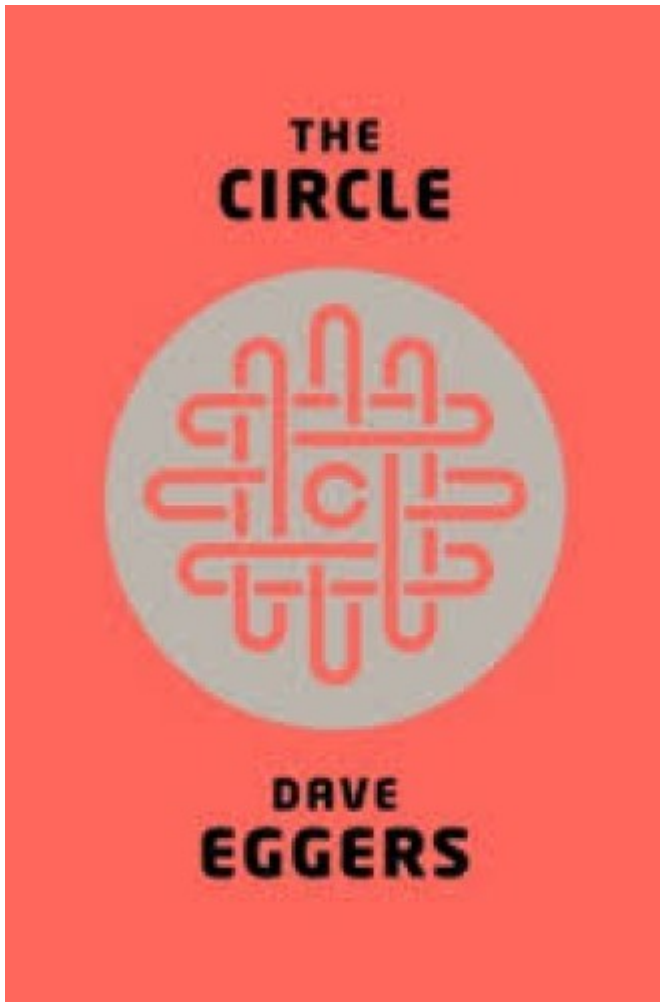


*The Circle*, by Dave Eggers

selected by [Debbie Blue](#) in the [April 30, 2014](#) issue

## In Review



## The Circle

by Dave Eggers  
Knopf

*"If you had to choose one book to help a person embarking on pastoral ministry, what would it be?" We posed that question to some pastors and professors. Here are their choices. —Ed.*

Eggers's novel is about a mega social network corporation that takes over the world—seemingly benevolently. Its characters have no depth or soul; their personhood is defined by electronic connectedness. It is an alarmingly accurate (if heavy-handed) account of the contemporary cultural context.

We continually hear that we must bring everything online—that there is no other way to be successful. New church leaders would do well to pause and consider this TechGnosticism on the one hand and, on the other, what the church has going for it: the body and the blood, messy physicality, incarnation. Maybe it's OK not to tweet. My teenage children would disagree, but I'm making them read the book, too.

Read [all reflections](#).