

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT PHILIP GULLEY

"The tales Philip Gulley unveils are tender and humorous...filled with sudden, unexpected, lump-in-the-throat poignancy."

– **PAUL HARVEY**

"Gulley's work is comparable to Gail Godwin's fiction, Garrison Keillor's storytelling, and Christopher Guest's filmmaking...in a league with Jan Karon."

– **PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY**

"Philip Gulley is a beautiful writer."

– **CHARLES OSGOOD, CBS SUNDAY MORNING**

"Gulley's stories get at the heart of the simple joys, stranger-than-fiction humor, and day-to-day drama of small-town life."

– **AMERICAN PROFILE MAGAZINE**

"Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor from Indiana with a charming sense of small-town life - and a shrewd sense of life in general...A self-deprecating narrator...he knows how to exaggerate in a witty way."

– **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

BOOKLIST compares Gulley to Garrison Keillor, Annie Dillard, Wendell Berry and Kathleen Norris. "He writes as cleanly as they, and perhaps with greater range."

"Gulley is a splendid storyteller...his books abound with shrewd insights into human character."

– **ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE**

"Gulley tells his stories with a bright intelligence, a wry wink and warm-hearted good humor, which are at the same time tender, thought provoking and downright hilarious."

– **CARRIE NEWCOMER**, singer and songwriter

"Philip Gulley sees the world around him clearly, tells us about it directly, and leaves us thinking that he would be a good man to spend time with."

– **BOB GREENE**, author of *And You Know You Should Be Glad*

"Through deft storytelling, and his own irresistible brand of humor, Phil Gulley explores the depth of the Heartland's heart."

– **PAUL HARVEY, JR.**

"Part Mark Twain, part Garrison Keillor, Philip Gulley is a breath of fresh air in an oversophisticated and often jaded world."

– **GLORIA GAITHER**, singer and songwriter

"What exquisite writing and penetrating insight! Philip Gulley belongs in The New Yorker."

– **BRENNAN MANNING**, author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel* and *Ruthless Trust*

"Philip Gulley gives us the good laugh, the good cry, and a good read of a world still in reach through faith and family."

– **THOMAS LYNCH**, author of *The Undertaking*

PRAISE FOR "THE EVOLUTION OF FAITH"

"In our ever-changing world, Gulley's book is much needed. An important book for any person of faith."

– **ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU**, author of *Made For Goodness*

"Whether you agree with all of Philip Gulley's theology-and in several places I don't-there is no question about the fact that he has defined here more clearly than perhaps any other contemporary commentator the current truth about the Church. Every serious Christian ought to read this book, ponder it, wrestle with it, but above all, be grateful for its' presence in today's urgent conversation about what we are and are becoming as a people of God."

– **PHYLLIS TICKLE**, author of *The Great Emergence*

"The faith that writer and Quaker pastor Gulley sees as evolving is personal as well as historical. A cradle Catholic who as a teenager traded Mass for Friends worship, he was something of a fundamentalist by the time he reached adulthood. He hasn't stayed that way, largely because of his now long pastoral experience. In each chapter of a book more somber than usual for the author of the warm, funny stories set in Harmony, Indiana, Gulley assays a particular subject—revelation, God, suffering and evil, salvation, prayer, the afterlife, and others—about which he has moderated his views because of his continued learning about Christian and religious history and his experience with good people, Christians and others. He's now a progressive Christian, he concludes, as long as that means one devoted to helping make the world new, as Jesus—though not only Jesus and not only Christianity, he stresses—promised. Because of the gentle intelligence of his storytelling as much as his homely, experiential theology, he may convince many that they are progressive Christians, too."

– **RAY OLSON**, *Booklist*

"The verve and clarity of Gulley's writing underscore the welcome nature of his message to many thoughtful "unchurched" or alienated Christians; Gulley gives focus to the liberal movement of many denominations and believers, and his book should be of interest to individuals and church study groups."

– **GRAHAM CHRISTIAN**, *Library Journal*

"No one familiar with Gulley's earlier, controversial nonfiction (*If Grace Is True; If the Church Were Christian*) will be surprised to find that the Quaker pastor has gotten even more progressive. He argues here, among other things, that there have been "God-bearers" other than Jesus; a focus on heaven, hell, and the afterlife is theoretical and damages the credibility of Christianity; Jesus was not a means of salvation by his death but an archetype of salvation--and so on, heretically for many. If Gulley has any evangelical Christian fans left, their numbers will again shrink. But the low-key Quaker from Indiana does not himself shrink from speaking truth--an essential Quaker practice--derived from well-sifted pastoral and personal experience. The thoughtful pastor displays more of a Christian spirit of charity toward those who disagree with him than do his theological critics."

– **PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY**

PRAISE FOR “IF THE CHURCH WERE CHRISTIAN”

“Philip Gulley separates wheat from chaff, experience from explanation and purpose from function in this book. He calls the Jesus message into a new vision - one that has both power and integrity.”

– **JOHN SHELBY SPONG**, author of *Eternal Life: A New Vision*

“Filled with memorable, insightful and revealing stories. I recommend it.”

– **MARCUS BORG**, author of *The First Christmas*

"No one raises provocative questions about Christianity more kindly than Philip Gulley. In an age of shouting, Gulley gently points out the flaws in the church while opening ways to practice Christian spirituality with greater integrity. If the church were as Philip Gulley envisions here people would be knocking down our doors to experience God's love."

– **DIANA BUTLER BASS**, author of *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.

"Like most realistic lovers, Gulley knows that as long as churches are composed of human beings, churches will be flawed. Yet this truth does not cloud his central vision: that Christianity is about following Jesus, not worshipping him, and that any body of disciples still willing to make his priorities their own can find deep springs of renewal for a credible and dynamic faith. The chapter titles alone are worth the price of this book. Whether you pray them by yourself or discuss them with others, they chart the distance between two very different ways of receiving Gods' good news."

– **BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR**, author of *An Altar in the World*

"Why are thousands of ministers not saying what Philip Gulley says so well!! His vision of Christianity is grounded, gripping, and filled with uncommon sense. He is building bridges instead of boundaries, and such wisdom is surely needed now."

– **FATHER RICHARD ROHR**, author of *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*

“Gulley puts the Christ back in Christian. This manifesto is a call not just to worship Jesus, but to follow him. It asks the daring question, "What if Christians actually began to take their Christ seriously?" The answer to that question could change the world.”

– **SHANE CLAIBORNE**, author of *The Irresistible Revolution*

PRAISE FOR “LIVING THE QUAKER WAY”

“Anybody who has ever thought that the Quakers invented oatmeal will learn differently from *Living the Quaker Way* by Indiana pastor and highly readable author Philip Gulley. He describes the values of the Quaker way: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality. Gulley is published by the new Random House imprint Convergent, which aims at people in the growing ranks of the spiritually curious but religiously unaffiliated.”

—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY** *Top 10 In Religion*, Fall 2013

“Ever since I ‘discovered’ Quakerism, I’ve wondered why Quakers are so quiet about their core values—simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality—in a world that so clearly needs them. So I was thrilled to find this book by Phil Gulley, a great Quaker writer, aimed at making those values more accessible. Gulley makes no effort to convince the reader to become a Quaker. He simply says, ‘If you’ve been looking for ways to live out these values, here’s what Quakers have learned over three and a half centuries of dedicated experimentation.’ His book is a treasure trove of practical wisdom about what it means to bear witness to our hope for a better world.”

—**PARKER PALMER**, author of *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, *Let Your Life Speak*, and *The Courage to Teach*

“*Living the Quaker Way* is not only refreshing and inspiring, it is challenging in all the right ways. Even though I am not a Quaker, their core values challenge my real life as well as the life of the faith community that I pastor. Filled with honest stories, deep wisdom, and realistic practices, *Living the Quaker Way* will leave you not only longing to live differently but also with practical ways to do just that.”

—**KATHY ESCOBAR**, co-pastor of *The Refuge*, faith blogger, and author of *Down We Go: Living Into the Wild Ways of Jesus*

“This is nothing less than the gospel itself. Quakers have always had the ability to simplify and get to the point, and here it is! I am most happy to add my very positive endorsement to this excellent, clear, and much-needed book.”

—**FR. RICHARD ROHR**, OFM, *Center for Action and Contemplation*, Albuquerque, New Mexico

PRAISE FOR “UNLEARNING GOD”

“If you want to have a deepening ‘live encounter’ with the great mystery at the heart of life, this beautiful and powerful book is a must-read.”

—**PARKER PALMER**, author of *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, *Let Your Life Speak*, and *The Courage to Teach*

“When I was a child, I spoke, thought, and reasoned like a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Phil Gulley’s *Unlearning God* is just the book to help us put away ‘childish things.’ A primer on the importance of spiritual reflection and growth.”

—**RICHARD ROHR**, author of *Falling Upward* and *The Divine Dance*