



The Zombie Gospel: The Walking Dead and What it Means to Be Human

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Spiritual Lessons from Hit Television Series *The Walking Dead*

Can zombies teach us about the gospel? A hesitant first-time viewer of the popular television series *The Walking Dead*, author Danielle Strickland found that the show's themes guide us into a deeper understanding of our humanity by exploring some of the most important questions of our day.

In *The Walking Dead* an apocalyptic virus infects most of the human population, leaving them as “the walking dead” – zombies. The survivors make their way through the wreckage and chaos. Everything has changed, and it's up to the survivors to make a new world. Strickland considers the spiritual ideas lacing this story of survival in *The Zombie Gospel*, guiding fans of and newcomers to the show in thinking through the themes of survival, community, consumerism, social justice, and the resurrection life of Jesus. Exploring the apocalyptic themes of *The Walking Dead* awakens Christians to live out the gospel fully while awaiting the return of Christ.

“Danielle Strickland does a masterful job of drawing out deep lessons on what it means to be human from the popular TV series *The Walking Dead*,” writes Ken Wytsma, founder of The Justice Conference and author of *The Myth of Equality*. “Danielle’s treatment of the messiness of life, the consumptive nature of modern society, and the hope of the Christian message as themes emerging from this series is superb. It will make you want to watch *The Walking Dead* a second time so you can understand it for the first time. This is the best spiritual analysis of a television show or movie I know of.”

Strickland, author of *Just Imagine* and *A Beautiful Mess*, answers the following questions in *The Zombie Gospel*:

- What is the “zombie gospel” present in *The Walking Dead*? How does it enliven our understanding of the Christian good news?
- What lessons does *The Walking Dead* have for Christians about living out Jesus’ call to abandon our old way of life for a new one in Christ?
- How does *The Walking Dead* challenge what we value and inspire us to lead better lives?
- How does the zombie genre play on our fear of losing the things that give our lives purpose?
- What does *The Walking Dead* teach us about community and coming together to make a difference in the world?

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