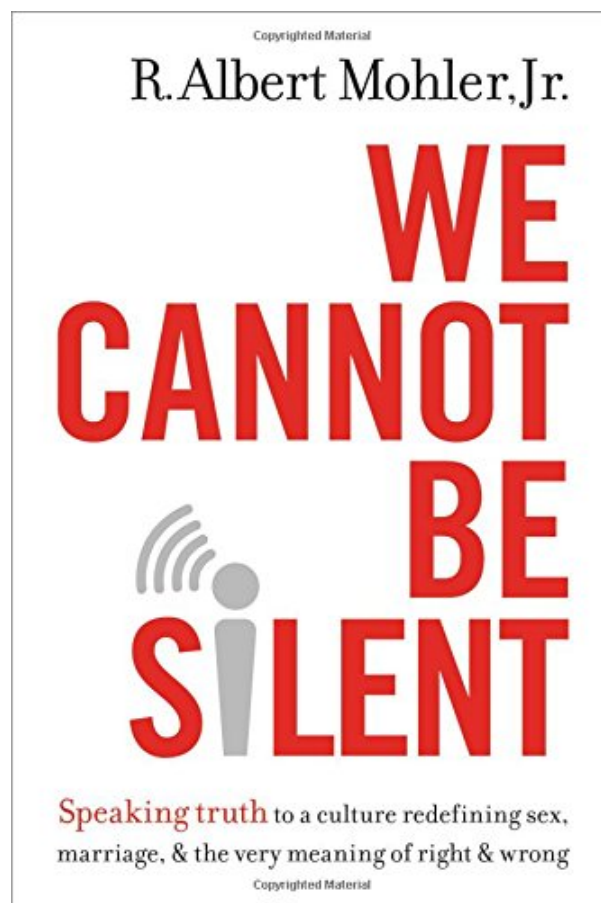


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TO A CULTURE REDEFINING SEX,
MARRIAGE, AND THE VERY MEANING OF
RIGHT AND WRONG BY R. ALBERT
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About the Author

R. Albert Mohler Jr. is president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology. Considered a leader among American evangelicals by Time and Christianity Today magazines, Dr. Mohler can be heard on The Briefing a daily podcast which analyzes news and events from a Christian Worldview. He also writes a popular commentary on moral, cultural, and theological issues at albertmohler.com. He and his family live in Louisville, Kentucky.

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WE CANNOT BE SILENT: SPEAKING TRUTH TO A CULTURE REDEFINING SEX, MARRIAGE, AND THE VERY MEANING OF RIGHT AND WRONG BY R. ALBERT MOHLER J PDF

Twenty years ago, not one nation on earth had legal same-sex marriage. Now, access to same-sex marriage is increasingly seen as a basic human right. In a matter of less than a generation, western cultures have experienced a moral revolution.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler examines how this transformation occurred, revealing the underlying cultural shifts behind this revolution: the acceptance of divorce culture, liberation of sex from reproduction, the prevalence of heterosexual cohabitation, the normalization of homosexuality, and the rise of the transgender movement. He then offers a deep look at how the Bible and Christian moral tradition provide a comprehensive understanding upon which Christians can build their personal lives, their marriages, church ministry, and cultural engagement.

Dr. Mohler helps Christians in their understanding of the underlying issues of this significant cultural shift and how to face the challenge of believing faithfully, living faithfully, and engaging the culture faithfully in light of this massive change.

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About the Author

R. Albert Mohler Jr. is president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology. Considered a leader among American evangelicals by Time and Christianity Today magazines, Dr. Mohler can be heard on The Briefing a daily podcast which analyzes news and events from a Christian Worldview. He also writes a popular commentary on moral, cultural, and theological issues at albertmohler.com. He and his family live in Louisville, Kentucky.

Most helpful customer reviews

30 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

A Convicting and Challenging Call for the Church to Engage

By J. Tillman

I am grateful for HarperCollins for sending me an advance copy of Dr. R. Albert Mohler's new *We Cannot Be Silent*. The book has already gained a lot of attention from news media outlets like *The Courier-Journal*, *USA Today*, and *The Huffington Post* just to name a few. Unfortunately, most media outlets have only focused on the final chapter of the book which essentially is a Q&A chapter covering multiple issues. The final chapter though, is not the essence or point of the book...it is simply a Q&A in which Mohler tackles very difficult questions. While many are only focusing on a few answers from Mohler (comprising of 3 pages out of 200!) what the news media is not doing is focusing on the main argument, or point of the book.

While Mohler gracefully and compassionately answers tough questions about whether or not a Christian can celebrate and attend a same-sex wedding, the essence of his book is not boycott, ridicule, judge, or hate. The essence of Mohler's book is compassion. A call for Christians to repent of their distorted views of marriage, sex, and reproduction, and to return to the truths found within the Bible. Christians should not distance themselves from those in the LGBT (or whatever acronym is being used) crowd, but to compassionately engage them with the Gospel. This will require Christians to have a firm understanding of where our country is, how we got here, where we are going, and how we have failed in many ways concerning these issues.

It would have been easy for Mohler to appeal to the to the "Extreme-Right" and make this book a battle cry to "take back" what has been lost concerning marriage. The book would have probably been more popular (unfortunately) if that was Mohler's agenda, but it is not. Mohler writes specifically to pastors and leaders within Christianity, but the book is applicable for all Christians (and spoiler...I recommend this book as a MUST read for all pastors and leaders but essentially Mohler's book is a must read for ALL Christians). Mohler's message to Christians is to repent and be compassionate.

In the Preface Mohler states "This book is about this moral revolution, how it happened and what it means for us, for our churches, and for our children. It is important to trace the revolution and understand that the most heated controversies of our day did not emerge from a vacuum onto the daily headlines. Every revolution has a story, and the story of this revolution is one that we can now trace. To put the truth plainly, this revolution did not start with same-sex marriage, and it will not end there. (xi-xii)...This book is written in hope that the church will be found faithful, even in the midst of the storm (xv)."

Quite frankly, the church has failed to have a biblical view of sex, marriage, and reproduction for a long time. We should not be surprised at the progression our country has taken. Chapter 1 explains exactly where our country is...in the midst of a moral and sexual revolution in which anyone opposed to the new way of thinking is demonized for beliefs that have been held by societies for over two thousand years (and more). This chapter elevates the seriousness of our situation and looks at the heart of the issue and not just the symptoms.

Chapter 2 is a fascinating chapter in which Mohler explains how the development of birth control and contraceptions, divorce (specifically no-fault divorce), advanced reproductive technologies, and cohabitation have set the stage for the arrival of same-sex marriages. While the church mostly ignored these issues (instead focusing on lesser issues) the progression for our current day was already set in stone many decades ago. The language and terminology used in major court decisions concerning these issues paved the way to how our courts have made recent decisions.

In Chapter 3 the developments of the homosexual movement is put within the context of that moral revolution and in Chapter 4 Dr. Mohler takes a closer look at same-sex marriage itself. Mohler states

“Discovering how this happened is essential for Christians who are trying to live faithfully on the other side of this moral revolution (33).” Again Mohler’s work in these two chapters is very fascinating. He pinpoints a key book entitled “After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear & Hatred of Gays in the 90s” by Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen in which the quintessential strategy for what became a gay-rights revolution was laid out. Of course that strategy alone could not have been successful without the significant help of liberal Bible scholars, theologians, and religious leaders who declare that the church was in error and needed changing.

Mohler comments (and rightly so) “At this point, we must respond with a sobering reality that America has never been nearly as Christian as many conservative Christians have claimed (43).” The false idea that America is or ever was a “Christian” nation hopefully has been dismissed. While certainly there are some aspects of Christianity at the heart of our constitution there are also Deistic and other principles found as well. Instead of fighting for ideologies or false understandings of our nations past, Christians need to make the Gospel their primary effort in spreading

Next, in Chapters 5 and 6 Mohler discusses the transgender revolution, the early affects we are seeing, the progression we are on, and how the church should respond. Again, Mohler encourages compassion and awareness while also affirming the Gospel can change anyone in any situation. Mohler then goes on in the next chapter to describe how the progression we are currently on essentially means the end of marriage. Again Mohler emphasizes that damage done by heterosexuals has caused the current crisis.

Concerning gay families Mohler makes a tough, but much needed statement when he says, “... we must always be ready to state publicly our gladness that children are cared for, even as we assert the deficiencies of the home in which these adopted children find greater security, love, nurture, and comfort. This will require Christians to form a more mature and theologically sustainable arguments than we have brought to the public square in the past. Frankly, we will make fools of ourselves if we suggest that it would be better for children to be cosigned to the anonymous social welfare system, with little hope of eventual rescue, then to be adopted by homosexual parents who deeply desire to invest themselves in the are and nurturing of children (93).” That does not mean that we forget and continue to fight for the true context of human flourishing (within a husband and wife relationship), but that we do so with compassion and biblical conviction.

Next, in Chapter 7 Dr. Mohler does a brief biblical theology of sex. Though brief, this chapter is filled with solid biblical exposition. In this chapter Mohler corrects new and wrong interpretations that are taken out of context in order to blur and excuse sin. He rightly states that, “In the end the church will either declare the truth of God’s Word, or it will find a way to run away from it. It ultimately comes down to trust. Do we trust the Bible to tell us truthfully what God desires and commands about sexuality (118)?”

In Chapter 8 Mohler explains the issue between religious liberty verses erotic liberty and how those fighting for erotic liberty are essentially arguing for the end of religious liberty. Instead, those who speak in opposition to the moral revolution are declared to be making “hate speech” and erotic liberty is trumping religious liberty and freedom of speech. Mohler states, “Even while religious liberty is supposedly recognized and affirmed, it is often being transformed and minimized...President Obama himself, has shifted his language from “freedom of religion” to “freedom of worship” (127). While the difference seems subtle it is profound. Worship is restricted to the confines of a building while religion can be practiced in the public sphere. “Freedom of worship essentially muzzles the Christian in the public square.”

Finally, Chapter 9 is a profound and biblical call for Christians to repent of our failures and sins and to compassionately be obedient to the Great Commission. Mohler specifically notes how evangelicals have

sinned against homosexuals “by speaking carelessly about the true nature of their sin (143).” Mohler mentions several other ways that evangelicals have sinned against homosexuals...again calling for repentance and change. As mentioned before, media outlets have completely missed the point of this book. While Chapter 10 is a Tour de France of answering tough questions, Mohler is not advocating boycotting or abandoning or running away from the culture issues that are present. Mohler rightly calls for Christians to compassionately engage our culture with the gospel.

This is a must read for church leaders, members, pastors...every Christian should read this book from Dr. R. Albert Mohler. Critics would be wise to read the book in it's entirety, instead of blatantly taking a small portion of it out of context. I think even they will be challenged by what they find.

I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

48 of 55 people found the following review helpful.

Silence Kills!

By Dr. David Steele

Postmodern culture is drowning in relativism and religious pluralism. The rising tide of liberalism and theological compromise has not only washed upon the secular shore; it has come crashing in upon the evangelical church with the force of a tsunami.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler explores this rising cultural storm in his new book, *We Cannot Be Silent*. The author describes the so-called sexual revolution in vivid terms; terms that sober readers and awaken them to this escalating challenge.

Mohler explains that this cultural revolution did not begin with same-sex marriage, however. Rather, four developments helped usher in the redefinition of marriage, namely, birth control and contraception, divorce, advanced reproductive technologies, and cohabitation.

The author guides readers through the various stages of cultural decay which include the acceptance of same-sex marriage, the transgender revolution, and the collapse of marriage.

Dr. Mohler provides the proper paradigm for thinking and acting biblically in these troubling times:

The fundamental axiom upon which evangelical Christians must base every response to homosexuality is this: God alone is sovereign, and he alone created the universe and everything within it by his own design and for his own good pleasure. Furthermore, he showed us his creative intention through Holy Scripture – and that intention is clearly to create and establish two distinct but complementary genders or sexes. The Genesis narrative demonstrates that this distinction of genders is neither accidental nor inconsequential to the divine design.

Navigating the cultural decay is no simple task, especially when more and more people appear to accept what the Bible prohibits – even in the church. Thankfully, we have the Word of God which reveals the heart of God in these matters. Indeed, the biblical testimony is clear and compelling: Mohler adds:

Homosexuality is a sin against God and a direct rejection of God's intention and command in creation. All sin is a matter of eternal consequence. The redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ is the only hope for sinners. On the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins and served as a substitute for the redeemed.

We Cannot Be Silent is essential reading for Christian leaders, Christian educators, and pastors. It contains a wealth of practical information, biblical responses, and draws readers into the center of the cultural tsunami. Mohler offers hope and Bible-soaked counsel for Christians who seek answers in the midst of the storm.

But the most important aspect of the author's book is his heart which is clearly revealed. Mohler strikes a critical balance of love and grace from start to finish. He helps readers navigate the challenging waters of postmodern culture with biblical wisdom, skill, and winsomeness. Such an approach is imperative if the church intends on reaching people for the sake of the gospel.

I applaud We Cannot Be Silent for its depth, transparency, and clear commitment to Scripture. It deserves a wide reading and is bound to make an important difference in the lives of many people.

Highly recommended!

I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review.

28 of 31 people found the following review helpful.

Speaking the Truth in Love!

By Shane Lems

How do you explain the American sexual revolution that has been taking place since the sixties? And what is the Christian church to do about it? These are important questions for us to ask. If you want thoughtful and informed answers to these questions, you'll want to get Albert Mohler's new book, We Cannot Be Silent (Nashville: Nelson Books, 2015). The subtitle shows the aim of the book: "Speaking truth to a culture redefining sex, marriage, and the very meaning of right and wrong." In just over 200 pages, Mohler does a nice job explaining the sexual revolution, critiquing it from a Christian perspective, and offering constructive advice for how the church should move forward in the midst of this revolution. It is a timely book for sure!

Chapter one is a discussion of how the sexual revolution has affected culture. Chapter two is a study of how the revolution has negatively affected marriage and family. In chapters three and four, Mohler discusses homosexuality and transgender issues. The next chapter (five) is a study of the changing and ultimately the end of marriage. Chapter eight is a summary of Scripture's teaching on sexuality, while chapter nine has to do with religious freedom. Chapters nine and ten talk about how the gospel addresses sexuality and some major questions that arise from the topic of the sexual revolution. The conclusion of the book is a response to the recent Supreme Court decision on gay marriage.

One reason why I appreciated this book is because it clearly explained how the current sexual mess this nation is in finds its roots in the past – before the nineties – back to the sixties and before. The gay marriage and transgender issues didn't arise in the last five years out of a vacuum. Mohler speaks well to this issue. The book was also helpful in that Mohler did a nice job of explaining how deep and wide this sexual revolution has spread in our culture: it affects so many things, from high school sports to the military to tax laws to doctor's offices to elementary school bathrooms. The sexual revolution is a major movement that the church has to face; we cannot be silent!

Mohler doesn't just point fingers in this book; in fact, he doesn't really point fingers in the bad sense of the term at all. He examines, diagnoses, explains, and even notes that the Christian church has not always handled this revolution well. So he gives a loving response on how we should go about dealing with the sexual revolution in a way that's faithful to Scripture (in justice) but also radiates with love (in mercy).

There is a lot of info in this book! If you're looking for a quick and light read, this is not it! However, if you

want a readable, yet reasonably in-depth look at the sexual revolution from a Christian perspective, please, get this book: *We Cannot Be Silent*. It will be a help to the church as we stand on the truth of God, and speak it – with love!

NOTE: I reviewed this book as part of the Booklook bloggers program. I was given the book in exchange for an honest review.

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