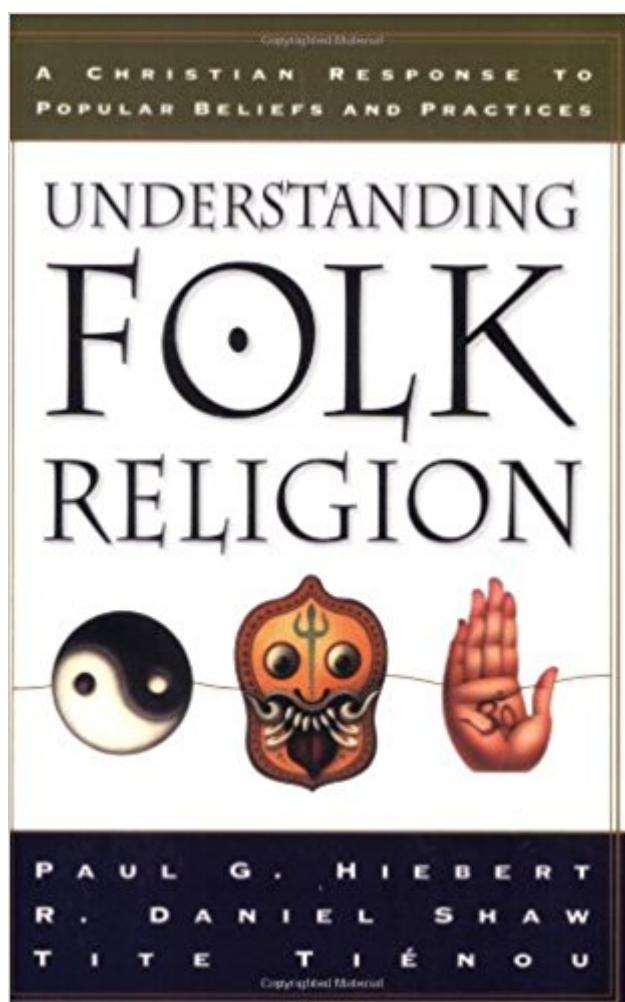


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Understanding Folk Religion: A Christian Response To Popular Beliefs And Practices



Synopsis

Provides a model for examining the beliefs folk religions around the world and suggests biblical principles missionaries can use to deal with them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A book for all Christians to read who are serious about deep-level spiritual transformation. Our cultural upbringing often hides from our awareness areas of life that need to be confronted by the gospel. Reading this book will help uncover aspects of our own worldview and practice that are more informed by North American culture than by the kingdom values of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are few resources available, apart from living in a cross-cultural context, that can do what this book can accomplish. Can a person worship Christ on Sunday and visit a witch doctor on Monday morning for a healing remedy? This is the question Hiebert and his colleagues deal with in an effort to uncover what people really believe in a variety of cultures. They demonstrate how Christian missionaries have often forced folk beliefs underground when they actually thought they had rooted them out. They do a masterful job of providing the framework of a biblical response to a number of issues. -- Clinton Arnold An excellent resource book to serve as a text in missiology classes addressing folk religions and critical contextualization. The book provides a substantive overview of the characteristics of folk religions and excellent guidelines for a thoroughly biblical response to these religions in Christian mission. A significant strength of the volume are the chapters which focus on the central questions of life addressed in folk religions, and the biblical principles essential

for a Christian response. The exceptional chapter on sacred myths shows how Indo-European myths have influenced missionary bias and popular theologies of spiritual warfare. The book concludes by identifying the key theological issues of relevance for new and maturing churches in folk communities. For missionaries and Christian workers in folk societies around the world, this book provides sound theoretical understanding, comprehensive elucidation of the characteristics of folk religions, and fundamental biblical and theological principles for practical application in ministry.

-- Sherwood Lingenfelter, dean, School of World Missions, Fuller Theological Seminary
As a missionary in Central America, I saw professing Christians sacrifice chickens on their way to church. As a missions professor in North America, I see professing Christians consult horoscopes for daily guidance. This much needed and long overdue volume provides the perspective needed to understand the what and why of the everyday religious beliefs and practices both old and new that actually shape the lives of their adherents. Contains culturally sensitive, theologically sound, and missiologically astute guidelines for communicating biblical truth in a transforming way. -- Kenneth B. Mulholland, dean, Columbia Bible Institute & Graduate School of Missions
Here is a book that really does what the title suggests: It effectively helps Christians understand and respond to the beliefs and practices of folk religion, at home and abroad. -- Gerald H. Anderson, director, Overseas Ministries Study Center

The late Paul G. Hiebert (1932-2007) was distinguished professor of mission and anthropology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and previously taught at Fuller Theological Seminary. R. Daniel Shaw is professor of anthropology and translation at Fuller Theological Seminary. Tite TiAfCnou is professor of theology of mission at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Understanding Folk Religion is more than just an analysis of the beliefs and practices of folk religion. It provides an entire paradigm through which to evaluate what and how people believe and think. It powerfully shows that amidst all our differences with those of profoundly different backgrounds and cultures, we are inescapably the same: made in the image of God and trying to figure out how to cope with sin in a sinful world. Hiebert and others show how our practices and rituals reinforce our beliefs and how contrary expressions can reveal an identical root belief. Admittedly the writing is a little technical and dry at times, but the information is profoundly helpful. Highly recommended to those desiring to better understand those of different beliefs (not just adherents to folk religion!). And highly recommended to those interested in how practices and rituals reinforce and undergird beliefs.

The concepts and principles of critical contextualization are very helpful to anyone going to the mission field. Read it and apply it.

A Necessary read for all of those studying theology

Terrific resource for religious scholars

Anyone studying missions must have this as a resource. If you are headed to a developing country as a missionary this is a must read.

This showed me so much about folk religion and how to take Christ to them.

An excellent survey of the field; very useful for teachers.

I wish i had read this book before it is a Big help.

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