

[FREE] Death By Suburb : How to Keep the Suburbs From Killing Your Soul

Death By Suburb : How to Keep the Suburbs From Killing Your Soul

David L. Goetz

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David L. Goetz : Death By Suburb : How to Keep the Suburbs From Killing Your Soul before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death By Suburb : How to Keep the Suburbs From Killing Your Soul:

7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Checking yourself...By Seth McBeeI picked up this book after Matt Chandler made mention of it in one of his sermons and quoted it when Mr. Goetz tells of a story and then cites, "Soccer is stupid when your wife is dying with cancer." After that quote, I had to pick up the book. This book is a very enjoyable read, especially if you live in the suburbs. I really don't think you can get the full meaning of some of the jokes or even the nagging life that awaits in the suburbs, unless you live there, or have lived there for a period of years. What David Goetz wanted to get across in this book, I believe he did very well. The 8 chapters are titled very well and it really hurts when the chapter headings are what is going on in your head when you read them. He lists for the chapters a "toxin" and then "the practice." Or the "issue" and "the solution." They are: Chapter 1: The Toxin: I am in Control of My Life The Practice: The Prayer of Silence Chapter 2: The Toxin: I am what I do and what I own The Practice: The Journey through the self Chapter 3: The Toxin: I want my neighbor's life The Practice: Friendship with the poor Chapter 4: The Toxin: My life should be easier than this The Practice: Accepting my cross with grace and patience Chapter 5: The Toxin: I need to make a difference with my life The Practice: Pursuing action, not results Chapter 6: The Toxin: My church is the problem The Practice: Staying put in your church Chapter 7: The Toxin: What will this relationship do for me? The Practice: Building deep friendships Chapter 8: The Toxin: I need to get more

done in less time
The Practice: Falling in love with a day
My favorites were definitely at the point when Mr. Goetz pointed out why we have certain relationships and why we help out certain people. The reason is because I fall in love with the thought of, "if this person isn't going to accomplish something in my life, why should I befriend them?" Mr. Goetz speaks poignantly through this to understand that relationships shouldn't be about what you are going to get out of them, but they should be for continual development for the kingdom. In conjunction with this, he asks why we help out those that are less fortunate than us? Do we do it for self gratification if they turn to Jesus, or they "fix their life?" Or, do we do it out of the mere love for our Saviour and respond to his love with the love of our neighbors? This was a very challenging chapter. I enjoyed the entirety of the book and felt as though it was well thought out, although not terribly theologically deep. Theologically is exactly where I found myself scratching my head a couple of times as I felt as though he left it out of the discussion at points that would have been helpful. I felt as though his convictions should have more clearly put forth in some of the areas of his life and how he lived it. But these were minor at points and not enough to deter the overall theme of the book. I really found it to be helpful and was filled with great reminders in ways that made me laugh at times and cringe at others as they cut me deep, which was good. One of my favorite quotes in the book, after the one mentioned at the first of this post, was: Speed and efficiency rank high in suburban values. Garbage cans with properly colored tags are set out on the curb weekly on designated days. Dogs must be licensed before February 1. Dog waste is a hazard to our children, says our community publication on new ordinances. There are always new ordinances. Near our home, a gentleman walks his aging, bloated Labrador most evenings, dog leash in one hand and pooper-scooper in the other. By day, the man is an executive with an MBA from a worldclass university; by night, he scrapes up dog stools. Now imagine this clever banter when dealing with spiritual issues while letting life escape us and you have a very enjoyable read along some very good insights into our everyday lives as we try and walk with Christ. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is a Christian and looking for a nudge to get them out of the ordinary drudge that can be the suburbs. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Get out of the neighborhood and live a little
By Andrew Williams
Dave's book is good, and it will get you thinking about how surburbonites (like me) have lost touch with things that matter (like real relationships). It's a good read. Not great, but will resonate with cul-de-sac dwellers who are looking for more out of life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By KLOlund
Great, thoughtful, and sometimes humorous stuff here. Inspiration to rise above the norm.

A great number of seekers find themselves in the seemingly unreal world of the suburbs. They read spirituality books but find themselves in carpools and coaching soccer, not in monasteries. Dave Goetz, a former pastor, shows that the suburbs are a real world, but a spiritually corrosive one. The land of SUVs and soccer leagues can truly be toxic to the soul. Suburbanites need to understand how the environment affects them and what spiritual disciplines are needed for their faith to survive and thrive. Goetz identifies eight toxins in the suburban life, such as hyper-competition and the "transactional" friendship, and suggests eight corresponding disciplines to keep the spiritual life authentic. Goetz weaves sociology studies, his own experiences, current events, wisdom of the spiritual masters, and a little humor to equip spiritual suburbanites for how to relate to God amidst Starbucks, strip-malls, and perfect lawns.