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Footnotes: The Enneagram with Gupton, McKinzie, and Moore

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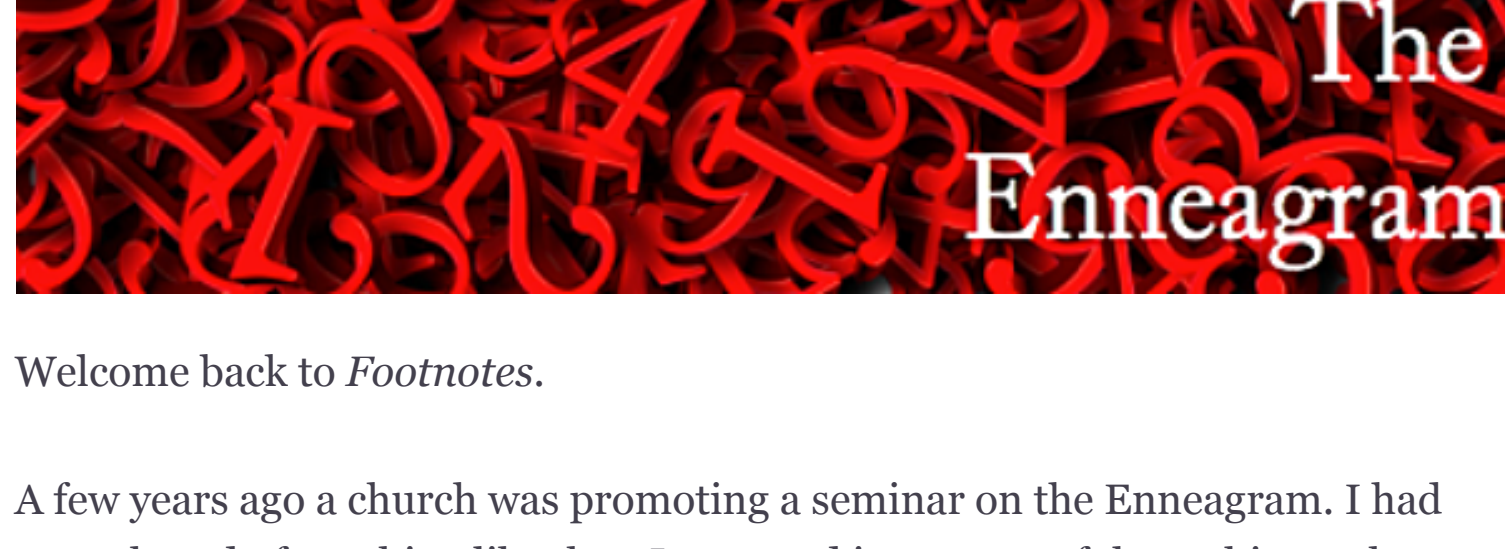
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Footnotes¹

¹Curated Resources for Ministers



Welcome back to *Footnotes*.

A few years ago a church was promoting a seminar on the Enneagram. I had never heard of anything like that. I assumed it was one of those things where a church brings in a doctor to talk to seniors about their cholesterol or some accountant to warn against reverse mortgages. What is an Enneagram anyway?

I later saw pictures of the event. There were no elderly people in the audience; just a bunch of people around my age (mid 30's). So, either the Enneagram wasn't what I initially thought, or people my age had become really interested in reverse mortgages.

It turns out I was wrong about the Enneagram. It is a psychological instrument that fits us into one of nine major personality types. The tool has been popularized in recent years through the work of the Franciscan [Richard Rohr](#). The origins are a bit fuzzy, so no one is exactly sure where or when it originated. But experts estimate that it is somewhere between 8,000 and 60 years old. I know, put mystics in charge of keeping the records and this is what you get. If fundamentalists were in charge we would know the exact time, date, and provenance of the Enneagram. Of course, they also would've narrowed the nine personality types down to two: right and wrong.

Since I learned that the group of people in the church were there to learn about their personality types, I've done some reading on the Enneagram, mostly in Cron and Stabile's [The Road Back to You](#). I've asked just about everyone I know what their number is. And I've even cornered some friends to see if they thought this whole thing was bogus or not. Like anything, the Enneagram has its devotees and skeptics. Since that is the case, I wanted to bring in some voices to help you find your way. In this issue:

- **Carlus Gupton** gives his advice on finding a good evaluation. At this point, half of Enneagram users think they are experts. Not so fast, Gupton says. He'll help us find the best tools to understand the Enneagram and apply our findings.
- I sat down with two good friends, **Cana Moore** (Harding School of Theology) and **Greg McKinzie** (Fuller Seminary), to chat about the Enneagram. It's about 30 minutes. I think you'll like it.
- Check out Part Two of the list of **books I recommended** at the Harding University lectures a few weeks ago.

Let's get on with it. And thank you for subscribing to *Footnotes*.

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	Assertive Types	Compliant Types	Withdrawn Types
Feeling Center	3 Mv Motivator Achiever	6 Hp Helper Nurturer	9 Id Individualist Peacemaker
Thinking Center	8 En Enthusiast Challenger	5 Lo Loyalist Reformer	7 Th Thinker Rebel
Instinctive Center	4 Ch Challenger Reformer	1 Re Reformer Perfectionist	2 Pc Peacemaker Individualist

Credit: <http://www.fitzel.ca/enneagram/graphics.html>

Getting a Reliable Enneagram Score

Carlus Gupton
Harding School of Theology

The surging interest in the Enneagram has led many to discover their type through random websites or shareware inventories featured by various authors. This is good and bad. The good is that the Enneagram is great for self-awareness and community building. The bad is that without proper vetting, people may get inaccurate results and fall into the twin errors of self-justification ("This is just the way I am!") or self-incrimination ("Is something wrong with me?"), or use scores improperly to judge or label others. **This misuse also contributes to the claim of skeptics that the Enneagram lacks validity and is just another form of narcissistic doodling.**

Like most open-source psychological models (e.g. DISC, MBTI), the Enneagram suffers from misuse, but is also implemented beneficially by credentialed psychologists worldwide. Actually, growing popularity has alerted communities such as the [International Enneagram Association](#) to enhance credible means of distribution, interpretation, and guidance. In my quest to learn more about the Enneagram, I sought out licensed psychologists associated with IEA.

In that vein, there are at least three psychometrically validated versions of the Enneagram. The most accessible and inexpensive are the [Wagner Enneagram Spectrum](#) developed by Dr. Jerome Wagner, a retired psychologist from Loyola University Chicago, and the [Riso-Hudson Enneagram Type Indicator \(RHETI version 2.5\)](#). The most extensive profile is [Integrative Enneagram 9](#), which has a professional version with over 40 pages of interpretive data. Regardless of how one may discover their type, it is helpful to include at least one of these versions to be confident of their findings.

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People talking about the Enneagram

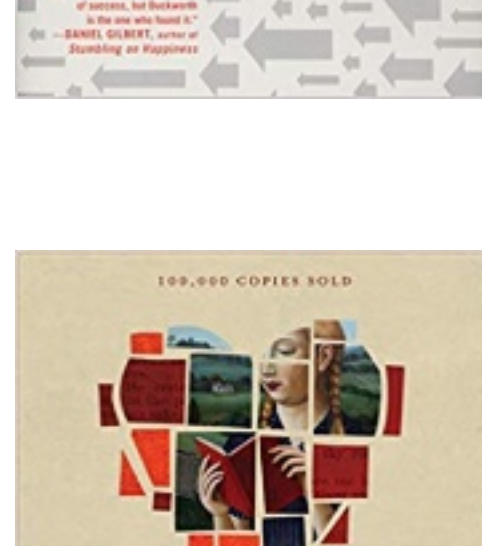
Click above for my conversation about the Enneagram with Cana Moore and Greg McKinzie.



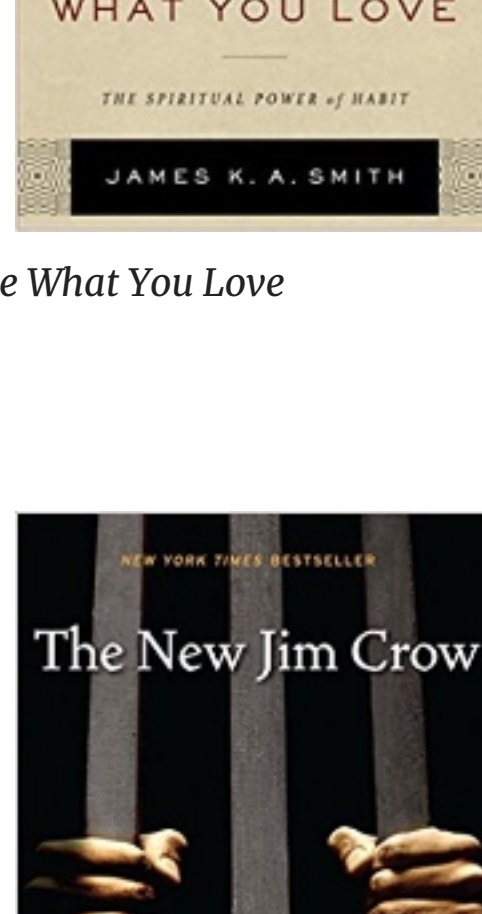
The Christian's Essential Reading List, Part 2

Here are six more titles I recommended recently at the Harding University Lectureship. You can find the audio of [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) at Harding's Scholar Works (*I know, know: time for a new head shot*). The list pairs one book that might have appeared on the New York Times Bestseller List with a title more likely to be found in a Christian bookstore. Enjoy.

Who We Are

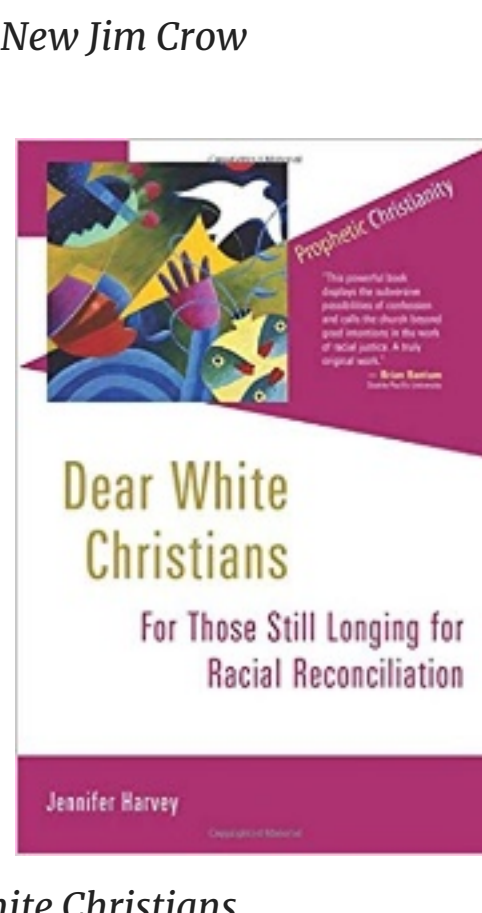


Angela Duckworth, *Grit*

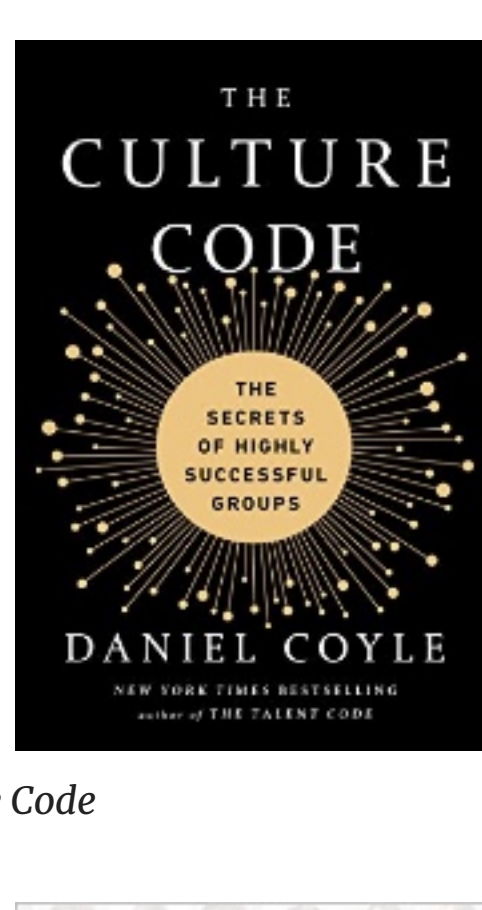


James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*

Anti-Racism

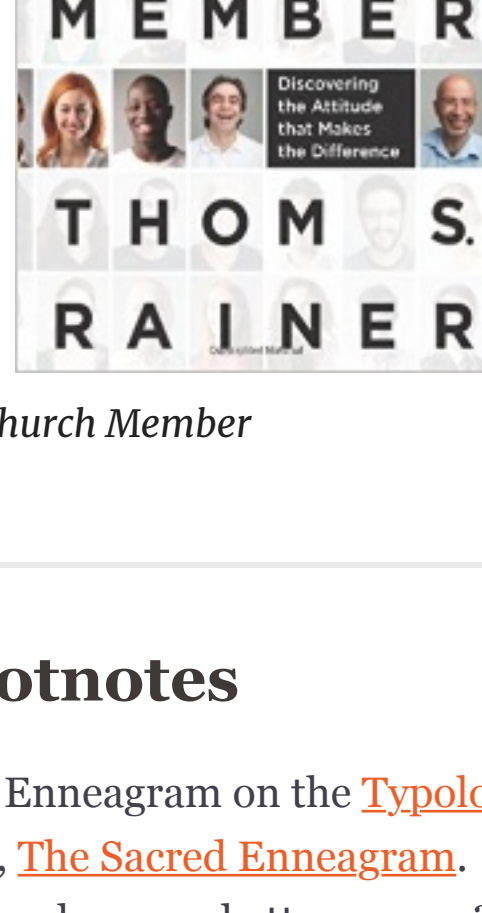


Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

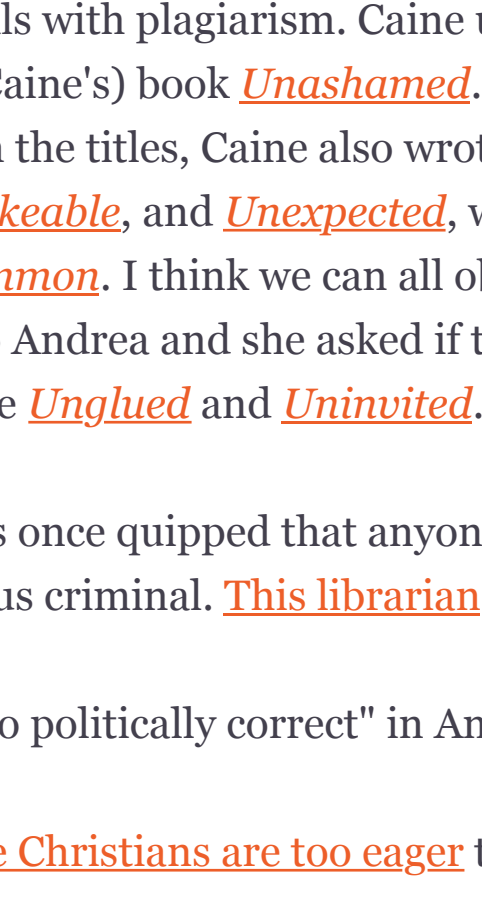


Jennifer Harvey, *Dear White Christians*

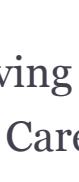
Healthy Cultures



Daniel Coyle, *The Culture Code*



Thom S. Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*



A Few More Footnotes

1. Find more about the Enneagram on the [Typology Podcast](#). Also check out Christopher Heurtz, [The Sacred Enneagram](#).
2. Does [reading fiction](#) make you a better person?
3. Anne Voskamp is in hot water for [allegations of plagiarism](#). Keep moving down the article to find the [showdown](#) between Christine Caine and Carey Scott, which also deals with plagiarism. Caine used Scott's book [Untangled](#) for her (Caine's) book [Unshamed](#). If you are having a hard time keeping up with the titles, Caine also wrote [Undaunted](#), [Unstoppable](#), [Unshakeable](#), and [Unexpected](#), while Scott also wrote [Unafraid](#) and [Uncommon](#). I think we can all observe a trend. I mentioned these similar titles to Andrea and she asked if the article included Lysa TerKeurst, who wrote [Unlured](#) and [Uninvited](#). It did not. I'm eager to read [Unoriginal](#).
4. One of my professors once quipped that anyone who steals from a library is not a very ambitious criminal. [This librarian](#) in Pennsylvania begs to differ.
5. Are "we becoming too politically correct" in America? It [depends which group you ask](#).
6. Tim Keller says [some Christians are too eager](#) to go negative.

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FOOTNOTES helps church leaders discover the resources that will improve and sustain their ministries. It will regularly feature interviews, book recommendations, site reviews, and editorials. It is a project of Bob Turner. You can direct any questions or feedback to rjturner@harding.edu. Complaints can be sent to his [Juno account](#).

UPCOMING
November 5
What She Reads

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