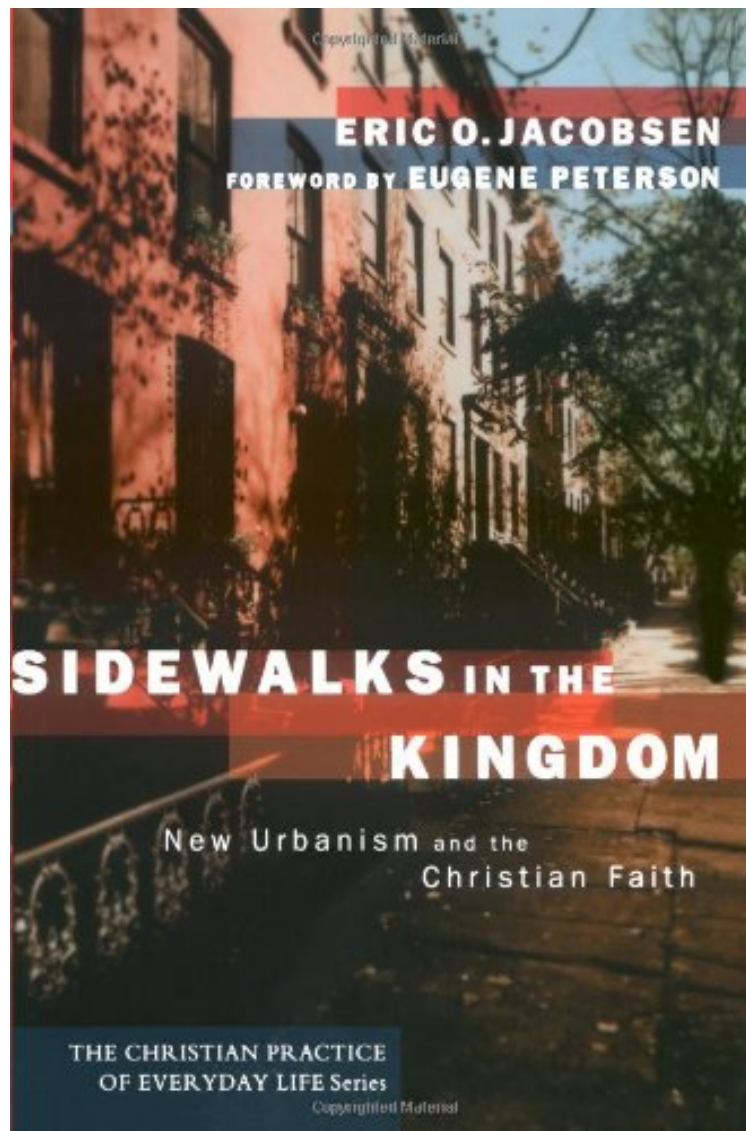


[E-BOOK] Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith (The Christian Practice of Everyday Life)

## **Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith (The Christian Practice of Everyday Life)**

*Eric O. Jacobsen, Eugene H. Peterson*  
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**Eric O. Jacobsen, Eugene H. Peterson : Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith (The Christian Practice of Everyday Life)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith (The Christian Practice of Everyday Life):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Placemaking, Community, and InteractionBy Alicia CrumptonIf Jane Jacobs (1992) The death and life of great American cities had you saying Yes! Then Jacobsen's sidewalks in the kingdom will also resonate. Ultimately this is a book about placemaking - considering how urban design and our behaviors impact our sense of community and the type of community we have. Eugene Peterson's forward claims "All living is local" (p. 9) followed by Jacobsen's admonition that "to most Christians, the idea of urban planning seems as relevant to faith as..." (p. 14). This book is written for Christians and is Jacobsen's attempt to get us to reconsider our thinking on urban planning.Part 1: Thinking About Our Cities - includes a section on learning to see our cities, a theological approach.Part 2: Markers of the city:\* Public spaces\* Mixed use, pedestrian scale\* Beauty, quality, and other 'nonessentials'\* Local economy and the permanence of place\* Critical mass and making friends\* Strangers and hospitalityBook includes a glossary, bibliography, and a draft charter for what Jacobsen described as a New Urbanism.18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Weaving faith and life into an integrated fabricBy David GreuseIf you are a person of faith who feels vaguely uneasy with our car-centric suburban American culture, you simply must read this book!Jacobsen tackles the somewhat trendy topic of new urbanism, the idea of creating (or preserving) neighborhoods like some of us remember from our childhood, where it was possible to walk to the barbershop and stop for an ice cream cone along the way. Jacobsen goes to some length to connect this powerful idea to a sound biblical theology of the city. He makes the point (more than once) that the ultimate consummation of human existence is described not as a garden--where it all started--but as a city. But not one to only give one side of the story, the author deals honestly with scriptures that show how cities also grew out of human vanity and pride. His arguments are well grounded in both reason and scripture, and he manages to find fault with both conservative evangelicals and mainline liberals, which I consider a plus.The introduction invokes a powerful sense of community as the author describes a walk to a local coffee shop, and how the decision to relocate his church to the suburban edge of town would not only make such a walk impossible, but would at the same time disenfranchise the elderly, infirm and younger members of the congregation whose access to cars is limited.In short, this book, as the title suggests, gives a superb overview of the most compelling New Urbanist ideas from a Christian perspective that is not biased toward liberal or conservative, but is biased toward a humane theology that cares about people and the cities they live in. Highly, highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy J. KrauseBook with great insights. Somewhat repetitive, but makes you think. The author does a good job at getting the reader involved with personal insights.

Christians often talk about claiming our cities for Christ and the need to address urban concerns. But according to Eric Jacobsen, this discussion has remained far too abstract. Sidewalks in the Kingdom challenges Christians to gain an informed vision for the physical layout and structure of the city. Jacobsen emphasizes the need to preserve the nourishing characteristics of traditional city life, including shared public spaces, thriving neighborhoods, and a well-supported local economy. He explains how urban settings create unexpected and natural opportunities to initiate friendship and share faith in Christ. Helpful features including a glossary, bibliography, description of New Urbanism, and companion website ([www.sidewalksinthekingdom.com](http://www.sidewalksinthekingdom.com)) make this book ideal for study groups. Pastors, city-dwellers, and those interested in urban ministry and development will be encouraged by Sidewalks in the Kingdom.

From BooklistLike Jane Jacobs, James Howard Kunstler, Ray Oldenburg, and other urban visionaries, Jacobsen sees the city as a hopeful place, where community, tradition, and beauty come together on a human scale--a vision that an eclectic mix of architects, city planners, and sociologists has recently promoted as the New Urbanism. Jacobsen offers a distinctly Christian perspective on this phenomenon, looking to the Bible to develop a theology of the city. He believes that Americans' love affair with the automobile has undermined the social fabric by offering a false promise of independence while contributing to the impersonal nature of much of American society. He discusses the dangers of urban sprawl, the soul-numbing architecture of the late twentieth century and its devastating effects on communal identity, and the lack of appropriate public space in American cities. Jacobsen has much to say about how we got into the present predicament and what to do to change it, and by resurrecting the notion of the "good" city, he proffers the conception of the city as a spiritual place. June SawyersCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorERIC O. JACOBSEN is adjunct professor of theology and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. He previously served as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Missoula, Montana. Jacobsen is a member of the Congress for the New Urbanism.