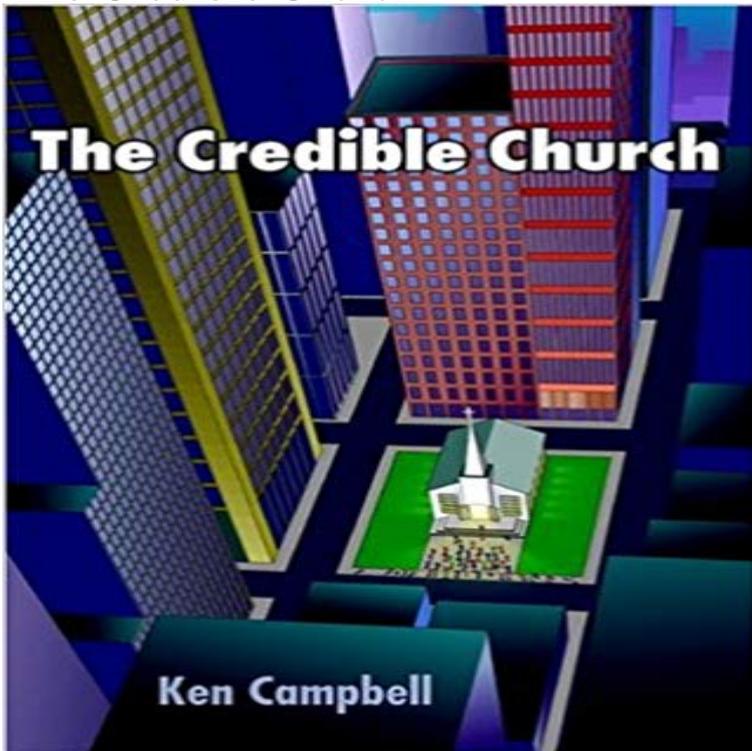


The Credible Church



The strength of the faithful church is its commitment to the truth of the gospel. The true church preserves, teaches, and proclaims the faith delivered to the saints. But in our time, this gospel is often not believed. It is either ignored or misrepresented. The primary reason for this is the failure of the church to demonstrate the truth of the gospel in action in the lives of believers. Until Christians show that their lives have been transformed by this message, why should anyone believe it? People in the spiritually confused West today are looking for authentic, dynamic relationships which lend credence to group belief, but when they look at their local church, they often see people little different from themselves. This book draws attention to what it means for Christians to love one another. This is the missing mark of the church that renders our proclamation so weak and our message less than credible. Based on the one-another commands of the New Testament, successive chapters explore what it means to belong to, welcome, put up with, love, serve, be kind and compassionate to, live in harmony with, submit to, support, teach and admonish, and encourage one another. Western nations, especially America, are inhabited by spiritual aliens who have forgotten how to relate to other people as humans made in God's image. Christians can complain and denounce; but until the world sees what human relationships are supposed to be like, this degradation will continue. We need first of all to communicate the gospel to the nations, but secondly we need to demonstrate the results of the gospel in our relationships or we may not be believed.

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