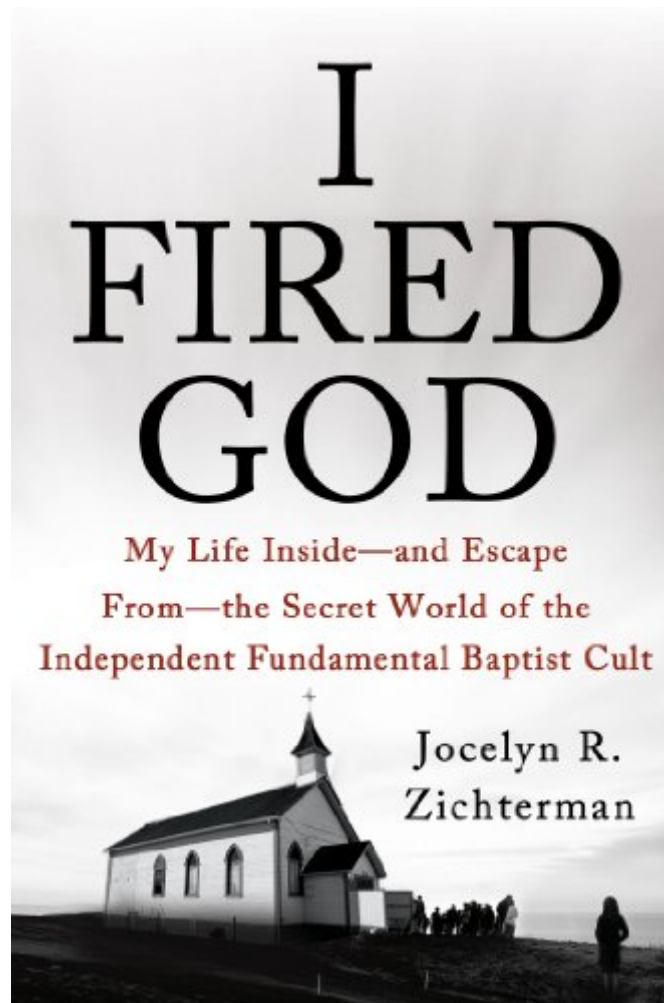


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I Fired God: My Life Inside---and Escape From---the Secret World Of The Independent Fundamental Baptist Cult



Synopsis

A compelling memoir and account of the Independent Fundamental Baptist church and its shocking history of religious abuse. Jocelyn Zichterman was born, raised, married into, and finally, with her family, fled the Independent Fundamental Baptist church. Founded by the fiery preacher Bob Jones, with several hundred thousand members, IFB congregants are told they must not associate with members of other Baptist denominations and evangelicals, with an emphasis on secrecy, insular marriages within the church, a subservience for women, and unusual child raising practices. In *I Fired God*, Jocelyn Zichterman systematically details the IFB's disturbing history, exposing a cult-like atmosphere of corruption, greed, and abuse. Having been initiated into its innermost circles, Zichterman knows that the gentle demeanor America sees in the form of the Duggar clan on *19 Kids and Counting* disguises the truth about the darker side of the church. With written documentation and sources so thorough that law enforcement has used her work as a foundation for criminal prosecutions, Zichterman exposes the IFB with revelations including: - The disturbing world of abuse within the IFB and doctors and teachers who cater exclusively to church members and fail to report physical and sexual abuse- The IFB-controlled Bob Jones University, which issues degrees of questionable value while making vast sums of money for its founders- The way the IFB influences politics on the local, state, and national level, and protects its abusive culture under the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion

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Customer Reviews

I almost didn't buy this book because of some of the reviews insinuating the author's rejection of God and truth but, I'm so glad I did. From the first chapter I was drawn in. I have read many blogs and one other book recounting a woman and her family leaving fundamentalism, but never before have I read the account of someone who was raised in the exact same circles as I. My fundamental experience (from 1987 to 2012) includes everything from Pearl, Doug Phillips, Doug Wilson, Gothard, and that side of things - as well as strong ties with BJ, Northland, the Wilds, Patch the Pirate, and others. (My family of origin went from one extreme to the other, but in the reverse order of Jocelyn's). Her name was familiar, but after Googling my jaw dropped as I pulled out my Majesty hymnal and Wilds songbook and realized I had grown up loving and singing the songs written by her husband. I was practically weaned on them. The "name dropping" that she apparently is so guilty of was incredibly helpful to me - in a very surreal and chilling way - having heard the vast majority of the men mentioned speak on one occasion or another at camps, Bible conferences, colleges, etc. Her recounting of the lyrics of songs I grew up singing cast a far different light than I have ever considered them in - which was eye opening and chilling. While I did not experience the physical or sexual abuse that she did, as graphic as the accounts were, I wasn't surprised to find out that this stuff went on. The older I get the more I realize that this stuff was rampant.

This book needs to be read by everyone who cares about God and Christianity. It details the abuse and evil perpetrated in the name of God by a group of people who have sold their souls to a group of men (all men, since they despise and subjugate women) who love titles (so many fake "Dr." titles from the very top guys down to the most ignominious cretin pastor and heads of "Bible" colleges) and power. The author makes clear that the International Fundamental Baptist church racket has nothing to do with the many positive, Evangelical Christian churches and schools. In fact, it was loving and honest Evangelical Christians from these other schools (ie. those not associated with Bob Jones University and its many subsidiaries) that helped her escape from the cult. I commend the author for having the courage to break away from this evil cult. After having gone through physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her father, Bart Janz, who sadly is still a

pastor ministering to his brainwashed followers in rural Colorado, she escaped from the cult. Her father pursued her, threatening her with bodily harm and even had the gall to sue her after her children detailed his sexual abuse of them. She was approached by 20/20, Oprah and other national news groups following the exposure of the rape of a 15 year old girl at a cult church in Concord, NH. The pastor of the church actually condemned the girl and cursed her in front of the entire congregation. So much for Christian understanding and love. Subsequently, this incident helped break the dam and over 12,000 cult members contacted the author at her Facebook page detailing their own incidents of abuse at the hands of these "God-fearing" cult leaders and members.

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