



Prototype: What Happens When You Discover You're More Like Jesus Than You Think?

Jonathan Martin, Steven Furtick (Foreword)

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Jesus is God and we are not. Most of us get that. But what we don't always understand is that God loves us just as much as He does His son. Many times in the Old Testament, God refers to human beings as His "beloved." But when God called Jesus His beloved, Jesus did something truly remarkable: He believed Him. He lived every moment of His life fully convinced of His identity. And unlike every other person in history . . . He never forgot.

In *Prototype*, Jonathan Martin creates a vivid understanding of what it means to be beloved by God. To completely trust, as Jesus did, that God loves you. To live life without fear, confident in your identity and purpose. To handle life's wounds as Jesus did, and to wake every day with a deep awareness of God's presence.

Martin reveals a startling truth at the heart of the gospel: Jesus is our prototype. And as we discover how the knowledge of being God's beloved changed everything for Jesus--how it set Him free to live out his purpose and love God, others, and the world--it will begin to do the same for us.

Prototype: What Happens When You Discover You're More Like Jesus Than You Think? Details

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Alpha says

I picked up this audiobook on a gist while browsing about within Family Christian. I was not sure if I would enjoy it but two points enforced my decision to pay. One: I really enjoyed listening to "Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart". Two: the title intrigued me along with the description. In conclusion, I am so happy I got this.

Martin discusses how Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the prototype for how Christ Followers should be. Hitting many hard points both from personal experiences and through his ministry as pastor, being like Jesus is simple yet our nature, the one the world views and admires, is what holds us back. Taking a deeper look into following Christ, it is even safe to say that God's way violates everything the world considers both normal and acceptable. Such thinking is actually opposite of what is worshipped on a worldly level.

One of the best parts of this audiobook is easily on human touch. The world, and even the church, has sanitized human touch as something filthy despite the fact Jesus did it all the time going by scriptures. It is that touch has now been associated with its sinful counterparts. Making love and sex is a gift from God since there is more to it than just the physical part with other aspects too. However we now group it with pornography. Utilizing Andre's descriptive on pornography was really good talking about how it is the physical acts put on a high pedestal devoid of any emotion or human differentiation.

I would definitely suggest this book to all my Christ Following friends who are learning either the bread or meat of the Holy Bible. This may also do well for atheists who have a more cynical viewpoint towards the church due to its people.

Cheryl says

This book is based around the fact that Jesus is our prototype—that He is our example on how to live and most importantly He is our example on how knowing that we are beloved of God changes the way we do live. Who are you? Is your identity rooted in knowing you are beloved of God?

One of the author's purposes for this book was the hope that we would become "awake to God" (p. 15). He is not dogmatic in exactly what that is supposed to look like either.

This book is filled to the brim with stories, lots of stories. The stories contain the most authenticity and genuineness that I've seen in a long time. They are "real". The author puts part of himself into the pages. That was refreshing.

The stories contained lots of uplifting examples of God at work in people's lives. They also frequently brought tears to my eyes or made me laugh out loud. Occasionally the text seemed to wander from the main points by it eventually came back around and pulled it all together.

I felt not even a speck of guilt as I read the stories. (You know, like if I wasn't already doing it like that there must be something lacking in my Christian walk.) No, instead I only felt encouraged—encouraged to be real.

If you are hungry for stories of real-life examples on what it looks like to live an authentic life in Christ then this book is for you.

To purchase your own copy of this book go here: Prototype: What Happens When You Discover You're More Like Jesus Than You Think?

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Tyndale House Publishers as part of their Tyndale Blog Network program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 225: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

(c) 2013 Cheryl Cope

Adam Shields says

Short Review --- Prototype: What Happens When You Discover You're More Like Jesus Than You Think? by Jonathan Martin - Excellent book on living the life of a Christian. The best thing about the book is Martin's personal writing style that is completely devoid of theological language, while maintaining a pretty high level of theological content. This is probably the best general Christian living book I have read this year. If you read a lot of Christian living and/or theology books the general themes are probably not new, I can see hints of NT Wright, Richard Beck, and Hauerwas as well as others. I think at root this is a book that is trying to illustrate the Cristus Victor and Moral Influence models of the atonement without ever mentioning either them or the word atonement.

My full review is on my blog at <http://bookwi.se/prototype/>

Cameron Rebarcheck says

I admit I was a bit hesitant to dive into Prototype. The subtitle, "What happens when you discover you're more like Jesus than you think?" worried me from get-go. It sounded nice and catchy, but I was aware of the various directions the author could take that simple phrase. Yet, throughout each page, Jonathan Martin powerfully explains that this statement is quite true because God the Father has also called us beloved. What should that mean for each of us in our daily lives? As Martin's title suggests, Jesus Christ was the prototype of showing us what it looks like when someone believes in their God-given identity.

The book is divided into nine chapters that covers topics such as our identity, God's love for us, living in obscurity, living out our calling, surviving despite our wounds, understanding the power of the Resurrection, the beauty of the Sacraments, the necessity of community, and our role as witnesses. There is quite a bit of ground covered in Prototype. Yet, the chapters are not bogged down in theological jargon; instead, we are

invited into the life of Jonathan Martin through testimony and personal experiences. This down-to-earth book will be a fun read that still manages to challenge you. I particularly enjoyed his comments on the brokenness of the church in the chapter entitled Community: "One of the things I love most about Jesus is how much He loves humanity in its brokenness. If He was surrounded by fractured people then, why would we expect it to be any different now?" (190). Jesus continues to love the church—in all her broken beauty—because you and I comprise it.

In addition, Jonathan Martin and Tyndale Publishers have released a DVD curriculum by the same name. The curriculum is divided into six sessions approximately 15 minutes in length each. Each session essentially is a recap of the chapters; however, they would prove beneficial in a small group setting. In fact, the DVD includes a Leader's Guide, but there is also a discussion guide provided within the book itself. And, given the material's topic, this is a small group curriculum for any age. I could see this used just as effectively in a youth group as well as in adult studies.

If you are an individual who believes you don't have what it takes to please God—or, if you're someone who has spent their life trying—Prototype is a beautiful reminder to stop. He has already called you beloved. Are you willing to live your life believing that truth?

I received a free copy of this book from Tyndale House Publishers in exchange for my honest review and opinion.

Ann says

I managed to read "Prototype" in 3 days! If you are wondering if it reads well, the answer is YES. Jonathan Martin is a smooth writer, with an easy flowing pen, that loves to tell great stories. Which he does very well I might add.

In the first couple of chapters I was very taken in by Martins style of writing. He has a unique style and it stands out, which is nice. It was refreshing to see him express his way through the chapters on our "Identity" and then on being his "Beloved".

Here is a quote I especially liked from his chapter 2 Beloved: "Because we are formed in the image of God, we are born with the capacity to dream, to imagine, to play, to create." A quote so simple, yet so true. The book has quotes such as this one all the way through, it makes us realize just how uncomplicated God is and that we as humans, sometimes complicate things.

I did find that the book was centered mostly on the church as a whole. Which in a sense, isn't wrong. I do understand that the author is trying to get us to go out and do each our part as individual members of the church. Interpretation is to each his own. Maybe I got this part wrong. Just seemed that Martin emphasizes a lot on his own experiences and his congregation. Personally, I felt at times like if I wasn't doing it, well, I just didn't get it!

As I previously said he is a Great storyteller, very good in his descriptive details, yet at times this did bother me. This comes across so clear in chapter 4. Why you ask? Storytelling when you are talking about your personal life is one thing. When talking about Scripture that's quite another thing. I personally felt that the author was seeing more into the text than what the text was actually saying. Which tends to lead one more into their "feelings" or "interpretations" rather than staying with the biblical facts. It was nice to read, very

interesting. Yet I had the distinct impression that I had somehow changed book and was now reading a romance novel. Martin was in fact talking about our calling and the women in Luke 7: 36-50

In chapter 6 where he speaks about “Resurrection”, I was stunned that Martin doesn’t mention clearly that God is the one who invites us to Him first. We cannot come to God on our own by searching, unless the Father places this desire in our hearts first. Yes the resurrection changes something when you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior but I did not see this explained clearly anywhere in the chapter unfortunately!

I would have loved at moments if the author had made mention of the importance of resting SOLELY on the Spirit of Jesus Christ for our identity being renewed, being loved, or even our resurrection. Even though this book is presumed to be for Christians I believe that we shouldn’t automatically take for granted that all are saved and know Christ personally.

Discernment is the word that comes to mind after I finished reading this book. Among the few good things I did like, I must say that unfortunately, the things needing discernment outweigh the balance in the end.

I have received a complimentary copy of this book “Prototype” by Tyndale Press. However I am under no obligation to write a positive review. These are entirely my own personal opinions and thoughts expressed according to my own discernment.

Ann L Beaulieu

B.J. Richardson says

Since I haven't quite finished the Bible yet, I can honestly say this is the best book I've read all year. Granted, I'm only reading half what I normally do, but still... I'd recommend this book to anyone.

Jesus is the prototype for what it means to live fully human. Jonathan Martin starts with this premise and then explores different formative moments in his own life and experience where God demonstrated to him what it means to follow after Christ in this adventure that is our own humanity.

Very readable. Very applicable. Often I read books start to finish, cover to cover, over a short space of time. I couldn't with this. God kept challenging me in my own life as I read and I could not, I would not move forward until I had an opportunity to apply what God was showing me in my own life. Grab yourself a copy of this book and you'll know exactly what I mean.

Peter says

For this review and other reviews, please visit my blog.

I have to admit, that I struggled with Prototype. I'll go ahead and tell you now that I when I finished the book, I enjoyed it. It's a good book and I would recommend reading it. The reason why I'm wrestling with this review is I didn't enjoy it at first. It took me a little bit to get into the book and really understand the direction that Jonathan Martin was going.

The subtitle of Prototype is, "What happens when you discover you're more like Jesus than you think?" Entering into Prototype, I was expecting to see something more theological. This comes out of my experience last fall teaching about Jesus in a Basic Christian Beliefs class. I was expecting "theological speak." I taught my class about how Jesus is the prototype for the new human, so I thought that I would see sections of scripture from the New Testament spelled out through thorough exegesis explaining how Jesus set the example for the new humanity. Martin does use scripture and he does show how Christ, he just didn't do that in the way I expected and I say this because I know I won't be alone in that expectation. Instead, he does something better. He shows it through real life stories of how he has seen his life and other lives changed. He makes this clear in his last chapter titled "witness" and I think that is an appropriate way to describe this book. It is a statement of what he has seen and now he is witnessing to the call of God to be his beloved like Christ is. It is possible to live a new life and live like God's beloved child.

All that being said, Martin does a great job of explaining how Jesus shows us a new way to be human. He does this by starting off with the fact that God call us, like he calls Jesus, his beloved. God want to love us like his children in the same way he does Christ. Our lives are different now because of the resurrection. Christ came to change the world and make it possible for us to live new lives. The message of the book reminds me of the refrain that Rob Bell keeps returning to at the end of his video The gods aren't angry which is, "You don't have to live like this anymore." Martin is calling all of us broken down sinners to a life where we are called the beloved of God and can live in the light of the resurrection.

This isn't a technical book. That's what I expected, but I'm glad it's not what I got. It's testimony to the life changing power of the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you want to see if change is possible, if you want to hear stories of life change, or if you don't believe that you are loved by God, then you should read this book. It's not the greatest book ever written, but it does tell stories of real people who have been changed by the love of God and there's nothing quite as amazing as that.

Leigh Kramer says

Grace drips off the pages of this book from pastor Jonathan Martin. His experience of faith made me more open to his sense of the Holy Spirit and it renewed my hope that good churches are out there. Definitely want to read it again sometime soon.

Dean P. says

A short read that is more narrative than theology, more story than argument, more awesome than weighty academic tome. Martin has a way with words and paints a beautifully-told look at how Jesus points towards a New Way to be Human.

Joan says

I was disappointed in this book. The premise is so good - how to live fully human as Jesus was. But Jonathan just does not deliver. He tells lots of stories about himself so that, in the end, this is sort of his own spiritually coming of age account. He tells lots of stories about others too, people who have come into his church, etc. In the end I learned much more about Jonathan than I did about Jesus and what it means to live into His

identity. There was nothing about what it means to be "in Christ" or about the power of the Holy Spirit in you. If you like to read about people experiences, you'll like this book. If you want to really know what it means to live into the humanity of Jesus, you'll have to go elsewhere. See my full review at <http://bit.ly/1evmtyZ>.

Jason Isaacs says

If you could see the back cover of my copy of "Prototype" by Jonathan Martin, you would understand how much I have wrestled with this book. I have left a scattering of notes, paraphrases of concepts, and bullet points wherever I could squeeze them on the page; I took so many notes because Martin covers a lot of theological ground and he frames his message in the language of his target audience. It took some time for me to organize and absorb all his concepts. Martin goes to great length to frame the Gospel message in a way that his readers will find relevant: He wants those who feel marginalized to understand the penetrating love of God and the invitation to know Him.

Martin speaks very clearly to those who have looked askance at the Church in the past. He does a great job of welcoming anyone who wants to learn more while at the same time not reinventing the Church to skeptics. He can at once say that "liars, dreamers, and misfits" are welcome to hear about God's love while at the same time telling them that "This is my grandmother's church" and there are reasons why we do the things we do.

This is a good book to read more than once. I wanted the message to be clearer at times. At first, I could not relate to his concept of "the boy on the bike" or "coming alive to God". I was busy trying to make sure he was not equating these concepts to a salvation experience and it took some time to understand what he meant. Once I stripped through the various phrases and concepts Martin has created, I found the Gospel with refreshing clarity.

Martin is a very perceptive person. Several times I wondered if he found it frustrating to write this book instead of having a conversation with every reader. Watching the accompanying DVD helped me to understand Martin's tone much better. In particular, some of his descriptions of his exposure to church culture as a child can sound dismissive in the book; however, he is genuine and reflective as he describes these same moments on the DVD. I spent most of the time reading the book on a defensive footing, trying to decipher how he was framing spirituality and understanding how all the concepts connected. As I watched the DVD, Martin's sincerity and reliance on Scripture came through with much more force.

I feel like I need to say a word about the title and subtitle. When I saw the title "Prototype" I was concerned that the book was going to be pluralistic and as a result, I began reading the book defensively. I was relieved to find no such suggestion in the text. The subtitle "What happens when you discover you're more like Jesus than you think?" also kept me looking for hints of cheap grace, which I did not find either. I believe the subtitle is meant to be a description of Jesus's humanness and how He can sympathize with man: people are made in the image of God, we are physical people just as Jesus became flesh, and we are loved by Father just as much as Jesus is loved by Him.

Martin covers a lot of topics in 200 plus pages and the Gospel is presented more clearly as the book progresses. Be prepared to spend as much time reflecting on the content as you do reading the text. I recommend this book for those who want to understand more about Christianity but do not feel like they "fit the mold" of "church people". I also think many Christians who want a fresh look at their faith and are

willing to read discerningly will find this book helpful.

I received a copy of this book from Tyndale House Publishers for review

Marty Solomon says

In Martin's epilogue titled 'A Letter to a Ravaged Bride', speaking of the Church, he says this:

"You know I'm no cynic — I've loved you too long for that. This is love animated by grief. I still believe in you despite all of your vices. You can still dazzle the world, bride of God. But things are feeling as insane in here as they are out there, honey. And I don't know what else to do except to remind you of the time when you were lovely."

While that might be as cynical as Martin gets throughout the entire book, I think that paragraph summarizes well what Martin accomplishes in 'Prototype'.

We need a new way to talk about who God is and who we are and what the Story is that God is telling in the world. In some sense, this book seems to take some of the philosophy of Rob Bell's 'What We Talk About When We Talk About God' and put it into practical 'heart-speak'.

Our old religious rhetoric has reduced our understanding of theology to the transcendence of God, the crappiness of man, and a bloodthirsty Divinity that needs to be appeased because of how pathetic we are. But Martin proposes that the Good News is possibly not that simplistic or dark. Perhaps we have all known a time when we had a hunch that we were accepted and loved by God.

If this is true, then it has the potential to change the way that we think, believe, talk and live. Our belovedness makes a difference. Our wounds and scars make a difference. Resurrection makes a difference. Because God is with us and for us. He's up to something in the world and is inviting us to partner with Him.

These are the invitations of 'Prototype' and I'm thankful to Martin for pressing in to preaching a better gospel.

Lisa says

A beautiful and poetic description of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. A must-read for anyone who is confused about what it means to follow Jesus or who needs reminding of who they are in Christ. One of my top 10 books this year.

Jordy Madueño says

We are the touch of God

This gave us a look into the church and its role. The truthful purpose of our lives, and Jonathan helps us relate to several stories he share so we can understand how important is for us (as a church) to act.

Love it. Easy and fast to read.

Great message.

Jessica says

Shortly before starting on this book, I had a personal realization that I needed to stop trying to "be a better Christian / person" through my own sheer willpower, and that what I most needed was to better internalize God's love and mercy for me so that I would be better able — and motivated — to live it out. That's essentially what Martin is talking about when he talks about Jesus as the prototype for a new kind of human — one who believes that he is perfectly loved by God before he does anything to "earn" it.

Martin offers some suggestions of how to get to that point, as well as stories of what it looks like when you get there (even just for a moment). He tells stories from the church where he is pastor, in the same vein as Shane Claiborne and Nadia Bolz-Weber, where society's outcasts come together to put flesh on God's love in their community. I found it inspiring in a way that didn't seem totally out of reach.

Martin says in his closing that this wasn't intended to be a memoir, though he does share stories about his life. I did feel that that aspect of the book was a little shallow — Martin tells detailed stories of the unsavory parts of his parishioners' pasts, but then he just says about himself that he's no different, that his life has parts just as dark, yet for all his talk of authenticity he declines to elaborate, making me think it's mostly a rhetorical device and he does, in some way, see himself as above these people whose stories he tells. When he tells personal stories it's mainly about something that made him cry, which maybe as a guy he finds vulnerable, but it's kind of par for the course in this sort of book.

Anyway, I thought overall that it was a very good reflection on Christian identity and community. I'd consider rereading this, or at least going back and reviewing my highlights.
