

PRESS KIT

POWER



DANGEROUS GAME OR DIVINE GIFT?



THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT POWER



Power corrupts—as we’ve seen time and time again. People too often abuse their power and play god in the lives of others. Shady politicians, corrupt executives and ego-filled media stars have made us suspicious of those who wield influence and authority. They too often breed injustice by participating in what the Bible calls idolatry.

Yet power is also the means by which we bring life, create possibilities, offer hope and make human flourishing possible. This is “playing god” as it is meant to be. If we are to do God’s work—fight injustice, bring peace, create beauty and allow the image of God to thrive in those around us—how are we to do it if not by power?

With his trademark clearheaded analysis, Andy Crouch unpacks the dynamics of power that either make human flourishing possible or destroy the image of God in people. While the effects of power are often very evident, he uncovers why power is frequently hidden. He considers not just its personal side but the important ways power develops and resides in institutions.

Throughout, Crouch offers fresh insights from key biblical passages, demonstrating how Scripture calls us to discipline our power. Wielding power need not distort us or others, but instead can be stewarded well.

An essential book for all who would influence their world for the good.

“It’s likely that most readers of this book will both possess more power than they realize and feel uncomfortable with the amount of it that they know they’ve got. This book holds keys to liberation.”

—**Amy L. Sherman**, author of *Kingdom Calling*

MEDIA TALKING POINTS

- Why is the idea of power as a gift a controversial idea?
- What do Pixar, Steve Jobs and Apple teach us about power?
- What does it look like when we rightly use our individual power to flourish as a parent? Coworker? Neighbor? Friend?
- There are 27 million slaves in the world today. How do these numbers show misplaced power in the world? How does power, when rightly used, turn these injustices around?
- How is learning a new skill, like playing the cello, an example of sharing and expanding power?
- Why are institutions worth preserving?
- Parents have tremendous power over their children, yet the vast majority of parents are not corrupted by their power. What does that show us about the connection between love and power?

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR PLAYING GOD

*"Perhaps no question with such urgent life-and-death consequences is more poorly understood among Christians in our era than the stewardship of power; but gloriously, in *Playing God*, Andy Crouch provides the clarity we need in this once-in-a-generation work of sweeping theological and sociological depth. It is fresh, rigorous, profoundly helpful and a delight to read."*

—**Gary A. Haugen**, president & CEO, International Justice Mission

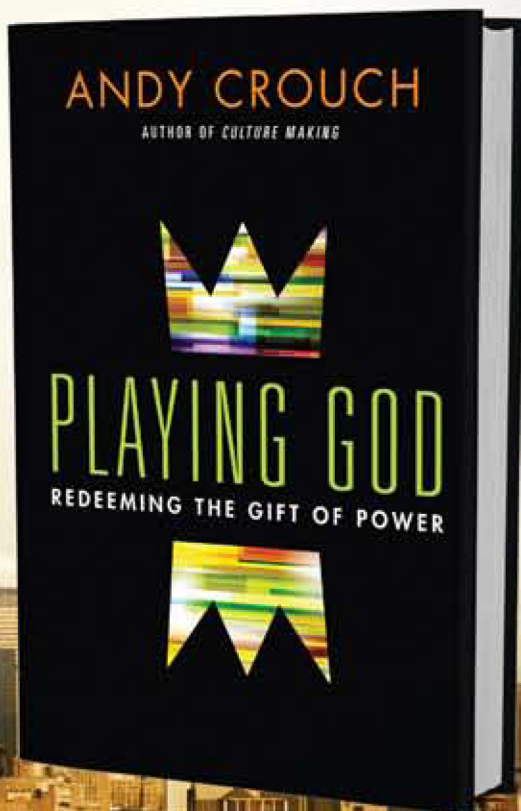
ANDY CROUCH ON POWER

"Power at its worst should unsettle us, should shock us. But power at its best is . . . the current of life. It is dangerously good."

"Here is what we need to discover about power: it is both better and worse than we could imagine."

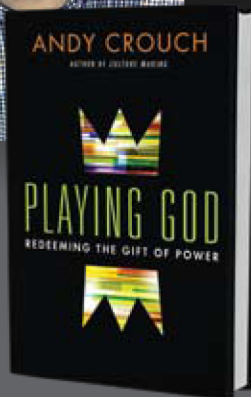
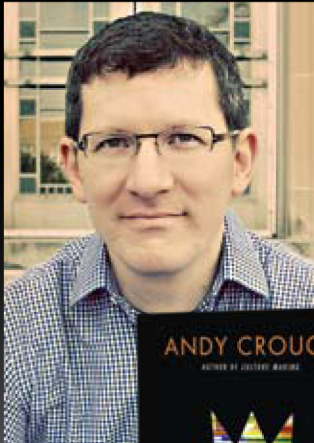
"Absolute love transfigures absolute power. And power transfigured by love is the power that made and saves the world."

"The worst fate one could wish for would be to end up alone with one's power, for then there would be no one left with whom one could tend and shape the world."



“A CLEAR AND COMPELLING CALL FOR CHRISTIANS TO STEWARD
THE KIND OF POWER THAT ENABLES FLOURISHING.”

—GABE LYONS, founder of Q Ideas and author of *unChristian*



ANDY CROUCH is the author of *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*, winner of *Christianity Today's* 2009 Book Award for Christianity and Culture and named one of the best books of 2008 by *Publishers Weekly*, *Relevant*, *Outreach* and *Leadership*. In December 2012 he became executive editor of *Christianity Today*, where he is also executive producer of *This Is Our City*, a multi-year project featuring documentary video, reporting and essays about Christians seeking the flourishing of their cities.

Andy serves on the governing boards of Fuller Theological Seminary and Equitas Group, a philanthropic organization focused on ending child exploitation in Haiti and Southeast Asia. He is also a member of the editorial board of *Books & Culture*, a senior fellow of the International Justice Mission's IJM Institute and a member of the board of advisors for the John Templeton Foundation. His writing has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* and in several editions of *Best Christian Writing* and *Best Spiritual Writing*. He lives with his family in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

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