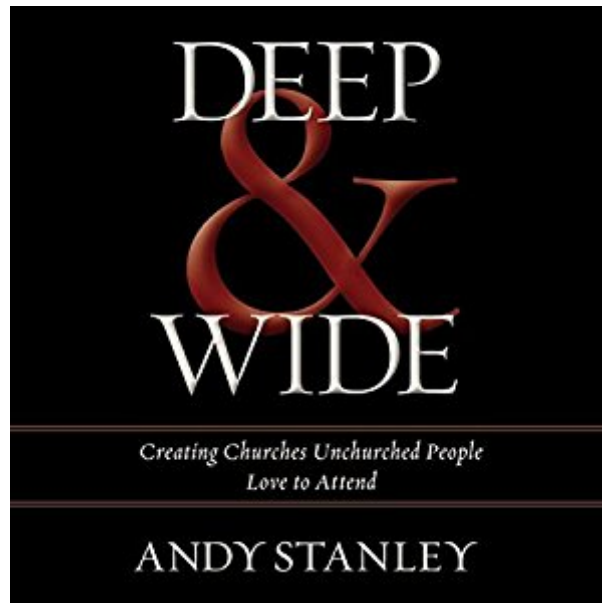




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# Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love To Attend



## Synopsis

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus started a movement that has grown like wildfire throughout the past 20 centuries. Author and pastor Andy Stanley brings to life from Scripture and over 25 years of pastoral experience the irresistible nature of this movement known as the Church. Stanley identifies some of the key decisions and strategies that helped the church begin by the power of the Holy Spirit many centuries ago and continues to flourish today. He tells many stories of how God is working today to continue the movement of the church through the examples of North Point Community Church in Atlanta, GA. If you want to know how you can create a movement in your local community that can impact the entire world, Stanley points the way to create irresistible leadership, irresistible environments and an irresistible culture within your church.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Week before last I attended a Chick-fil-a Leadercast in my area. Andy Stanley was the first speaker on the docket. As always, he was engaging, humorous and motivational. He is a tremendous communicator. I have watched video from his services at North Point a few times and am always impressed by his ability to hold an audience captive to what he's saying. Despite that, I have been bothered by his approach and the content of his church services--not enough to try and figure out why, just enough to know that his model isn't one I would want to emulate. But during the Leadercast, everything about Andy Stanley's ministry became clear when he shared his vision for

North Point Ministries. "Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend." That explained everything. I disagree with his premise. That was what caused my antipathy toward his ministries. But though I disagree with his premise, it amazes me how all aspects of his ministry are laser-like focused on their vision. They know who they are, why they do what they do, and how they're going to accomplish it. That laser-like focus is something all churches can learn from--whether we agree with Stanley's foundational premise or not. That brought me to Andy Stanley's book *Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. If you have a good understanding of what you believe God is calling your church to be (hopefully based on a biblical understanding of ecclesiology), then I commend this book to you. If you know who you are, you will be able to eat the fish without swallowing the bones. And there is some great fish among the bones in this book. It is divided into five sections, the first of which is somewhat biographical. If you bought the book to satisfy your prurient desire to know the "dirt" about the split between Andy and his father, you will be mildly disappointed. He quickly and graciously covers the difficult time, but quickly moves on to the heart of the book. One thing I did find disturbing was the fact that Stanley never felt called to the ministry. Instead, he asked his dad if it was okay to "volunteer", which is what he did. Spit out the bones. Enjoy the fish. The second section of the book is full of bones--almost like trying to eat carp. I was close to putting the book down at that point, but was still intrigued at how Stanley is able to maintain such laser-like focus on his vision. So I pressed on. Thankfully, there was more fish in sections three through five. Those sections contain some wonderfully insightful tips on human nature, communication dynamics, pursuing excellence and leading change. Those tips alone made me glad I kept reading. For those who have been steeped in biblical ecclesiology and whose shelves are lined with 9Marks materials and the like, read this book. Enjoy it. You will have the discernment to recognize the bones and spit them out as necessary. The fish will help you see things from a different perspective. For everyone else, build your solid foundation first--understand the biblical purpose and mission of the local church. Then read this book. Understand that my differences with North Point Ministries stem from disagreeing with Andy Stanley's premise. But with a biblical ecclesiology in place, we can learn from him how to be laser-focused on a biblical mission and vision for the local church. Hardcover: 352 pages Publisher: Zondervan (September 25, 2012) Language: English ISBN-10: 0310494842

A great book for anyone who wants to understand church environment (how they work, their goals and community outreach) and receive healing from their own church experiences. I did..In fact if I could afford it and receive a job in Atlanta, I would move in a heartbeat to attend North Point

Ministries. This book is answered to prayers as i miss church yet couldn't find one where I was comfortable..didn't realize I needed a "non traditional" church where it doesn't matter your background..I love the fact "unbelievers" and "believers" can work side by side in Andy Stanley church. I love Andy sense of humor and doesn't hold back, yet also let you know of his fails and successes..don't know too many pastors who admit their failures...highly recommend ....

I read DEEP AND WIDE after a fellow church elder recommended it and I was in need of another book to read. The preview hooked me, and I bought the Kindle version of the book. There was new thinking in the book that I had to assimilate, but I will say that I found about 95% of it acceptable. Now at church I see everything through a DEEP and WIDE lens. Andy Stanley is right that most of what he says I have felt on some level for awhile, but have just been afraid of offending others if I verbalized it. Reading the book has given me a confidence and a voice to stand up and say, "Hey, much of what we are doing is not getting the result we are wanting." We are heading into a time of re-visioning by the church leadership (with input from the congregation) and I am very excited, praying for the Holy Spirit to lead us in the direction He'd have us to go. Andy Stanley's book is appropriate for other denominations as well as Baptist. I think it would be a great book to study with a small group of church leaders (those not necessarily on the paid staff). It has parts that I really wanted to discuss with other elders. So, five stars for DEEP AND WIDE.

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