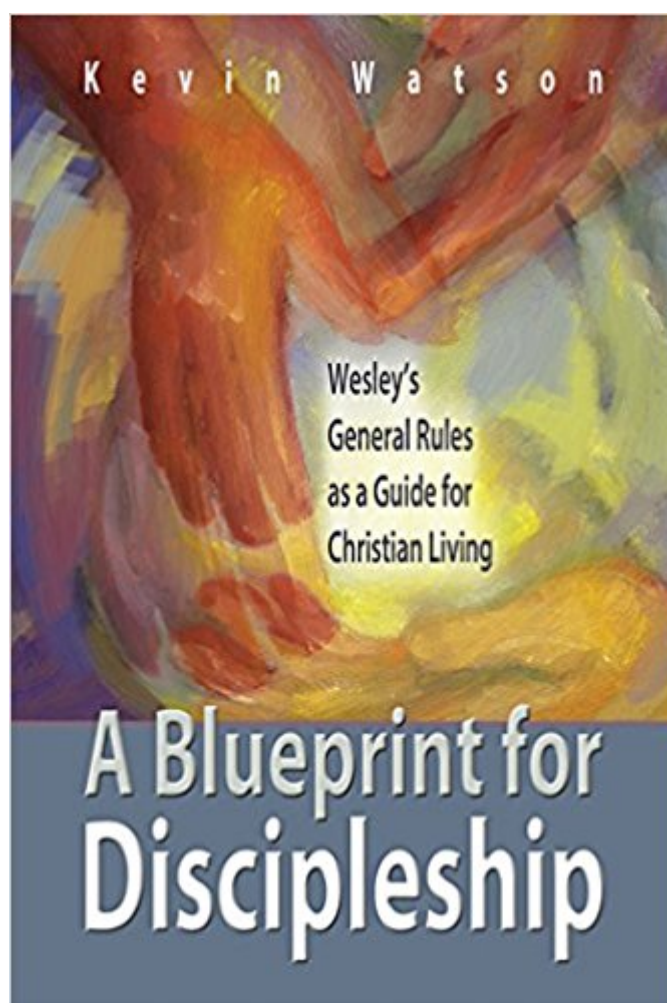


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A Blueprint For Discipleship: Wesley's General Rules As A Guide For Christian Living



Synopsis

Do no harm. Do good. Practice the spiritual disciplines. Watch over one another in love. - John Wesley's General Rules Why is this so hard? Does being a part of the Wesleyan tradition make any difference in living out your faith? Does Methodism offer guidance as we look to the future and seek renewal? Methodist Christians sometimes exhibit the most unchristian attitudes and behavior. People notice. And it's reflecting badly on the church, but we can - individually and collectively - correct the problem. Allow God to enter more deeply into your life until it's hard to tell where you end and God begins. "Most American Christians are struggling to practice their faith," Watson writes. "...Methodists can hold on and try not to let our tradition die, but mere survival is not God's deepest desire for us or the church. Instead, we must choose to live by stubbornly depending on God's Spirit, allowing our lives to give witness to who Christ is." A Blueprint for Discipleship offers a practical approach to Christian discipleship that's distinctly Wesleyan. Watson addresses the overwhelming desire of many Methodist Christians who want a more meaningful relationship with God but aren't sure how to start or find it. Reawaken to the power and vitality of your spiritual heritage. Repent of apathy and spiritual complacency to reclaim, in the words of Wesley, "the form and power of godliness."

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Customer Reviews

Kevin M. Watson is the author of *A Blueprint for Discipleship: Wesley's General Rules as a Guide for Christian Living* and the co-author of *Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition: John Wesley's*

Sermons for Today.Ã Â An ordained elder in the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, he is finishing up his PhD in the History of Christianity and Wesleyan Studies at Southern Methodist University. His dissertation explores the role of small group formation in early Methodism.Ã Â Starting in the fall of 2011, Kevin will teach at Seattle Pacific University in the area of Historical Theology. Watson blogs at deeplycommitted.com

This book is wonderul! We have used it as a basic guide for a class at our church for people who want to know how to go about putting being a believer into action. It is concise, but powerful. I love this book!

Being new to the Methodist faith, I found this book educational. Being old to Christianity, I found this book inspirational. Watson applies Wesley's general rules in such a way that you can easily apply those rules to life today. While not mincing words about his perception of the state of the Methodists today, Watson gives hope and understanding for the future of the Methodist faith by taking you back to the foundational principles that gave life to the Methodists. What was even more interesting is that any Christian, not just Methodists, can read this book and apply those priciples to their own lives. Wesley's general rules truly are a "blueprint for discipleship" and are not just applicable to those of one faith.

It is wonderful to read a clear and concise description of the answer to the pressing need for clarification as to "how" the church can do effective discipleship. John Wesley had the answer and Kevin Watson offers a compelling reason to apply Wesley's General Rules. I recommend that every pastor who is serious about making disciples for Christ read this book!

A good Wesleyan guideline for doing church! It provided a good outline for a sermon series!

A good reference on Wesley's General Rules and how to apply them.

A great guide to learning about Wesleyan traditions!

Excellent

John Wesley was a peripatetic Anglican priest who founded the Methodist movement in the 18th

century, which has grown since then into numerous Christian denominations around the world that number in excess of 70 million people. In his lifetime, Wesley always believed that the combination of justifying grace expressed through the new birth, together with the pursuit of sanctification through disciplined participation in the means of grace, was the main reason God had raised up Methodism in the first place. He expressed this distinctive, holistic understanding of salvation through the doctrine of Christian perfection - a teaching that was as controversial in his lifetime as it is now. As a minister who sought to present "plain truth for plain people," Wesley was committed to offering the Methodists (and anyone else who would listen) practical ways to respond to God's grace through lives of faithfulness so that they might experience God's salvation. One of the most prominent such ways is Wesley's General Rules, which guided discipleship in the early Methodist Societies and continue to have a place in various Methodist denominations today. The Rules are three in number and are headed by the statements, "Do no harm ... Do good ... Attend upon the ordinances of God." And while they sound simple, reading Wesley's full statement of them makes clear that truly guiding one's life by them takes total commitment (and, indeed, is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit in shaping a person both inwardly and outwardly). "A Blueprint for Discipleship: Wesley's General Rules as a Guide for Christian Living," just out from Methodist pastor and blogger Kevin Watson, offers the General Rules to Christians who would seek a concrete way to pursue sanctification. It is timely, well-written, and couched in a larger context of how to understand the working of God's grace in human lives and in the church. Watson takes Wesley's General Rules and presents them as the best way to understand God's call on our lives to be deeply committed followers of Jesus. This is a particularly good book for those in the church who would like to understand why the Wesleyan approach to faith remains a powerful way to open our hearts and lives to holy transformation. If you are a pastor or small group leader looking for a resource to use in your congregation, this book would be highly useful. Some of the strengths of the book include Watson's emphasis on the central role of grace in our ability to be transformed into holy people, his lucid explanation of the three Rules as practical ways to embody the biblical command to love God and neighbor, and his later chapters on the way the rules help us balance our faith lives and call us into relationships of mutual accountability in our discipleship. The book contains personal anecdotes from Watson's experience in ministry, as well as discussion questions to aid in small group contexts.

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