

Review of *Church After Christendom* by Stuart Murray

In *Church After Christendom*, Stuart Murray (author of the *Naked Anabaptist* and chair of the Anabaptist Network in Great Britain) discusses “the changes in mindset required of Christians in post- Christendom.” Throughout the book, he explores how the church relates and might relate to a surrounding culture that no longer places it at the center. He points readers to what he believes the church needs to be and become if it wants to be relevant and faithful.

In the first half of the book, Murray looks at what shape the church might take. He examines the relationship between belonging and believing and reasons people leave the church. He also considers the strengths of and challenges faced by the emerging and inherited churches. The second half of the book, looks at what kind of church might be needed to flourish in post-Christendom. Murray maintains that the church will need to be a missional movement on the margins of society which focuses on health rather than growth. Its worship will need to draw on the best resources from the inherited church and on fresh creativity. It will need to emphasize a healthy balance between worship, mission, and community. In the future, the church will need to be sustainable and simple, considering what it can actually support rather than what it has “always done” and doing a few things well while letting go of ministries that are no longer relevant.

*Church After Christendom* is the second book in the *After Christendom* series produced by the Anabaptist Network. For more information about Christendom and post-Christendom, see *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World*, also by Stuart Murray.