

# The Ragamuffin Gospel Visual Edition: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out

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## God's Grace: Too Graphic for Words

Would you rather watch a movie than read? Do magazines and the Internet draw you in because there's so much catching your eye? Then you'll love *The Ragamuffin Gospel, Visual Edition*. Brennan Manning's original bestselling message comes to life through the provocative photographs, illustrations, and other attractive images throughout the book. Easy to flip through, toss in a backpack, and share with others, this book helps you experience on a whole new level the tremendous, life-changing truth that God loves you, no matter what you do or do not do. His grace is too great to be summed up in words, best understood when experienced. Respond now to the Father's furious love...it's hot on your trail!

### Story Behind the Book

Brennan Manning's bestselling *The Ragamuffin Gospel* found a home in the hearts of thousands of "ragamuffins"—God's precious flock of believers who were bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out. But the message of God's powerful love and grace, constant no matter what you do or do not do, is for everyone! To convey the reality of this life-changing message in an entirely new way, the visual edition was created. Audiences with shorter attention spans, youth, and image-driven people everywhere will engage in the attractive display of this simple message.

Brennan Manning wrote *The Ragamuffin Gospel* "for the bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out," the marginalized folks to whom Jesus ministered: the children, the ill, the tax collectors, the women. In other words, the ragamuffins. Manning understands better than most that behind our facades of order and self-assurance are inadequacies that can find healing only in Jesus. While the powerful and religious elite challenged him, Jesus embraced and healed and fed the needs of the ragamuffins. Jesus delivered love, healing, and, most of all, grace.

Grace is defined as "the freely given and unmerited favor and love of God." But, as Manning points out, we have "twisted the gospel of grace into religious bondage and distorted the image of God into an eternal, small-minded bookkeeper." In reality, God offers us grace immeasurable. Brennan Manning gently encourages us to embrace that grace in the face of our greatest needs. And Manning certainly knows whereof he speaks, having taken a journey from priesthood and academic achievement through a collapse into alcoholism. Manning came face to face with his need, finally abandoning himself to grace. And he invites us now to join him in a life of grace.

Manning is without doubt one of the most eloquent writers on the subject of grace because he openly shares his own pain and struggle to help readers deal with failure and inadequacy. And he sweetly challenges them to do the same. --Patricia Klein  
Brennan Manning

Brennan Manning is a Korean War veteran and former Franciscan priest who lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. A native of Brooklyn, Manning earned degrees in philosophy from St. Francis College and in theology from St. Francis Seminary. His other books include *The Signature of Jesus* and *Abba's Child*. Still traveling widely, Manning continues to write and preach, encouraging men and women everywhere to accept and embrace the good news

of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ.

#### About the Artist

Charles Brock

Charles Brock is a graphic designer and senior art director for The Designworks Group in Sisters, Oregon. His love for books propelled him into book cover design eight years ago following his graduation from Oklahoma State University, and his works have since been featured in Communication Arts. He enjoys spending his spare time with his wife, Kimberly, and pursuing his interests in photography.

#### Other Books

Chicken soup for the couple's soul.

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