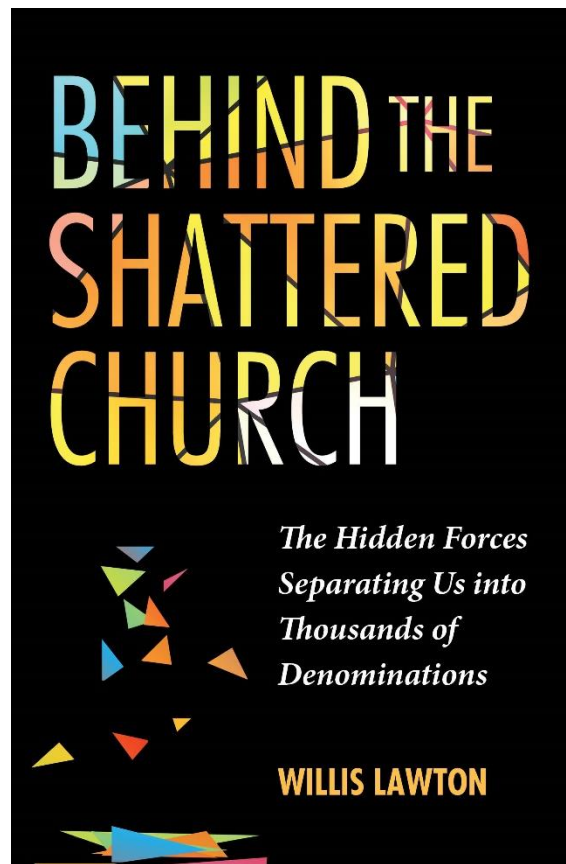


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# BEHIND THE SHATTERED CHURCH



THE HIDDEN FORCES SEPARATING US INTO THOUSANDS OF DENOMINATIONS

WILLIS LAWTON

Jesus must weep over the thousands of denominations that seek to present him to the world—disunity that shows a confusing picture of the Christian faith. How effective can we be in obedience to the Great Commission if, instead of operating as a functioning body, the Church is just a bag of body parts?

Dr. Willis Lawton asserts that any hope of healing our fractured Church must begin with an understanding of how we got where we are today. He reveals the hidden forces that splintered the Church throughout the course of history and left us with countless, competing denominations. Most Christians have little idea of what happened between the end of the Book of Acts and the Reformation. Dr. Lawton identifies the critical turning points in church history, and reveals four core principles of the pre-Reformation Church that were challenged and discarded.

This eye-opening retelling of verifiable events should be of special interest to young adult Evangelicals and other Christians desiring to develop a vibrant, mature faith that goes beyond the confines of denominational political correctness. Dr. Lawton's training and experience with a wide variety of denominations offers a unique platform to analyze the hidden forces that shattered the church into fragments.

For more info please contact [media@deeperiverbooks.com](mailto:media@deeperiverbooks.com)

*Deep River*  
B O O K S

# About the Author

**Willis H. Lawton, *BA, LTh, MD, LMCC***

Willis Lawton was raised in a nominal Methodist family and confirmed in the Episcopal Church during college. After earning a BA from the University of Western Ontario, an LTh from Huron College (Anglican Seminary), and completing a year in a Baptist Bible school, Willis was ordained as a priest in Wilkie Sask. He then obtained an MD at University of Saskatchewan and practiced in Canada and the US. Willis and his wife, Gail, experienced charismatic renewal and became involved in a Catholic Charismatic group and the Catholic Church. Later they went on staff with Youth With A Mission and completed many short-term medical mission trips. Dr. Lawton's seminary training and experience with a wide variety of denominations offers a unique platform to analyze the hidden forces that shattered the church into fragments, in *Behind the Shattered Church*. Willis and Gail reside in Texas.

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# *What Others are Saying About*

## **BEHIND THE SHATTERED CHURCH**

*The reverend Dr. Willis Lawton gives us a scholarly review of church history with objective accuracy. Terrible divisions have happened, many times out of arrogance, pride, and impatience. Dr. Lawton appeals to the body of Christ to put priority on the words of Jesus in his high priestly prayer from John 17, that “they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that you sent me” (NASB). I’ve observed that in times of desperateness we will sometimes move with love toward each other, where in ordinary times we isolate.*

*I believe Dr. Lawton’s book has many gems of truth we need to consider at this time. Yes, God has made each of us with diversity, but He does not intend for us to be in such disharmony and division. May God challenge us as we try to put the principles of this book into practice.*

**—Dr. Leland Paris, President, Youth With A Mission, Tyler (Garden Valley, TX)**

*Most Christians are familiar with Jesus’ prayer in John 17 that all believers would be united as He and the Father were One.*

*Looking around at the Church today, few would suggest Jesus’ fervent desire had been fulfilled. Instead, we see the body of Christ broken into thousands of pieces—shattered is not too strong a word—and hampered from carrying out its mission by disunity.*

*Merely wishing things were otherwise will not change them. Ecumenism as a concept is tainted with the sense that it involves watering down the gospel. All too often, ecumenism seems to suggest replacing the atoning blood of Jesus with a touchy-feely social doctrine, long on political correctness but short on truth! But the staunchest of believers also fall into error. Some American Christians subconsciously adopt the position that our faith never existed before the last one hundred years . . . and only in the US, at that.*

*Dr. Lawton’s work, Behind the Shattered Church, powerfully and effectively answers the question, “How did this fragmentation happen?” Even more importantly, where are there fundamental points of agreement if we are to ever succeed in answering the Lord’s assertion that it is by unity that His church will be known?*

*Reading it will challenge you to look more deeply into the historical roots of your faith. Sharing it with others will open opportunities for dialogue and honest discussion. Studying and praying through Behind the Shattered Church will point all of us toward means to heal the wounds in the body of Christ.*

**—Brock Thoene, historian and co-author of *The AD Chronicles* and *The Jerusalem Chronicles***

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## Suggested Interview Questions

For Willis H. Lawton, author of *Behind the Shattered Church*

- What triggered the writing of this book?
- Why do you think it is controversial?
- What is your Church background?
- What is your educational background?
- What do you mean by “denominational Political Correctness”?
- Why is this oneness so important?
- Is unity really possible?

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