

the **Gold Coast**
Church *and the*
Ghetto

*Christ and Culture in
Mainline Protestantism*

James K. Wellman Jr.

Foreword by
Marvin E. Marty

The Gold Coast Church And The Ghetto

Brian Jonathan Miller



The Gold Coast Church And The Ghetto:

The Gold Coast Church and the Ghetto James K. Wellman, 1999 One of the nation's best known churches Fourth Presbyterian is a thriving mainline church housed in an elegant Gothic building in Chicago's wealthy Gold Coast neighborhood Less than a mile to the west is another world the Cabrini Green low income housing projects In this evenhanded account James Wellman surveys the church's history of balancing its theological aims and its social boundaries and sheds light on the strengths and weaknesses of liberal Protestantism as a modern religious institution Wellman shows how Fourth Presbyterian has moved from an establishment congregation to what he calls a lay liberal church working to overcome class and race inequality in its urban context while carving out its institutional identity in an increasingly pluralistic environment By examining the church's four main leaders over the course of the century Wellman tracks Fourth Presbyterian's gradual shift away from an evangelical role and toward the current focus on service epitomized in the church's main outreach program an extensive volunteer tutoring program that serves hundreds of Cabrini Green residents each week In documenting Fourth Presbyterian's struggle to meet the needs of its privileged congregants while challenging them to move beyond exclusive boundaries of race and class **The Gold Coast Church and the Ghetto** opens a window into the past present and future of the Protestant mainline

High on God James Wellman Jr., Katie Corcoran, Kate Stockly, 2020-01-10 **High on God** offers a fascinating study of the rise of megachurches and the reasons that these churches have conquered the American church market The authors reveal the emotional and social dynamics that pull thousands of people into megachurches and keep them there

The American Church Experience Thomas A. Askew, Richard V. Pierard, 2008-08-06 A welcome addition to the ongoing reflection on the meaning of religion in America The authors are both responsible as scholars and accessible as writers Teachers students clergy and laity will find this book worthwhile It deserves a wide reading Ronald A Wells Professor of History Calvin College editor *Fides et Historia* This is a most welcome update of the first textbook survey of American church history **The American Church Experience** retains all the virtues of the original brevity clarity and evenhandedness while incorporating recent historical developments and contemporary historical scholarship Michael S Hamilton Associate Professor of History Seattle Pacific University Specialists and general readers alike should welcome this valuable new resource in American religious history I certainly plan to recommend it to my students Garth M Rosell Professor of Church History and Director of the Ockenga Institute at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Captures the ebb and flow of religious history in a scholarly and precise way while retaining a highly readable quality Students will be challenged and laypeople will be informed about America's fascinating religious heritage This book is a must for the pastor's study and for the church library Ruth A Tucker author of *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions* Tom Askew and Dick Pierard provide a lively and succinct account of the origins expansion and struggles of the faith in America Their analyses are enhanced by commendable balance and a healthy global perspective This volume will

prove to be an excellent resource for church study groups as well as for undergraduate and seminary classes James A Patterson Professor of Christian Studies Union University *The Church Must Grow or Perish* Mark T. Mulder, Gerardo Marti, 2025-04-01 To fully understand American Christianity it's essential to understand Robert Schuller *The Church Must Grow or Perish* Robert H Schuller and the Business of American Christianity examines Schuller's indelible imprint on the American church and how he developed a model of ministry both lauded and critiqued that transformed Christian life and community across this country Schuller's story is the starting point for powerful trends that continue to shape much of American religion today televangelism seeker sensitive outreach megachurches the suburbanization of white Christianity pastoral entrepreneurship and market oriented Christianity in pursuit of growth Authors Mark T Mulder and Gerardo Mart explore Schuller's drive to develop a theology a persona and a set of practices that he believed were necessary to keep Christianity vibrant long into the future They trace Schuller's career arc from his beginnings as an Iowa farm boy to his years as a charismatic Southern California preacher one who believed that in order for the church to thrive pastoral leaders needed to borrow from the best practices of big business including the entertainment industry This fascinating biography is essential reading for those who want to fully understand a transformative force in American Christianity *The Political Influence of Churches* Paul A. Djupe, Christopher P. Gilbert, 2009 Abstract **Shades of White Flight** Mark T. Mulder, 2015-03-12 Since World War II historians have analyzed a phenomenon of white flight plaguing the urban areas of the northern United States One of the most interesting cases of white flight occurred in the Chicago neighborhoods of Englewood and Roseland where seven entire church congregations from one denomination the Christian Reformed Church left the city in the 1960s and 1970s and relocated their churches to nearby suburbs In *Shades of White Flight* sociologist Mark T Mulder investigates the migration of these Chicago church members revealing how these churches not only failed to inhibit white flight but actually facilitated the congregations departure Using a wealth of both archival and interview data Mulder sheds light on the forces that shaped these midwestern neighborhoods and shows that surprisingly evangelical religion fostered both segregation as well as the decline of urban stability Indeed the Roseland and Englewood stories show how religion often used to foster community and social connectedness can sometimes help to disintegrate neighborhoods Mulder describes how the Dutch CRC formed an insular social circle that focused on the local church and Christian school instead of the local park or square or market as the center point of the community Rather than embrace the larger community the CRC subculture sheltered themselves and their families within these two places Thus it became relatively easy when black families moved into the neighborhood to sell the church and school and relocate in the suburbs This is especially true because in these congregations authority rested at the local church level and in fact they owned the buildings themselves Revealing how a dominant form of evangelical church polity congregationalism functioned within the larger phenomenon of white flight *Shades of White Flight* lends new insights into the role of religion and how it can affect social change not always for the better **Ecumenism in**

Retreat Martin Camroux, 2016-05-27 In his enthronement sermon as archbishop of Canterbury in 1942 William Temple famously declared the ecumenical movement to be the great new fact of our era In this book Martin Camroux tries to face honestly how hope met reality By the end of the century the enthusiasm had largely dissipated the organizations that represented it were in decline and organic unity looked further away than ever One significant ecumenical merger took place in Britain the creation in 1972 of the United Reformed Church which saw its formation as a catalyst for ecumenical renewal Its hopes however were largely illusory With the failure of its ecumenical hope the church had little idea of its purpose found great difficulty establishing an identity and faced a catastrophic implosion in membership This first serious study of the United Reformed Church also includes groundbreaking analysis of the unity process the mixed fortunes of Local Ecumenical Projects and how the national ecumenical organizations withered All of this is put in the wider context of religion in British society including secularization individualism and post denominationalism What failed was not ecumenism but a particular model of it and the book ends with a commitment to a renewed ecumenical hope **Worship Frames** Deborah J.

Kapp, 2008-09-16 Worship is a congregation s most important practice In worship we encounter God s gracious presence and come face to face with the frailty goodness and potential of our humanity We are comforted corrected forgiven healed challenged and sometimes even disturbed by the divine and one another We are morally formed and sent by God into the world The mysterious and uncontrollable work of the Spirit is at the heart of all genuine worship Yet worshipers and leaders work hard to worship In *Worship Frames* Deborah Kapp explores how the sociological concept of frames can help us better understand the social and human dynamics of worship Frames are interpretive schemes or ideas that help people locate understand and identify their experiences For example opening a service with a period of silent reflection followed by a sober hymn is a different frame for worship than opening with congregational announcements and a loud call and response session She has found that this theory has opened her eyes to dynamics in worship she had not noticed before and best helped her understand differences in worship styles By understanding our frames we can learn how to reframe worship to give fuller and richer expression to our faith Kapp shares her insights with congregations and worship leaders so they will gain new perspectives from which to analyze and design worship and deepen their perceptions about the role worship plays in faith communities *Handbook of Religion and Society* David Yamane, 2016-07-15 The *Handbook of Religion and Society* is the

most comprehensive and up to date treatment of a vital force in the world today It is an indispensable resource for scholars students policy makers and other professionals seeking to understand the role of religion in society This includes both the social forces that shape religion and the social consequences of religion This handbook captures the breadth and depth of contemporary work in the field and shows readers important future directions for scholarship Among the emerging topics covered in the handbook are biological functioning organizational innovation digital religion spirituality atheism and transnationalism The relationship of religion to other significant social institutions like work and entrepreneurship science

and sport is also analyzed Specific attention is paid where appropriate to international issues as well as to race class sexuality and gender differences This handbook includes 27 chapters by a distinguished diverse and international collection of experts organized into 6 major sections religion and social institutions religious organization family life course and individual change difference and inequality political and legal processes and globalization and transnationalism

Sanctifying Suburbia Brian Jonathan Miller, 2025 The suburbs are home to the majority of Americans including millions of evangelical Christians and thousands of evangelical congregations and organizations And while American evangelicals are a potent force in society and politics their connection to and embrace of the suburbs are rarely examined How did white evangelicals come to see the suburbs as a promised land home to the evangelical good life and to dense concentrations and networks of evangelical residents churches big and small and nonprofit organizations This book systematically assesses how evangelicals became intertwined with the suburbs and what this means for evangelical life Brian Miller shows how evangelical views of race and ethnicity social class and gender led to anti urban sentiment white flight and the pursuit of racial exclusivity all of which has led evangelicals to make the suburbs their physical and spiritual home At the same time clusters of evangelical organizations were planting themselves in the suburbs drawing evangelicals out of the cities Through sociological analysis case studies of multiple communities with clusters of evangelical residents and examinations of evangelical culture Miller shows that in order to fully understand American evangelicals we must take a deeper look at how evangelicals embraced suburbs and how the suburbs shaped them

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