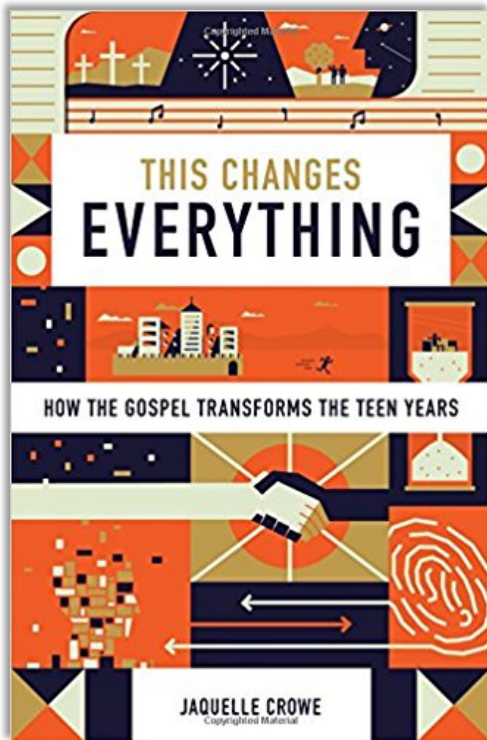


This Changes Everything: How the Gospel Transforms the Teen Years



If you are a Christian, it does not matter how old you are or how the culture defines you or expect for you to live. The Christian is a new creation and thus has been transformed through the work of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. So a Christian teenager will look and think and act in a way that is very different from way the culture expects that one to act. That is what this book is about: The Christian teenager is more defined by the *Christian* than the *teenager*. And being a Christian necessarily changes everything about your whole life, namely your identity, your community/family/relationships, your relationship to sin, your use of time, your entertainment, your thinking, your priorities...everything.

Because of this, *This Changes Everything*, a book about “How the Gospel Transforms the Teen Years” can just as easily be called “How the Gospel Transforms You” regardless of age. If you are a Christian and a teenager, you need to read this book, but if you are a Christian and not a teenager, you will be challenged and edified by this book.

I really appreciate the book’s focus on the good news of the gospel. You don’t change in order to win God’s favor. But where many books act like merely thinking about gospel realities will somehow magically change you or are fearful of giving commands to change seeking to avoid the

charge of legalism, Crowe does a very good job of holding the Biblical perspective: The gospel forgives sins and changes your life. Salvation by faith is demonstrated through a life that evidences that faith. Teenagers (and all humanity) are typified by a life lived to please ourselves, the Christian fundamentally lives for the worship and glory of God. Good works are not the basis of faith but the evidence of and one of the purposes of salvation by faith (Eph 2:10).

If you are a teenager, you need to read this book. If you are a parent of a teenager, take the opportunity to get a couple copies and read it with your child. Each chapter ends with some very good discussion questions that help drive the content of the chapter home. Even if you aren’t a teenager and don’t even know a teenager, I think that you will benefit from this.

As I read it, I first thought that I was reading it in preparation for taking my daughter through it. However, as I read, my affection for Jesus was stirred, I was constantly moved to worshipful thankfulness for the gospel. I was convicted of personal sin, driven to repentance, reminded again of how the gospel changes everything for the Christian...regardless of age.

Jacob Hantla, pastor-elder

Recommended Plan

This would be a good book to read with a parent/child, spouse, or friend. Set aside a meeting or a phone call each week to discuss the questions for the end of each chapter.

Week 1:

- Introduction
- Ch 1: Our Identity
- Ch 2: Our Story

Week 2:

- Ch 3: Our Community
- Ch 4: Our Sin

Week 3:

- Ch 5: Our Disciplines
- Ch 6: Our Growth

Week 4:

- Ch 7: Our Time
- Ch 8: Our Relationships
- Epilogue