

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity . . . and Why It Matters.

Kinnaman, David (Author) and Lyons, Gabe (Author)

Oct 2007. 256 p. Baker, hardcover, \$17.99. (9780801013003). 277.3.

Acknowledging that Christians have an image problem, Kinnaman and Lyons survey the opinions of the group they call outsiders, “those looking at the Christian faith from the outside,” which includes atheists, agnostics, followers of Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and other “unchurched adults”; significantly, Mormons figure in, too. In particular, they focus on two American generations, the Mosaics, born between 1984 and 2002, and the Busters, born between 1965 and 1983, and especially, the oldest Mosaics and the youngest Busters. By their estimation, there are 24 million outsiders in the U.S. They sense in these younger Americans growing hostility toward Christianity. They discuss six broad themes raised by outsiders: the hypocrisy of Christians, their too-strong focus on getting converts, their antihomosexual stance, the perception of Christians as sheltered and out of touch, Christian political conservatism, and Christian judgmentalism. In essence, the outsiders criticize Christians as being un-Christian. Anyone interested in Christianity in the U.S.—believer or nonbeliever, Christian or non-Christian—will find much to ponder in this intriguing study.

— *June Sawyers*