefully
- Pastoral leadership, church dynamics, leading multi-generational and multi-campus congregations
- Practical theology
- Worship and creative arts
- Addressing challenges in ministry, spiritual formation and Christian living
- Navigating the tension between cultural relevance and theological fidelity
- The Anglican Church and liturgical practices
- Family and spiritual formation, family-focused ministry, spiritual formation within the context of marriage and parenting

AVAILABILITY

- Widely available on weekdays
- Can travel upon request
- Available via Skype, Zoom and phone

CREDENTIALS

- Senior Fellow at Barna Group
- Doctorate in Theology and Ministry, Durham University
- Author of [eight books](#)
- Over 20 years of pastoral leadership. Ordained priest in the Anglican Church of North America, with insights into liturgical traditions
- Seasoned worship leader and songwriter, with over 65 published worship songs

DOWNLOADS

- [Glenn's headshot](#)
- [Book cover image](#)
- [Full book \(PDF\)](#)

ONLINE (CLICK TO VISIT)



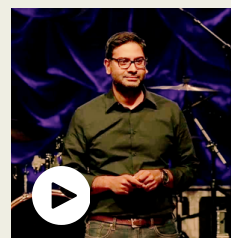
[Click to visit Glenn's substack](#)

MEDIA

Glenn has hosted numerous podcasts. Listen to 'The Resilient Pastor' below or to him deliver a sermon at Rockharbor Church in Costa Mesa.



Click the image to hear Glenn and his co-hosts discuss the challenges and opportunities of leading a church in a rapidly changing world.



Choose from a selection of Glenn's sermons at Rockharbor Church in Costa Mesa, California.

TO BOOK AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT:

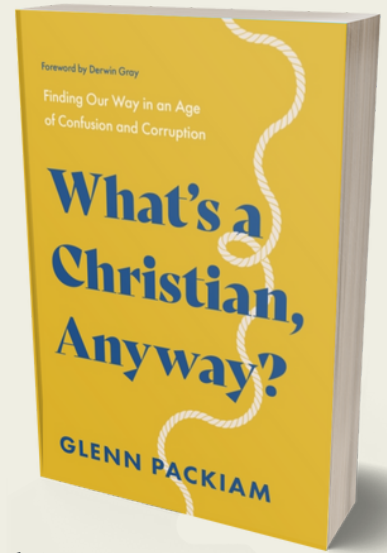
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ABOUT THE BOOK

- Thomas Nelson, March 11, 2025
- ISBN: 9781400248308, Paperback, \$19.99 USD
- 240 pages
- [Click the image for more](#)



In an age when Christianity has been corrupted and co-opted by cultural forces and personal agendas, pastor and theologian Glenn Packiam shows how an ancient creed can save the modern church—and might just save your faith.

The Church today has lost its way. We've pursued the wrong priorities, put our hope in personalities, and elevated popularity over spiritual maturity. And it's not just the Church that's lost; we are too. As culture wars rage and competing voices argue, many Christians are left asking a basic question—'What's a Christian, anyway?' But there's hope. The church has been here before, and our spiritual ancestors crafted a powerful resource to help us find our way: the Nicene Creed. Readers who take this journey with Packiam will:

- Discover how the Creed—born in an ancient time of controversy, confusion, and disunity much like today—is not just a statement of beliefs but a rope to lead us home.
- Experience an invitation into the mystery and wonder of God through these ancient words.
- Rediscover a path to becoming faithful witnesses to the way of Jesus as we learn to live into the Creed's beautiful story, stunning hope, and powerful vision of what a Christian is.

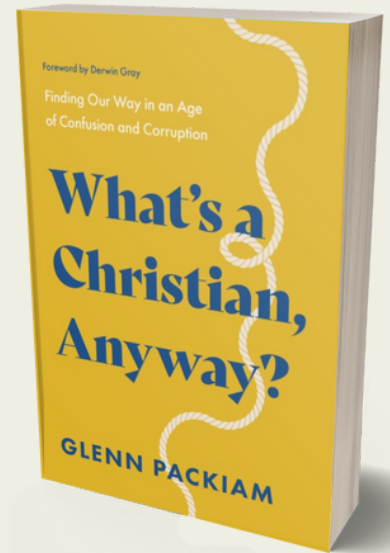
The world yearns for the Christ's joy, peace, and hope, but the gospel is only believable if Christians live like it's true. Join this adventure into the heart of authentic Christianity, and rediscover for yourself the fresh, timeless power of our Creed, returning to the living heart of what it means to be a Christian.

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

- In recent years, many Christians have expressed concern over the church's entanglement with politics, celebrity culture and divisive "culture wars." This has often led to the prioritization of popularity and power over the core witness of Jesus. The book confronts these missteps and offers a solution rooted in ancient wisdom, helping restore a sense of integrity and authenticity to the church's mission.
- In an age where cultural forces often distort or dilute Christian identity, many believers are struggling to answer foundational questions like, "What does it mean to be a Christian today?" This book addresses that confusion by re-centering faith on the Nicene Creed, a timeless and unifying declaration of belief. By grounding faith in this historic statement, the book offers a countercultural roadmap for believers seeking clarity and conviction in an age of moral and spiritual relativism.
- Just as the Nicene Creed was born in a time of theological disputes and societal disunity, the modern church is navigating similar challenges. Christians find themselves divided—on issues ranging from social justice to political allegiance—and this book reminds readers of the power of shared beliefs to unite believers around what truly matters: the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- This book's emphasis on the Nicene Creed as both a unifying declaration and a practical guide for living faith in action is a call to renewal for evangelical Christians. It provides a desperately needed roadmap for navigating cultural challenges, addressing disillusionment, and restoring credibility to a church that has often been pulled off course. At its core, it invites believers to embrace a faith that is not only true but also visibly transformative—exactly what the modern world needs to see.
- The statement, "The gospel is only believable when Christians live it," underscores a profound challenge for Christians. Many critiques of the church today stem from a perceived disconnect between belief and practice. The book's focus on living out the Creed as a "new reality" invites Christians to move beyond intellectual assent to faith that is visible, relational, and transformative. This emphasis on credible witness is crucial in a world increasingly skeptical of institutional religion.
- The book's framing of the Nicene Creed as a guide to navigate today's "culture wars" is especially compelling. It encourages evangelical Christians to step back from the polarizing influences of modern agendas and rediscover a gospel-centered worldview that transcends partisan divides.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- How has Christianity been co-opted or corrupted in recent times?
- As a pastor and theologian, how has your own faith journey influenced your perspective on the issues you discuss in your book?
- Can you share a story of how confessing the Creed in worship changed the life of your church?
- How do you believe the Nicene Creed addresses the current 'credibility problem' you see within today's church?
- What role do you see the church playing in today's cultural wars, and how can it navigate these conflicts without losing its core message?
- You talk about the church's lost priorities. What do you believe are the right priorities for the church today?
- In your book, you describe how the Nicene Creed can guide modern Christianity. What inspired you to connect an ancient creed with contemporary issues facing the church?
- What do you mean by 'the gospel is only believable when Christians live it'?
- Looking ahead, what do you see as the greatest challenges and opportunities for the church in the next decade?
- How does feeling lost about Christian identity shape attempts to evangelize?
- What's our responsibility as Christ's ambassadors? How have we gotten it wrong?
- Why was the Nicene Creed written? Why has it survived until today?



‘We.’ The first word of the Nicene Creed is a word of plurality. Now, before some folks come after me, I am aware that some versions in prayer books use ‘I.’ I am likewise aware that the Apostles' Creed uses the singular first person—and is no less holy for it. I get it. It's just that I think the We here is significant for us. In the Nicene Creed's original Greek, the first word is the first-person plural form of the word for believe, which translates to "We believe."

One of the unintended consequences of emphasizing personal faith over the past few decades of evangelicalism has been the mistaken notion that faith is individual. We want people to come to a place where they have faith for themselves, but we've let them cross over into thinking they can have faith by themselves.

Dozens of people I've talked with over coffee or a meal or in my home or in my office have told me they're not sure if they can be a Christian anymore. When I ask them to share more, it usually relates to one or two doctrinal items they carry significant doubt about: Did the virgin birth actually occur? Is the resurrection literal? Is there really a final judgment? And so on. Often, they are still compelled by Jesus. And the idea of God coming to forgive our sins and redeem the world seems too beautiful to completely dismiss. But there are some lines that they struggle to get themselves to say, metaphorically speaking.

It's almost as if we've been trained to imagine faith like a one-person kayak. When we struggle to row the oars of faith, we conclude that we should get out of the boat. After all, the boat is not going to advance itself. If you can't row, you shouldn't be in the boat. But faith for the Christian is much more like a rowing crew. I see them out in the Back Bay here at Newport Beach. With each person rowing in sync, the large boat glides smoothly across the water. If one person were to stop rowing, the boat would still keep moving. (Someone who knows this sport far better than I do will want to say that the whole point of crew is rowing together and in sync! So for a better metaphor, think of an old galley ship from the Roman era where hundreds of people row to keep it moving.)

Analogies aside, the point is, followers of Jesus are in one large boat together. (Please resist the urge to make a dad joke about fellow-ship.) If you're struggling with faith and need to set your oar down, that's fine for a season. Just stay in the boat. Don't jump overboard. Faith is not a solo sport. Let others row when you cannot.

If you're wrestling with something about the boat, it's okay: Stay in the boat. If you can't affirm every line, it's okay: That's why we say it together. And that's why we say "We." When your faith is weak, another's is strong, and when your faith is strong, someone else's will be weak. And together we lift one another. That is the power of We in the "We believe" of faith.

