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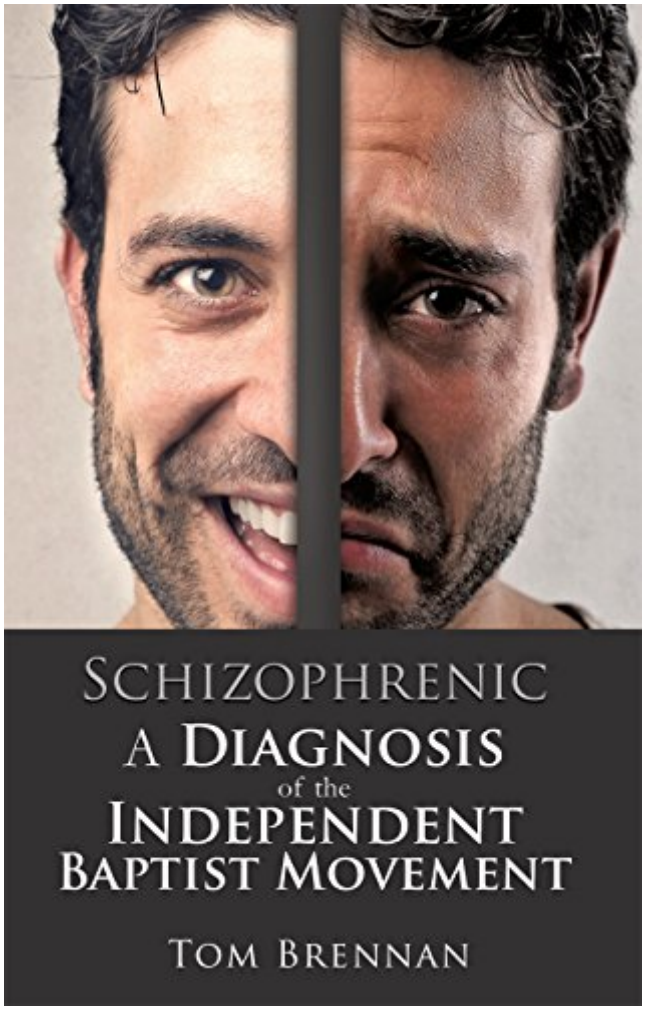
Schizophrenic: A Diagnosis Of The Independent Baptist Movement



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Synopsis

The independent Baptist movement needs a controlled burn. There are problems that have been building up like dry tinder. If we never address these problems in a controlled-burn fashion, they will eventually hurt more people than we can imagine. I believe this book will help ignite a flame that has the potential to protect our churches from a great deal of damage. Christians have grown frustrated with the arrogance and sin that has marked many of our churches for decades. As a result, they are either leaving their independent Baptist churches or trying to redefine what a fundamental, independent Baptist is. I have felt that frustration. Too much has been sacrificed by men and women of previous generations to simply abandon our heritage. Yet, so many problems have been ignored for so long that sometimes it appears there isnâ ™t much left to save.I believe this book will encourage you otherwiseâ |â ” Dave Reyes, New Heights Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New MexicoThe deeply rooted love that Tom Brennan has for his independent Baptist heritage is clearly seen in his new book. He takes us on an introspective journey so that we may examine who we truly are. Heâ ™s done his homework from a scriptural as well as a historical standpoint. Heâ ™s also knowingly embarked on a journey that could very easily put him in the crosshairs of criticism for his brutal honesty and opinion; I applaud his courage in that regard. Amidst the simultaneous throwing the baby out with the bathwater on one side and an ostrich with his head in the sand on the other side, itâ ™s refreshing to see that someone has tackled the issues at hand in a loving, caring, and helpful way. This book will help your life and ministry.â ” Justin Soto, River City Baptist Church,Sacramento, California

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Customer Reviews

Brother Brennan’s work is a must read, in my opinion, for any who treasure their heritage as an independent Baptist. The balance of the work is masterful, encouraging the positive aspects of the faith and practices, and not shying away from shining an encompassing light on the errors within that to a great extent go unmentioned.I was eager to read this work, personally knowing the integrity of the author. I am appreciative of the time he devoted and the efforts he has made to tackle this project, and am indebted that he put into print what I and I’m sure others have seen as independent Baptists.I was helped, challenged, convicted, inspired, and determined to continue to chart a course that would please the Saviour after reading this!

I gave this a 5 star (rarely would I that) for a few reasons....1) it took guts to write this. In particular it took guts to write this with a sweet Spirit. Anyone can be a blithering idiot, he obviously is not. 2) For his honest assessment of the IFB warts and all. 3) Overall Biblically balanced.Nothing of major importance I would disagree with him on.I highly recommend this to young ministers and members of IFB Churches. I’m an Independent Baptist but I don’t identify as an IFB because of most IFB Churches and Pastor’s are personality driven. I think Brother Tom and I would get along.

My husband and I both have read this and enjoyed it, but I wanted to give my perspective. My brother, a pastor, recommended that I look up Bro. Brennan’s page because I live in a largely neo-evangelical area and was feeling "alone" as a baptist. Upon reviewing Tom’s blog I was encouraged, but was skeptical because of the title of this book. I wondered, "Is he just a wolf pretending to be a baptist?"Then I read a review on mentioning Tom’s "truth bomb" about baptist’s being "pharisees." My stomach sunk and I thought, "Well, he’s probably a wolf. I should read his book objectively before marking him off."I was so encouraged by this book. I loved the historical and theological review of WHY we are baptists (although, I didn’t see eye-to-eye on 100% ... because I AM a baptist ... lol), but it was VERY refreshing.In regards to the second half of the book, it was also exciting because it came from a BAPTIST viewpoint of how baptist leaders are discouraging the

flocks by their anti-biblical practices. When Tom speaks of "Phariseeism" he isn't talking about how the emergent / contemporary church lashes out at us, but at honest things that plague us in our "separatist / reactionary" stances. He isn't talking about our stands against sin, but ... well, you would have to read it to understand it.I have never met Tom, but I consider him a friend. He understands our battles. In part of the book, he wrote about how easy it is to find an independent baptist because he is the one alone in a corner with everyone ridiculing him. This seems to be the bible-believers lot in life and my brother was right; this book helped my husband and I to not feel so alone in this world as baptists. Thanks Bro. Brennan.

Enjoyed the book very much. Instead of just stating the problems of the Independent Baptist the author did a fine job detailing the things that this Independent Baptist Churches has done. This book will perhaps cause some to get angry or just dismiss the contents as a whole, but instead of finding fault with the authors points we should examine ourselves to see where we can do better. I would recommend this book to those who really want to consider solutions instead of pointing fingers. Great read!

good stuff....especially the part about "calling young men to preach"...yep, that's a big problem...there ia at last count almost 52 independent baptist "fundamental" colleges out there...are they all called from God? Nope...All independent baptist fundamental preachers need to be honest with this question: Preacher, what are you dedicated too? Jesus Christ or your own ego?....Hmmmm....

This book shows what is good and what is wrong with our movement. While most books will just harp on what is wrong, this reminds us we have something to fight for and salvage the movement with Holy Spirit power from our sins. Highly recommended reading. -@baptistmemes

I appreciate the author's spirit in delivering a much needed truth for Independent Baptists. My heart has been encouraged to continue on in the Spirit of grace and truth.

Excellent book! Tom Brennan did an excellent job.

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