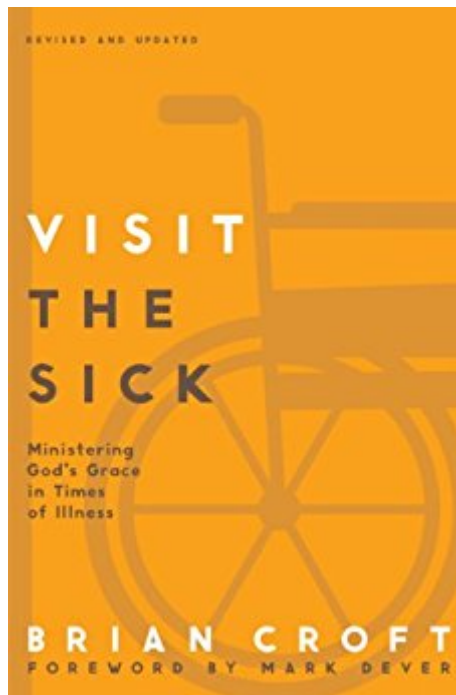


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Visit The Sick: Ministering God's Grace In Times Of Illness (Practical Shepherding Series)



Synopsis

How Do You Care for the Sick? Here's How. One of the marks of the ministry of Jesus is his compassionate care for the sick. Jesus brought healing and hope to individuals struggling with life-debilitating illnesses. Ministry to the sick should also be a mark of his followers, but in many churches today it is neglected or pushed to the periphery of ministry concerns. To counter our modern tendency to minimize or ignore sickness, pastor Brian Croft looks to paradigms of the past and examines historical models of care that honor God, obey the teachings of Scripture, and communicate loving care to those who are struggling with sickness and disease. Part of the Practical Shepherding series of resources, Visit the Sick provides pastors and ministry leaders with real-world help to do the work of pastoral ministry in a local church. Visit the Sick gives pastors, church leaders, and caregivers the biblical, theological, pastoral, and practical tools they need to navigate through both the spiritual and physical care of the sick and dying.

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Customer Reviews

Brian Croft provides a powerful little book in *Visit the Sick: Ministering God's Grace in Times of Illness*, published by DayOne in 2009. Croft has been the Pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church, in Louisville Kentucky for nearly 20 years, and brings some slivers of gold from a mine of experience to his fellow pastors in his 90-page work. Mark Dever writes the Foreword to this work, with a self-deprecating look at some of the apprehensions he experienced in his early years of ministry. Both his remembrance of inexperience and delight in Croft's work provided an encouraging warning that those in ministry need be familiar with the contents of the book. This reviewer appreciated the logical flow of information presented in *Visit*. From the created order, Croft builds his theology of ministry into one that includes a view of sickness that keeps the gospel in view. He peppers readers with quotes from Spurgeon and Ryle to bolster the historical case for his position, that ministry to the sick and dying is indeed a high calling for a precious time when individuals consider their mortality. The practical proviso for the gospel was a very compelling aspect for this reviewer, as Croft introduces the fact that impenitence may only be broken, by an illness. As an aspiring pastor, this reader had never considered that aspect of hospital visitations to the level presented in the book. Of immense help, were elements from the sections on Theological, Pastoral and Practical Considerations. The preparations for a hospital visit taught a level of preparation for theological discussion, physical countenance and physical communication that will prove very helpful in considering the first visit.

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