

Why Church?

JIMMY LIU NEW YEAR'S EVE DECEMBER 31, 2023



JOHN 17:1-3

When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."



JOHN 17:6-11

I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them



JOHN 17:6-11

and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All mine are Yours, and Yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.



JOHN 17:6-11

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.



JOHN 17:20-21

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.



Biblical Images of the Church

People of God	
Covenant	Gen 17:4
Chosen	2 Thess 2:13
Children	Rom 9:26
Care	Deut 32:10
Circumcision	Rom 2:29
Cleansed	Eph 5:25-26

Body of Christ	
Christ = Head	Col 1:18
Connected	1 Cor 12:12
Carry	1 Cor 12:26
Called	Eph 4:2-6
unCircumcised	Col 3:11
Commission	Matt 28:19

Temple of the Holy Spirit	
(Pente) Cost	Acts 2:1
Cornerstone	Eph 2:20-22
C-4	Acts 1:8
Common	Acts 4:32
Correction	Acts 10:28
Conferring	1 Cor 12:11

WHY CHURCH?

1. Worship

John 17:1-3

2. Edification

John 17:6-11

3. Mission

John 17:20-21



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“In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshiping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing a real God to worship is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.”

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE



If you worship money and things—if they are where you tap real meaning and life, then you will never feel you have enough. Worship your own body, and beauty, and sexual allure, and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you.

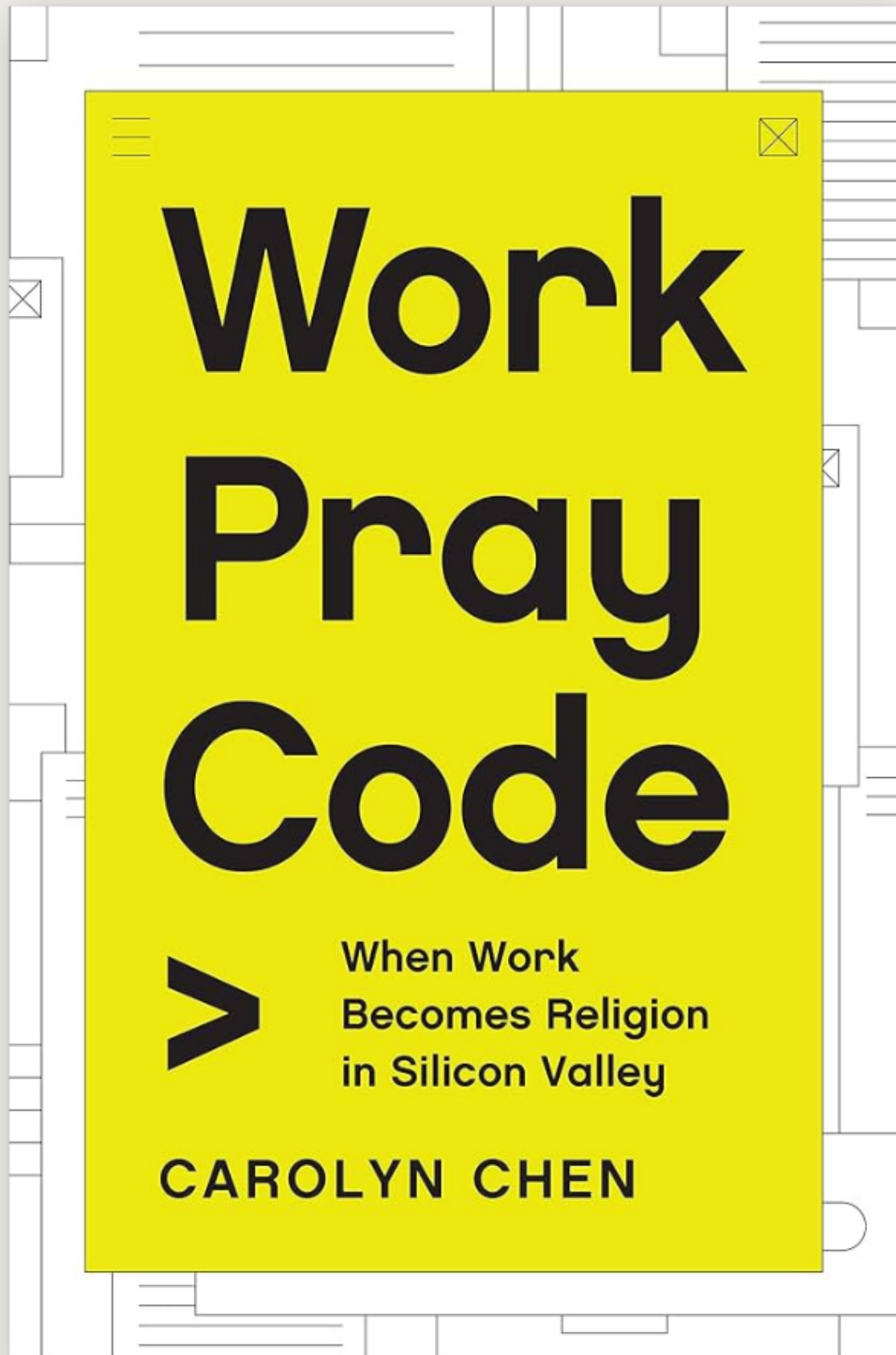
DAVID FOSTER WALLACE



Worship power, and you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep that fear at bay. Worship your intellect—being seen as smart—and you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.”

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE





Work Pray Code



When Work
Becomes Religion
in Silicon Valley

CAROLYN CHEN

WHY CHURCH?

2. Edification

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Edification —

“The instruction or improvement of a person morally or intellectually.”



Edification —

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”



“The social history of the United States makes it perhaps the most individualistic culture in the world. No culture more than American culture elevates the interests of the individual over those of family, community, and nation.”

ROBERT BELLAH, HABITS OF THE HEART



No culture more than the U.S. culture attributes one's character, identity, and life conditions strictly to individual decisions and choices. In other words: If you are poor or marginalized, it's always your fault—you could have avoided that if you made better choices and took more initiative.

ROBERT BELLAH, HABITS OF THE HEART



Yet for two centuries the religious nature of the American population counter-balanced this individualism with denunciations of self-centeredness and calls to love your neighbor. The church demanded charity and compassion for the needy;

ROBERT BELLAH, HABITS OF THE HEART



it encouraged spouses to stick to their vows, and to confine sexual expression to only inside marriage. Now, as religion declines, the “guard-rails” are gone and we see more social breakdown.



American individualism, now largely freed from the resistance of religion, is headed for social fragmentation, economic inequality, family breakdown, and many other dysfunctions."

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WHY CHURCH?

3. Mission

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ISAIAH 56:6-7

6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to Him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast My covenant— 7 these I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”



JEREMIAH 7:5-11

5 For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.



JEREMIAH 7:5-11

8 Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—only to go on doing all these abominations?



JEREMIAH 7:5-11

11 Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I Myself have seen it, declares the Lord.



WORSHIP – What is currently eating me alive? What is occupying that space of worship that only God can fulfill?

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EDIFICATION – What does being a “good” Christian mean to me? What role does the body of Christ play in my life?

APPLICATION

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EDIFICATION – What does being a “good” Christian mean to me? What role does the body of Christ play in my life?

MISSION – Who can I invite into the current ways I practice mercy and justice? In what ways can I expand mercy and justice in my life?