



Rules for Reformers

Douglas Wilson

Download now

Read Online ➔

Rules for Reformers

Douglas Wilson

Rules for Reformers Douglas Wilson

In *Rules for Reformers*, Douglas Wilson poaches the political craft of radical progressives and applies it to Christian efforts in the current culture war. The result is a spicy blend of combat manual and cultural manifesto. *Rules for Reformers* is a little bit proclamation of grace, a little bit *Art of War*, and a little bit analysis of past embarrassments and current cowardice, all mixed together with a bunch of advanced knife-fighting techniques. As motivating as it is provocative, *Rules for Reformers* is just plain good to read.

Rules for Reformers Details

Date : Published October 2014 by Canon Press

ISBN : 9781591281795

Author : Douglas Wilson

Format : Paperback 232 pages

Genre : Cultural, Religion, Theology, Christianity, Nonfiction, Politics

 [Download Rules for Reformers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Rules for Reformers ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Rules for Reformers Douglas Wilson

From Reader Review Rules for Reformers for online ebook

Rick Davis says

Doug Wilson is on fire in this book. Highly recommended for strategic thought about cultural engagement.

Katherine says

Very good, as always. It's fun to get a chance to see the working of the gears inside the machine.

John says

This book begins a bit stiff, with Wilson listing his "principles" which are a Christian re-casting of Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals". If the whole book were like this first section, it would have been difficult to finish it. Fortunately, most of the rest of the book is Wilson's typical style.

His writing is a pleasure to read and he offers his usual witty and biblical insights into understanding our times in a way that helps us better understand how out of step they are with what God requires of us.

There are his usual zingers. My favorite is a jab at the "conference circuit" and blogosphere. He writes, "What we need are some Levites with the sword of the Spirit to ascend into their pulpits and fix it. But that might require some courage, and so as a proposed alternative we have built a conference circuit, and a series of networks and coalitions, and let's not forget the blogs, where we have all agreed to wave our swords in the air, and to do so in a gospel-centered way." p. 228

As usual, Wilson brings his concerns back to worship:

"The key battle in our culture wars is the reestablishment of worship that is pleasing to God. Our worship of Him must be weighty and substantive—but many churches have tried to turn their worship services into some kind of very light ministry meringue. Our worship services should renew our covenant with God in a solemn, joyful, and dignified way. We are commanded to worship Him with reverence and godly awe (Heb. 12:28–29). Why don't we? Why do we refuse to do this? Our refusal is costing us far more than we think. Henry Van Til once noted that culture is religion externalized. Cultus (worship) lies at the heart of every culture. And the reason our culture has forgotten God is because our worship services did that first."

This is another great book by Wilson and Christians would do well to heed its message.

Michael says

A good overview of what strategic thinking looks like in pastoral ministry, and how leaders in the church must keep the objective in mind.

Ben Smitthimedhin says

I hesitate to give this three stars because some of the content, especially at the beginning, is really good. Wilson knows his stuff when it comes to engaging the culture, and he has done well with his ministry through his church, publication, and school. Still, the book was a little scattered when it came to Wilson's advice, and it didn't seem to be building up from its foundational principles.

The latter chapters are really unclear, especially in section 7. It's clear that Wilson loves the free market and think it's the only Biblical economic system, but he doesn't care explain why this is. All he says is "Keynesianism destroys jobs, wages, families, neighborhoods, education, opportunity, and more" and just assumes this is common sense. He throws sentences like "There are two basic ways for evangelical Christians to care about the arts. One is the Kuyperian Reformed route, and the other is the way of bohemian-pose striking" around, which is funny and witty and all, but Wilson doesn't define Kuyperianism, and he doesn't even tell us why it has to be an either/or between the two.

Because I've been following Wilson for a while now, I know that he's capable of defending himself. But this book could've been much better if Wilson spent a little bit of time defending his positions and/or defining his terms. Still a really fun read though.

David Burchard says

The Fray

This review is for my brothers. You know who you are. You know we have a fight on our hands, a fight you and I will be engaged in unto the approach of the twenty-second century of our Lord.

Now, a fight we know we have, yet, if we're honest, we also have an abundance of directionless generals.

That's why I recommend this book. Wilson is not directionless. He's not dull of eye and weak of spine. His nose is not brown from too many bendings over to rump-kiss the powers that be.

I believe this book is the most useful contemporary book for those men who want to fight and fight well, for those men who want to spend their lives as reformers.

Matthew says

Full disclosure: I love Doug Wilson. Wilson takes from Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals and Sun Tzu's The Art of War and composes rules for the Christian reformer in cultural warfare. Wilson is hopeful that the culture and the polis can be reformed, but this reformation is premised upon the church first being reformed. He can have this hope because he is a post-millennialist, but also because the Gospel can do these things. Central to this book's appeal is Wilson's insistence that Christ is Lord over all things and his sense of humor. He is a happy warrior, and one of the rules is to cultivate a robust sense of humor. This rule is exhibited on every page, and I found myself chuckling all the way through.

Christian says

The first section is great, a combo of Jim Wilson's *Principles of War* and Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*. I really liked the copious use of Old Testament examples (usually David and Joshua). The rest of the book is so-so, kind of a grab bag of previously published essays, addresses, and blog posts. Some good stuff, but doesn't hang together as well as the first bit.

Becky Pliego says

Very good. Not a book to read drinking chamomile tea, but something stronger and straight.

Also, this is sort of a "Guide to Understanding Why D.W. Writes the Way He Does."

Terri says

"The besetting sin of ostensible reformers is the sin of shrillness and officious forms of uplift."

Once again Douglas Wilson tries really, really hard to be cleverly funny. Once again, he is not. His satire is old and tired; his ridicule is shrill and impotent.

This is a book for the jerk who wants to believe people don't like him because he's so dang principled. And it is the glaring problem of the book; Wilson wants to attack and bludgeon anyone who disagrees with him or gets in his way and then blames being hated on account of his principled righteousness.

"One of the first things a reformer has got to get used to is the experience of being despised and unpopular."

"When you are attacked by the powers that be, this is not a sign that something has gone dangerously wrong. There is no distinction to be made between working for reformation and picking a fight."

Wilson goes on to talk about tactical maneuvers for gaining power (and thankfully gives credit to the author because he doesn't always) outlined by Saul Alinsky. And seriously? Saul Alinsky?

Wilson urges non-conformity- the right kind:

"There are only two kinds of non-conformity and only one of them wears hipster glasses." Doug Wilson is the kind that wear the hipster glasses, pretending to be out of the mainstream but wanting nothing more than notoriety and a fawning fan base.

And finally there is the answer as to why he is so intent on demanding women be subservient. Plebes are needed, plebes are needed!:

"Those who are merely competent in the use of a particular weapon are followers, they may be very competent indeed but that is not the issue. They are also essential to success of any campaign but if they are promoted to the level where principled strategic thinking is necessary, they will also be essential to the failure of that campaign."

And so, gentlemen, your job is to keep the little woman at home, quiet, subservient and without a voice (make her feel like it's the most amazing thing she can do for your "cause"). In this way you can march about your small kingdom declaring your sagacity.

Jeremy says

In part, a response to Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*.

G.M. Burrow says

Such an invigorating, encouraging war cry for today's messed up world. Wilson makes the point early on that "When the bugle blows indistinctly, no one gets ready for battle." So he blows it, loud and rousing, throughout the entire book.

A few favorites:

"A courageous man defending the way reality actually is may of course be killed--but he is still invincible."
"Laughter is war." "Do not spend your time worrying about how you are going to put out the fires the adversary sets. Wake up in the morning thinking about the fires you can set." "Do whatever you can with whatever you have." "There is no distinction to be made between working for reformation and picking a fight." "This is a war of liberation." "Our part is now."

Christopher says

Douglas Wilson is the kind of author who has written profitably on a wide array of topics, but I believe this book to be of singular importance. Why? Because in this precise area, he has been actively cultivating "long obedience in the same direction.*" In short, he isn't a couch quarterback with a few "great ideas." He's a guy who has been in-the-fray sharpening these *Rules* for a long time. This is not just social commentary punditry. This is Douglas Wilson speaking on a topic in which he is, unarguably,** a *foremost expert*. So if you care about this topic, and you really should, this book represents iron-sharp, expert-advice straight from the forges of reality.

* Which phrase was lifted from his book, which he lifted from Nietzsche, but it's okay because truth never needs to be laundered.

** I mean, if you have your head on straight.

Paul Herriott says

Doug Wilson is witty and daring in his writing. He plays the line between hitting the nail on the head and hammering the readers thumb. The first leaves you exuberant and the later very irritated. Nobody would dare classify his writing as politically correct, but that is why he writes, to say what few others will, well.

Dann Zinke says

Really refreshing, especially the chapter on aesthetics. Having a repository of his best tweets in a chapter was good, too.
