



Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America

By John Corrigan

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For many Christians in America, becoming filled with Christ first requires being empty of themselves—a quality often overlooked in religious histories. In *Emptiness*, John Corrigan highlights for the first time the various ways that American Christianity has systematically promoted the cultivation of this feeling.

Corrigan examines different kinds of emptiness essential to American Christianity, such as the emptiness of deep longing, the emptying of the body through fasting or weeping, the emptiness of the wilderness, and the emptiness of historical time itself. He argues, furthermore, that emptiness is closely connected to the ways Christian groups differentiate themselves: many groups foster a sense of belonging not through affirmation, but rather avowal of what they and their doctrines are not. Through emptiness, American Christians are able to assert their identities as members of a religious community.

Drawing much-needed attention to a crucial aspect of American Christianity, *Emptiness* expands our understanding of historical and contemporary Christian practices.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A scholarly tour de force. . . . Offers many interesting and significant historical insights.”
(*Catholic Library World*)

“The book not only provides an important study of religion and emotion; it also provides a model for historical scholarship to use this approach to examine additional aspects of religion.”
(*Review and Expositor*)

“Outstanding. . . . In the field of American religious history, obsessed as it is with politics and public doctrine, *Emptiness* is a breath of fresh air.”
(*Christian Century*)

“Readers will find in Corrigan's *Emptiness* a compelling case for seeing this emotion as critical to Christians' understanding of themselves and their purpose on earth. He has woven disparate threads of cultural expressions into a comprehensive and comprehensible interpretive framework and, by doing so, helps us to see the broad Christian American experience in new light.”
(*Journal of Social History*)

“Pioneering.”
(*Religion*)

“In this evocative study, John Corrigan manages to foreground an emptiness that lends depth and complexity, if not quite coherence, to the fractious history of American Christianity.”
(*Church History*)

“Corrigan's latest book turns a surprising theme—emptiness—into a fresh way to conceptualize the American religious landscape. Drawing on an impressive range of sources, he argues that emptiness is a ubiquitous feature of American Christianity and is experienced in multiple ways—emotionally, bodily, spatially, temporally, and doctrinally. Rich, erudite, and thought-provoking, this is a highly original contribution and a work of considerable theoretical importance.”
(Peter J. Thuesen, author of *Predestination: The American Career of a Contentious Doctrine*)

“In this sweeping study of emptiness in American Christianity, Corrigan masterfully navigates difficult terrain, expertly ushering readers through centuries of religious behavior and across many traditions. With depth and creativity, he explores everything from the diaries of conflicted Puritans to Catholic Mel Gibson's cinematic bloodletting. This is a powerful history.”
(Matthew Avery Sutton, author of *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism*)

“This challenging and rewarding study adds an important dimension to the history of emotion and a grasp of the Christian experience in the United States. Impressively varied research combines with nuanced analysis and a clear line of argument. This is a rare kind of work that explores not only intellectual parameters, but also personal meanings.”
(Peter N. Stearns, founder and editor of the *Journal of Social History*)

“A compelling and counter-intuitive compendium of emptiness and the myriad ways in which this curious state of being has generated striving, struggle, and the histories of American Christianity. Corrigan is the first to tackle how emptiness has become Americanized, for better and for worse, over the last few centuries.”
(John Lardas Modern, author of *Secularism in Antebellum America*)

About the Author

John Corrigan is the Lucius Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor of Religion and professor of history at Florida State University. He is the editor of the Chicago History of American Religion series, also published by the University of Chicago Press, and coeditor, most recently, of *Religion in American History*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Aline Moran:

Now a day folks who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America book as this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Manuel Rodriguez:

The book Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America will bring someone to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Celia Robertson:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a publication. The book Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

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