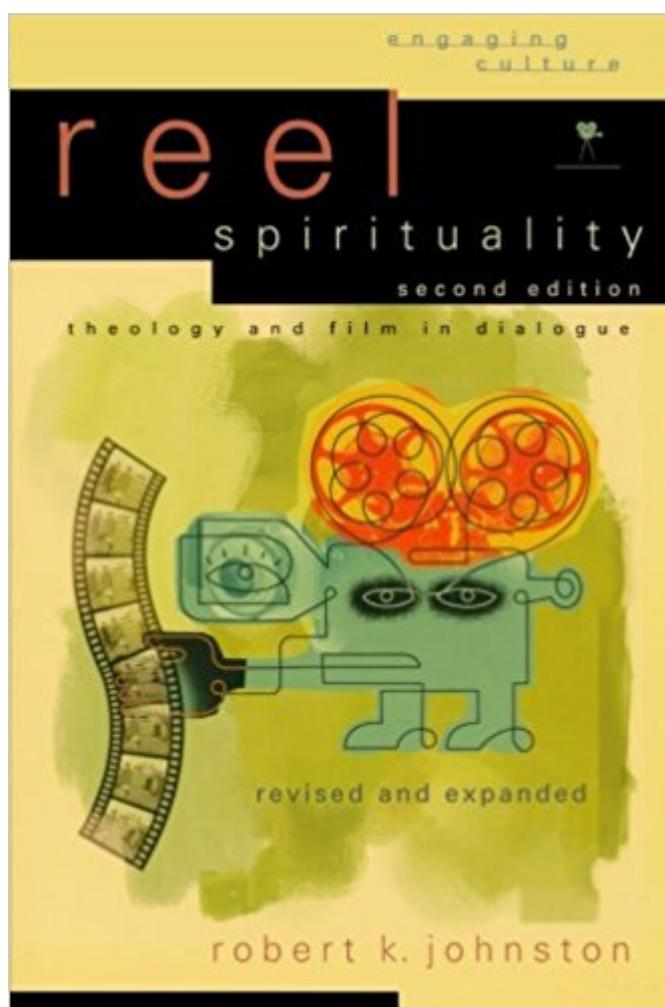


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# Reel Spirituality: Theology And Film In Dialogue (Engaging Culture)



## **Synopsis**

Increasingly, thinking Christians are examining the influential role that movies play in our cultural dialogue. *Reel Spirituality* successfully heightens readers' sensitivity to the theological truths and statements about the human condition expressed through modern cinema. This second edition cites 200 new movies and encourages readers to ponder movie themes that permeate our culture as well as motion pictures that have demonstrated power to shape our perceptions of everything from relationships and careers to good and evil. *Reel Spirituality* is the perfect catalyst for dialogue and discipleship among moviegoers, churchbased study groups, and religious film and arts groups. The second edition cites an additional 200 movies and includes new film photos.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Considering the thousands of films shown every year, and the vast crowds who rush to see them, it is remarkable that so little sustained Christian attention has been paid to the world of the 'big screen.' Films can undoubtedly shape and change our fundamental attitudes and beliefs. Here, at last, is an attempt to take that with theological seriousness. *Reel Spirituality* will not only help us develop a Christian wisdom about film; in turn, it will also make us ask searching questions about the Christian faith and the way we express it. Throughout, the book is accessible and engaging. I commend it most warmly."--Jeremy Begbie, Duke Divinity School "If there is a single comprehensive introduction to the dialogue between Christian theology and film, this book is it. . . . While the book is written in a style that is accessible to non-academic audiences, it would be perfect as the

foundational text for a graduate or undergraduate introductory course in theology and film."--Religious Studies Review "Robert Johnston has written the most comprehensive survey currently available on theology and film. This is a masterful overview both of theologically relevant films and their analysis by other scholars. It is highly accessible, penetrating, fair-minded in the treatment of others, yet full of Johnston's own trenchant insights about films. This authoritative study is a must-read book for anyone interested in the rapidly expanding field of exploring the theological dimensions of contemporary film."--Robert Jewett, author of *Saint Paul at the Movies*"May very well be the best overall text on theology and film in that [Johnston] pulls together many concepts from the field at large while providing some useful history which places issues in context. . . . Johnston's book will work very well in college/seminary courses as well as in local church study groups."--*Perspectives in Religious Studies*

Robert K. Johnston (Ph.D., Duke University) is professor of theology and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the co-editor of the *Engaging Culture* series and the *Cultural Exegesis* series and the author or co-author of numerous books, including *Useless Beauty* and *Finding God in the Movies*.

I enjoyed this book. I was glad it wasn't too academic or too technical since I am not an expert on film making or movie criticism. There was good historical information and many examples from a variety of films to help illustrate the author's point of view. I agree Christians need to become more critical consumers of film. Since 95% of people see at least one film per year, it shows that there is tremendous potential for spiritual dialog with friends and family by talking about film. I plan to think through some of the concepts in the "Theological Approaches to Film Criticism" and "Becoming a Film Critic" chapters as I continue to grow in my understanding of film making.

I'm not certain if I missed something but this book is not a useful tool for Christians to determine the movies they view. The author did not seem to understand the danger of viewing movies that have the potential to create sin in a persons life. While he boast about how powerful films are and how they should be viewed by Chrsitians to draw them closer to Christ, he seems to ignore that same power in a film can create sin in a persons life. I suggest reading this book with caution.

Great insights, useful thoughts, useful information

Interesting read. It gave me a whole new way to look at film.

Better than his first book, *Reel Spirituality* helps readers understand the subtle nature of film. I appreciated the book's frank discussion of theme and culture.

Helpful

good

Thank you so much for such a well-in-condition book! I had doubts as to if there were underlining, highlighting, etc. I highly recommend this seller (:

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