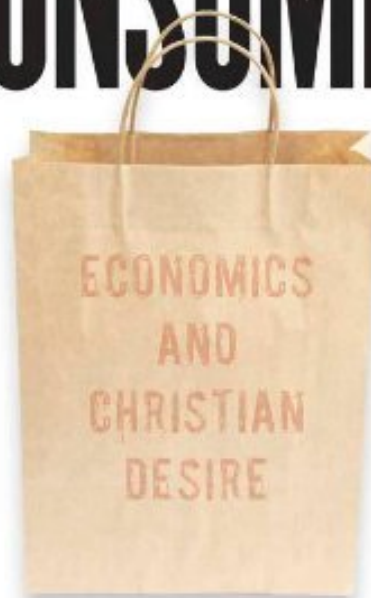


Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire

William T. Cavanaugh
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BEING CONSUMED



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William T. Cavanaugh : Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Packs A Powerful Punch By A. Morgan Can we live different lives, socially and economically as Christians. Cavanaugh say we can - and really we must. This is a great, small book. It's 100 plus pages are meaty - much to chew over. And much to challenge us. Cavanaugh's call is clear and simple, "From a Christian point of view, the churches should take an active role in fostering economic practices that are consonant with the true ends of creation. This requires promoting economic practices that maintain close connections among capital, labor and communities so that real communal discernment of the good can take place". Of course most

Christians are aware of the plight of factory worker around the world making designer clothing (Liz Claiborne jackets) which while retailing at \$178, cost only 77 cents per jacket (56 cents an hour). And of course most Christians are concerned. It is just that most Christians are too lazy (yes, fingers pointed at me too!!) to change our shopping habits. But is it possible to be a business and give to the community? Cavanaugh details the pain-based Mondragon Co-operative which was founded by a priest in 1956. The company employs 60,000 people and has annual sales of \$3 billion. But it's philosophy is based on the principles of distributism: this idea is that a just social order can only be achieved through the distribution of property and a recognition of the dignity of labor. Mondragon is entirely worker owned and worker governed. It is based on a system of one vote per worker. Their philosophy is that labor hires capital, instead of capital hiring labor. The highest paid worker can make no more than six times the lowest paid. 10% of surpluses are given directly to community development projects. Not only is the company successful and laborers highly satisfied with their work, but the communities in which Mondragon plays a significant part enjoy lower crime rates, lower rates of domestic violence, higher rates of education, and better physical and emotional health than neighboring communities. There is much more to this book - but I'll leave you to find out for yourself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A short, but dense read. By N Risdon A short, but dense read. Cavanaugh makes a fascinating apologetic for Christian understanding of consumption. Though his references points are solidly Catholic in orientation, it is an important read for anyone, Protestant, Catholic, or even non-religious, looking for an alternative way of consuming that doesn't exploit others. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent work combining faith, reason and subsidiarity! By thesternhagen This is an invaluable little book, and as compact as it is, it truly offers a Christian vision of the very real and viable solutions to many of the world's economic woes! Truly worth the read!

Should Christians be for or against the free market? For or against globalization? How are we to live in a world of scarcity? William Cavanaugh uses Christian resources to incisively address basic economic matters - the free market, consumer culture, globalization, and scarcity - arguing that we should not just accept these as givens but should instead change the terms of the debate. Among other things, Cavanaugh discusses how God, in the Eucharist, forms us to consume and be consumed rightly. Examining pathologies of desire in contemporary "free market" economies, *Being Consumed* puts forth a positive and inspiring vision of how the body of Christ can engage in economic alternatives. At every turn, Cavanaugh illustrates his theological analysis with concrete examples of Christian economic practices.

Joseph Mangina mdash; Wycliffe College, Toronto "Many Christians vaguely sense that all is not well with their relation to consumer society, but find it difficult to name just what ails them. Innbsp;Being Consumednbsp;William Cavanaugh offers the clearest, most helpful diagnosis I have ever seen. No liberal guilt-tripping here, just some serious theological reflection on matters like God, desire, justice, pluralism, and the nature of human freedom. I especially like Cavanaugh's concrete examples of economic practices consistent with life in the body of Christ. This book will be required reading in my introductory theology course."