



CPX film crew
on location in
Montgomery

Erring on the side of Better?

Images: CPX



For the Love of God (2018) Unrated

Produced by:
The Centre for
Public Christianity

For the Love of God: *How the Church is Better and Worse than you Ever Imagined* is the new film from the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX). The documentary has been several years in the making and involved considerable travel by members of the CPX team, including Dr John Dickson, Justine Toh and Simon Smart and many interviews with leading scholars and figures throughout the western world. The 'main' film is a 90 minute 'cinema cut' and released for viewing in selected areas through the FanForce arrangement from May, and then there will be extended material available in a series of episodes online. For more information search: betterandworse.film

For the Love of God is a cerebrally stimulating film, and clearly aimed at a thinking section of society (not just people attending church) and can be seen as a modern form of apologetic. It is quite accessible overall as the presenters are engaging and clear and the questions answered by the range of expert commentators are well-thought out and helpful. The style is non-linear, and ranges over history,

ending in Australia.

Areas of consideration include the crusades (I don't think I have to say which category this fits into): Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church (and the worse - the German church in general), Father Damien of Molokai, Christians caring in Roman times

"It hasn't always been used on the side of the political or cultural angels - but to think you can understand our idea of right, democracy, human dignity, the scientific revolution, even the welfare state without understanding Christianity ... you're making a big mistake."

- Nick Spencer

(how different they were from the culture of the day especially in the care of new-born babies), 'the troubles' in Northern Ireland, the treatment of women, including perceptions of witchcraft, and the Myall Creek Massacre in NSW and the treatment and perception of Aboriginal people. There is challenging and sobering material to reflect on, and a film that will stimulate many conversations about God and faith, helping us to reflect again on the centre of our faith Jesus Christ, who we are called to truly follow, rather than our own agendas.

The website has a quote from Nick Spencer that I think sums up the whole idea of the project (Nick Spencer is a Christian writer and commentator based in England with Theos. His recent book is worth reading: *The Evolution of the West: How Christianity Has Shaped Our Values*).

MORE FILM ON PAGE 25 ➔



CPX presenters: Justine Toh, Simon Smart and John Dickson