



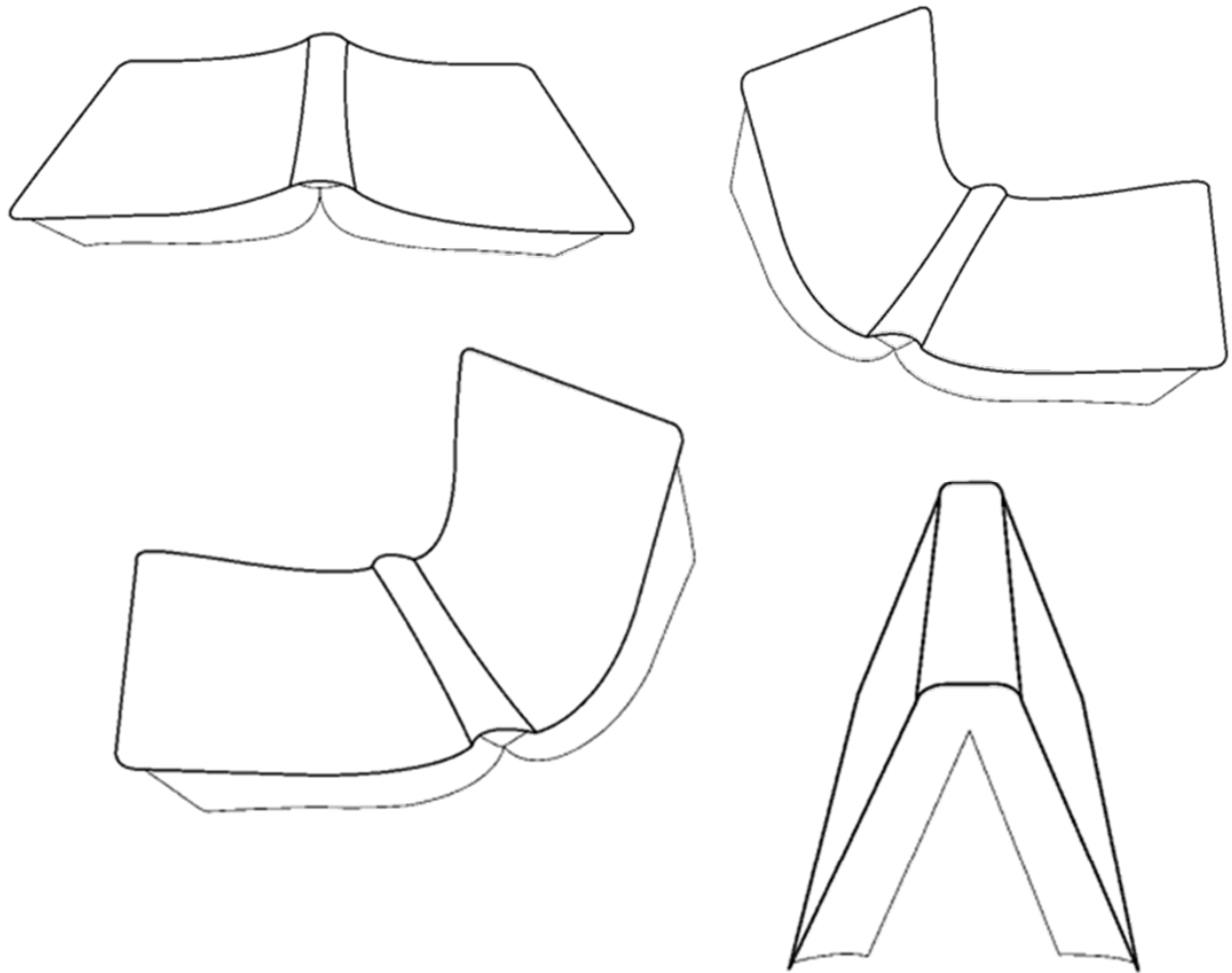
p r e s e n t s

KINDA CHRISTIANITY ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

Presented by Zachary Bartels
at Baker Book House,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

June 17, 2010

In his unintentionally hilarious book [*A New Kind of Christianity*](#), Brian McLaren uses a series of illustrations—based on the physical manipulation of a Bible—to explain his view of Scripture.



You can find these illustrations on pages 116-119. Essentially, the left cover represents the Old Testament, the right cover represents the New Testament (starting with the book of Acts), and the spine represents the Gospels. Obviously, then, these illustrations represent four ways of reading the Bible: 1.) as one long story with no highpoint, 2.) with inordinate emphasis on the Old Testament, 3.) with inordinate emphasis on the New Testament, and 4.) with inordinate emphasis on the Gospels. McLaren claims to adhere to the last one (although, one must ask why he does not then share Jesus' view of hell, the inerrancy and historicity of the Old Testament, the literal Second Coming, etc.), and that his view is the right one, even though right and wrong are totally bounded-set, antiquated categories. (McLaren often gets to be the exception that proves the rule).

The above illustrations are all well and good for *beginner* emergenteers, but for those who are looking to delve a little deeper, I offer the below illustrations, also involving biblical manipulation:

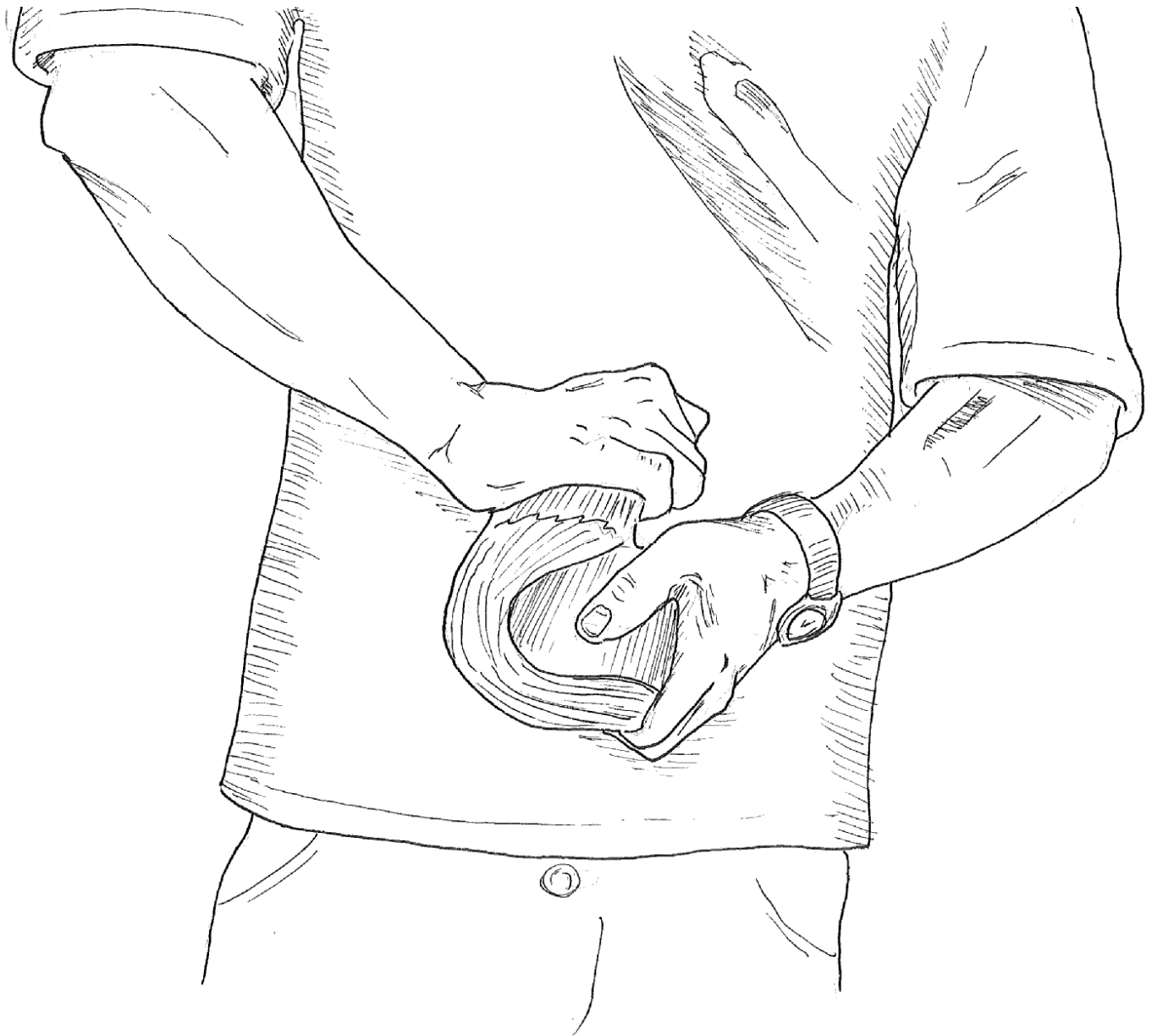


Fig. 1

This is just a warm-up. Get yourself a paperback copy of the Bible and give it a few good bends, loosen up the pages, and make sure the spine is also loosened.

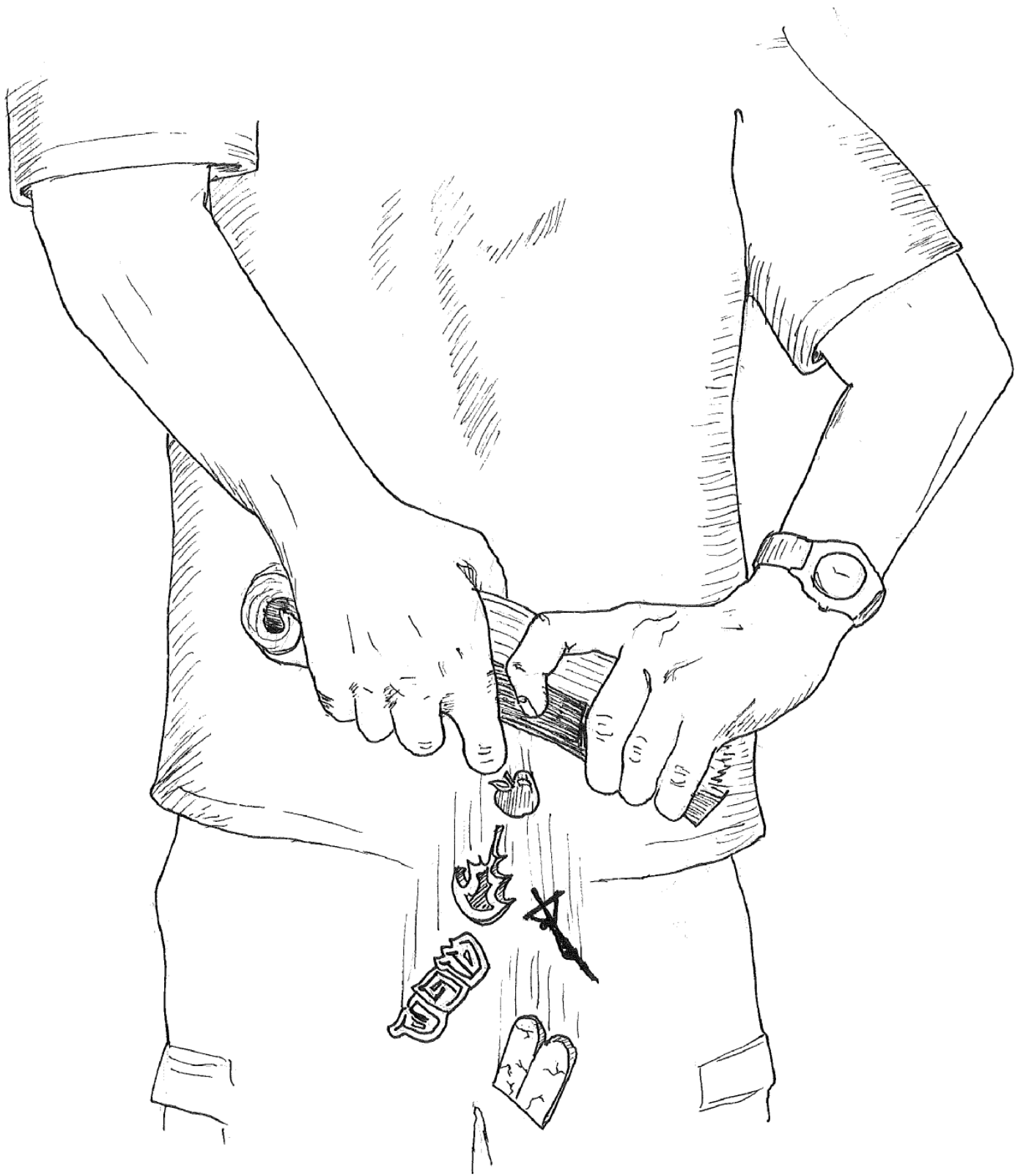


Fig. 2

Once it is good and loose, “wring out” the Bible, while shaking vigorously. If done correctly, this should cause the undesirable elements of God’s Word (original sin, law, judgment, substitutionary atonement, etc.) to fall out the bottom.



Fig. 3

Once you've shaken out the big offenders, get yourself a black highlighter (also known as a "Sharpie") and highlight everything that you wish wasn't in the Bible. (Brian McLaren's good friends, like Marcus Borg of the Jesus Seminar, have been using this method for years and it seems to work for them.)

Fig. 4

Finally, toss it in the recycle bin, where it will do more good. Because, let's face it, you've just outgrown that book of embarrassing tribal fairy tales...

