

Review of Revolution

George Barna says there is a revolution taking place in the Church. Authentic biblical Christianity is on the rise. But many are experiencing this revolution outside the walls of institutional churches.

Barna's book has me thinking. He expresses some frustrations that I have had with institutional Christianity. I have personally witnessed greater life change through organizations like Crown, Bible Study Fellowship, and an impromptu dorm Bible study that I participated in as a Freshman at Baylor University.

Barna seems to advocate the idea that the house church movement will grow at a much faster pace and overtake the institutional church within the next 20 years. I must admit, the house church model has a lot of appeal to me. It can be a model that:

- ⇒ Helps believers focus on reaching their neighbors with the gospel.
- ⇒ Offers disabled or elderly people a more viable option for worship.
- ⇒ Facilitates true biblical community in a genuine environment.
- ⇒ Stretches resources further since there are no facilities to pay for.

There are local churches that do a tremendous job of all the above—of course house churches will always have the advantage of lower overhead. Barna believes that some traditional churches will continue to flourish **if**:

1. They learn from revolutionaries and take a kingdom approach.
2. Seek ways to add value to the Revolution—focus on relationships and service.
3. Reflect on what it means to belong to a church—your church; focus on what your church does well.
4. Figure out how to create more revolutionaries among those not aligned with the Christian community.

How does Barna describe these revolutionaries. He says that they are fruit obsessed. They are focused like Paul- “This **one** thing I do...” *Philippians 3:13*. They agree with Søren Kierkegaard who says, “Purity of heart is to seek **one** thing.” That one thing is Christ.

The Revolutionaries have seven passions:

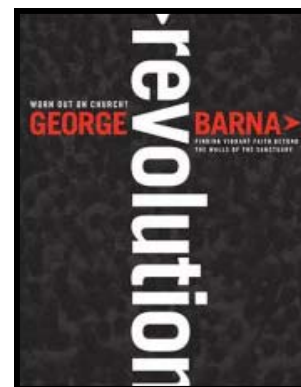
1. Intimate worship
2. Faith-based conversations
3. Intentional spiritual growth
4. Servanthood
5. Resource investment
6. Spiritual friendships
7. Family faith

This book is guaranteed to be a lightning rod. Many church leaders will despise it because it questions the relevance of the local church. Kingdom-minded churches on the other hand will likely embrace a lot of the ideas that Barna sets forth. Barna has researched the local church for over 20 years. This book was written because he has seen so little change in the lives of members of local churches. He asks the question: Why is this the case? This book is his conclusions.

The book is a quick read and a must read for anyone struggling to make faith a more vibrant part of everything they do. Jesus said, “The hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...” *John 4:23*.

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Revolution: an overthrow or repudiation and thorough replacement of an established system...