

## Biblical Authority after Babel

*Retrieving the Solas in the Spirit of Mere Protestant Christianity*

Kevin J. Vanhoozer

“In a season of Reformation remembrances, here comes a fresh appraisal of the core principles of historic Protestant Christianity. Written with conviction, nuance, and wisdom, this is Kevin Vanhoozer at his best—a treasure.”—**Timothy George**, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University; general editor, *Reformation Commentary on Scripture*

“The Reformation was about countering what was wrong in Catholicism, but its central principles, the five *solas*, are not only negations. Reformational Protestantism is also about being *for* something. The *solas* are therefore principles for shaping a robust theology. It is this constructive task that Vanhoozer has undertaken in this book, and he has done so with rigor, vigor, and an infectious enthusiasm.”—**David F. Wells**, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

“In a theological landscape in which it’s all too trendy to dismiss Protestantism, Vanhoozer takes a harder, braver route. He offers the church a compelling ‘mere Protestantism’ strong enough to give us hope going forward as we continue to seek, together with the tradition, faithfulness to God’s good revelation to us in scripture.”—**Beth Felker Jones**, Wheaton College

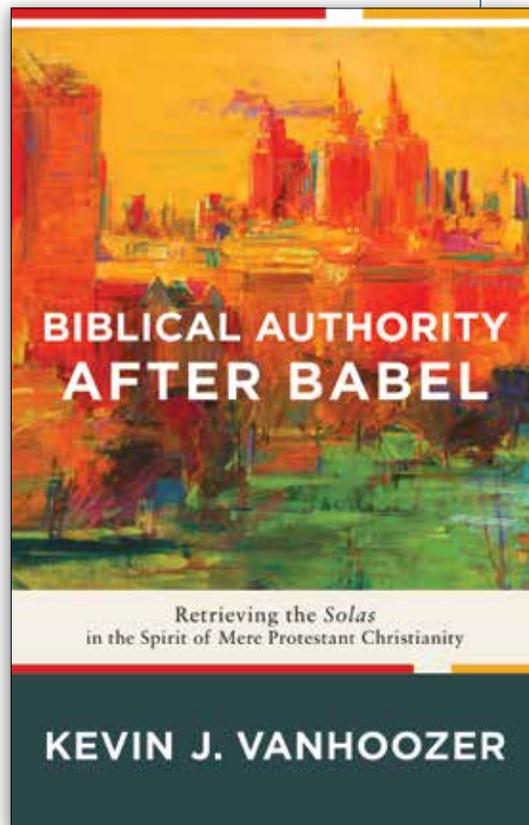
“More than a rousing three cheers for the Reformation—though it is that—Vanhoozer’s new book is a sparkling proposal for Protestant unity based on the five *solas* and also based on a differentiation between central gospel truths that are absolutely required and areas where disagreement should not divide Protestants denominationally. This is a constructive proposal for the next 500 years, rooted in an appreciation of the past 500. Catholic theologians like myself, seeking paths for deeper ecumenical dialogue, need to listen to Vanhoozer’s rigorous, gracious, and erudite defense of the truth of Protestant Christianity.”—**Matthew Levering**, Mundelein Seminary

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**Kevin J. Vanhoozer** (PhD, University of Cambridge), one of the world’s top theologians, is research professor of systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He previously taught at Wheaton College and the University of Edinburgh. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *The Pastor as Public Theologian*, *Everyday Theology*, *The Drama of Doctrine*, *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*, and the award-winning *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*.



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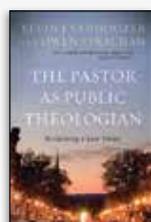
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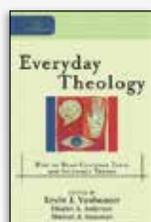
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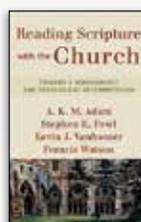
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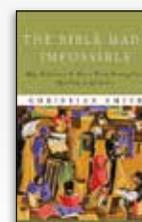
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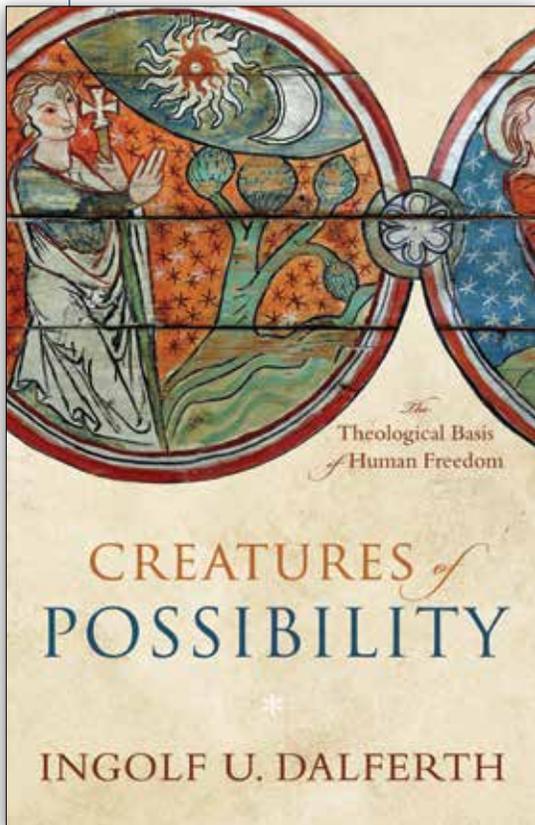
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## Creatures of Possibility

*The Theological Basis of Human Freedom*

Ingolf U. Dalferth

Preeminent scholar and theologian Ingolf Dalferth offers mature reflections on what it means to be human, a topic at the forefront of contemporary Christian thought. Dalferth explains that we have become accustomed to regarding humans as deficient beings who would have no chance in the struggle for existence if they did not know how to actively compensate for the weaknesses of their biological nature by means of technology, morals, media, religion, and culture. In contrast, Dalferth sees humans as creatures of possibility whose lives are based not on their deeds but on what happens to them. He understands humans by reference to their capacity to live (or failure to live) a truly humane life. Thus the crucial challenge for theology is not evolutionary biology and neurobiology but rather the ethical, political, and theological question of the destiny of our humanity.

The author begins by discussing human beings from a general anthropological perspective and then shows how the divine-human relation as described in Christian Scripture and identified by the incarnation trumps all general categories. He goes on to demonstrate how the ideas of passivity, the gift, and sacrifice can and must be reconceived in light of the divine-human relation. Dalferth concludes with a reimagining of what it means to be human in the context of God's salvific actions. The book explores the sheer gratuitousness of God's agency in justifying and sanctifying the human person, defining humans not by what we do or achieve but by God's creative and saving action. In the gospel, we are set free to interact with the world and creation.

*Creatures of Possibility*, first published by Mohr Siebeck as *Umsonst* in 2011, will be of interest to professors and students of theology and philosophy.

### ENDORSEMENT

"Few Protestant theologians today write with the authoritative grasp of the theological tradition that Ingolf Dalferth demonstrates in *Creatures of Possibility*. Fewer still are capable of bringing this tradition into such an extensive constructive and critical engagement with contemporary thought. Through a series of expositions of Luther, Marion, Derrida, Blumenberg, and Nietzsche, Dalferth shows that the Christian account of human beings as fundamentally passive is so far from being a conservative recoil in the face of modernity's promotion of autonomous rational agency as to be, instead, the founding charter of our creaturely creative possibilities. *Creatures of Possibility* will surely prove essential reading for anyone concerned with theological anthropology."—George Pattison, University of Glasgow

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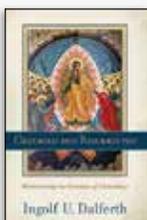
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**Ingolf U. Dalferth** (DrTheol, University of Tübingen) is Danforth Professor of Philosophy of Religion at Claremont Graduate University. He is also professor emeritus in the faculty of theology at the University of Zurich, where he served as director of the Institute of Hermeneutics and Philosophy of Religion for many years. He has held academic positions at the universities of Durham, Tübingen, Frankfurt, Fribourg, and Copenhagen. Dalferth is the author or editor of over forty books, including *Crucified and Resurrected*, *Die Wirklichkeit des Möglichen: Hermeneutische Religionsphilosophie*, and *Becoming Present: An Inquiry into the Christian Sense of the Presence of God*.

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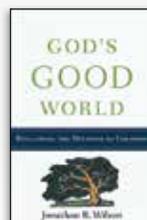
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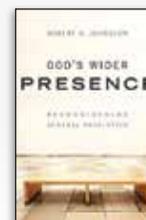
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“Thoughtful and unfailingly generous with his many interlocutors, Crisp engages the full breadth of christological topics with an eye turned equally to traditional Christian claims and contemporary philosophical challenges to them. *The Word Enfleshed* exemplifies the core values of the analytic theology movement by offering a set of theological arguments that cross established boundaries of academic discipline as well as confessional identity in the service of helping Christians give a credible account of the hope that is in them.”—**Ian A. McFarland**, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge

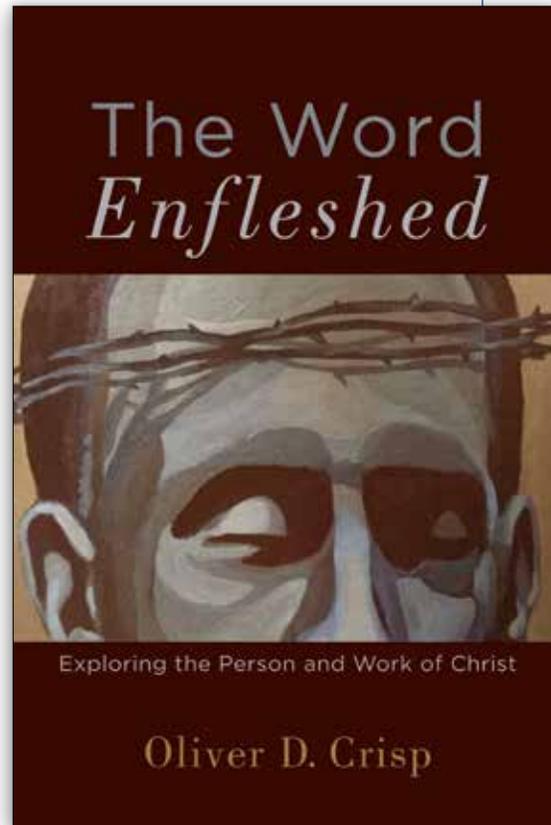
“Anyone who has followed Crisp’s essays over the last few years must have suspected that even as he plies analytical tools to work on particular, local puzzles in theology, he is taking his bearings from a fairly comprehensive account of Christian doctrine. *The Word Enfleshed* confirms that suspicion. Crisp continues his defense of a Christology that has a traditional profile, meanwhile extending his argument into soteriology, anthropology, and pneumatology.”—**Fred Sanders**, Torrey Honors Institute, Biola University

“In an era where academic theology is succumbing to specialization and fragmentation, Crisp offers us a compelling account of the integration of the person and work of Christ. This is a work of retrieval from the ancient church, as well as a recovery of the catholicity of Reformed thought.”—**Julie Canlis**, Regent College

“This is analytic theology at its christological best. This work continues to establish Crisp as a major modern christological thinker for both philosophers and theologians.”—**Gavin D’Costa**, University of Bristol

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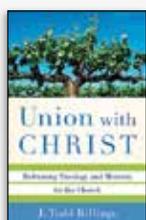


**Oliver D. Crisp** (PhD, King’s College, University of London) is professor of systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has authored or edited numerous books, including *Divinity and Humanity: The Incarnation Reconsidered*, *Deviant Calvinism: Broadening Reformed Theology*, and *Jonathan Edwards among the Theologians*. He serves on editorial boards for the *International Journal of Systematic Theology* and *Jonathan Edwards Studies*, on the steering committee of the AAR Christian Systematic Theology Section, and on the Analytic Theology Consultation for ETS. Crisp is the recipient of a Templeton Foundation award for *Original Sin Redux: A Study in Analytic Theology* (forthcoming).

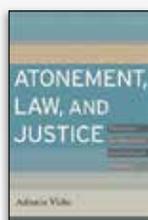
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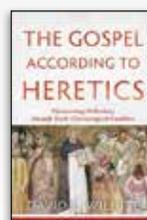
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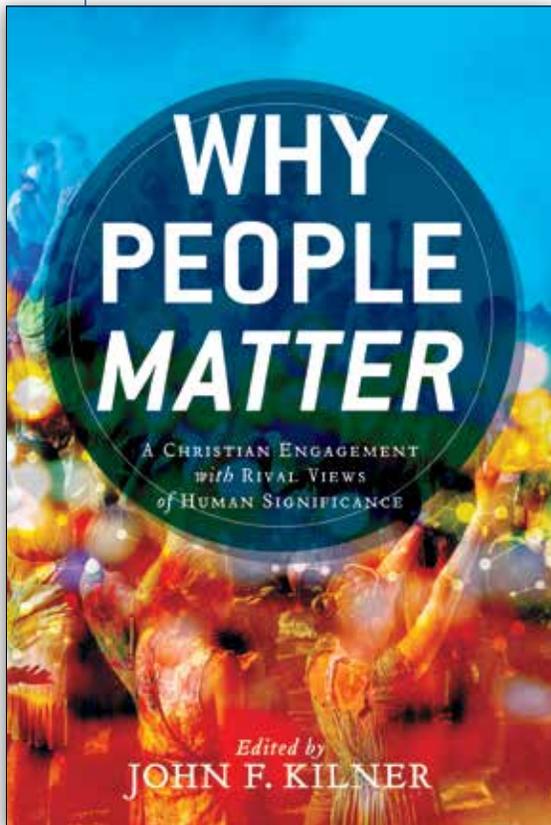
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John F. Kilner, editor

In the face of current arguments over issues related to human life and dignity, Christians need to be clear about how their faith speaks to such concerns and what other outlooks have to say. John Kilner, who has taught in the fields of ethics and bioethics for over forty years, brings together noted ethicists to make a Christian case for human dignity.

### ENDORSEMENT

“A richly substantive yet accessible discussion of the philosophical, moral, and theological frameworks that undermine or support our nearly universal intuition that ‘people matter.’ In consistently excellent essays, the authors provide crucial insights into the basis for our assumptions about human significance.”—**Christine D. Pohl**, Asbury Theological Seminary

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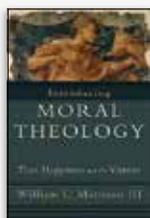
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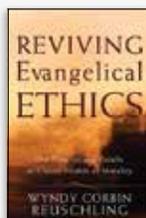
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**John F. Kilner** (PhD, Harvard University) is the Franklin and Dorothy Forman Chair of Christian Ethics and Theology, professor of bioethics and contemporary culture, and director of bioethics programs at Trinity International University. He is a senior fellow for The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity and has authored, coauthored, or edited over twenty books, including *Dignity and Destiny: Humanity in the Image of God* (winner of a *Christianity Today* Book Award) and *Why the Church Needs Bioethics: A Guide to Wise Engagement with Life's Challenges*. Kilner has been researching and teaching in the fields of ethics and bioethics since 1973 and has appeared on numerous major media outlets.

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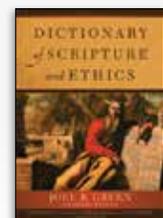
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# Watching TV Religiously

## *Television and Theology in Dialogue*

### Kutter Callaway with Dean Batali

ENGAGING CULTURE

William A. Dyrness and Robert K. Johnston, series editors

Since its inception, television has captured the cultural imagination. Outside of work and sleep, it is now the primary preoccupation of most Americans. Individuals consume upwards of five hours of TV daily, even more when taking into account viewing done online and on mobile devices. TV is so ingrained in the fabric of everyday life that it can't help but function as one of the primary means through which we make sense of our lives and the world.

*Watching TV Religiously* shows that television—as a technology, a narrative art form, a commodity, and a portal for our ritual lives—confronts viewers theologically. Whether its content is explicitly spiritual or not, TV routinely invites (and sometimes demands) theological reflection. This book articulates something of the presence and activity of God in the golden age of TV and forges an appropriate response to an ever-changing cultural form, helping Christians more fully understand and appreciate the power and meaning of TV. A supplemental website provides additional resources, conversations, and close readings of TV programs.

#### ENDORSEMENT

“While it may be called the small screen, television has an influence that is oversized. Every five years, it seems, a new collection of TV shows frame the ‘new normal’ in a way that enables an entire society to reimagine itself. For that reason, we need judicious, charitable guides to help us navigate what is arguably the dominant storytelling medium of early twenty-first-century culture. In Callaway (a professional theologian) and Batali (a professional TV writer) we have just that.”—**W. David O. Taylor**, Fuller Theological Seminary

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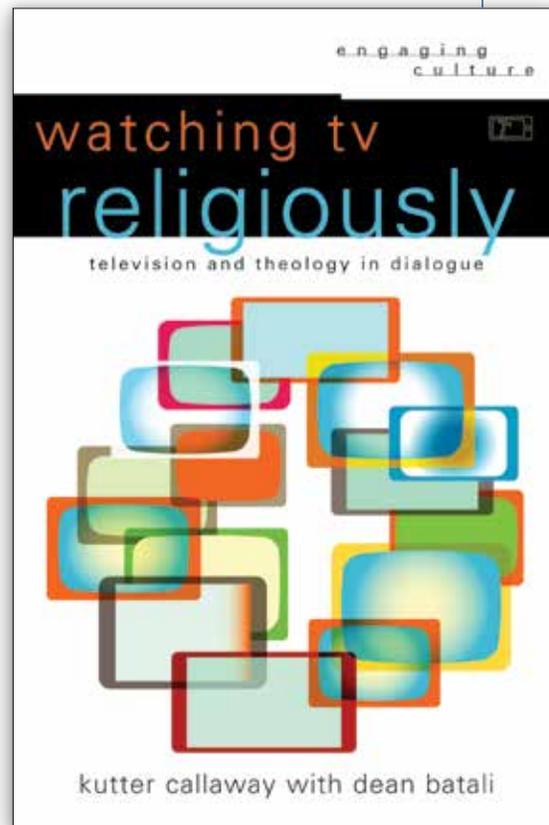
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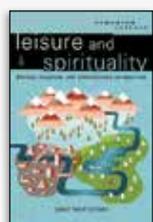
**Kutter Callaway** (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is assistant professor of theology and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary, where he teaches at the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts. He is the author of *Scoring Transcendence: Contemporary Film Music as Religious Experience*, is on the editorial board of and is book review editor for the *Journal of Religion and Film*, and is a regular contributor to Fuller's Reel Spirituality Institute and blog.

**Dean Batali** is an experienced TV head writer for popular shows with over twenty years of experience in the industry. He is a regular speaker and teacher at film festivals, at media conferences, and in college classrooms.

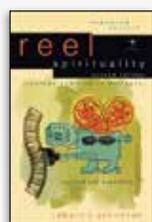


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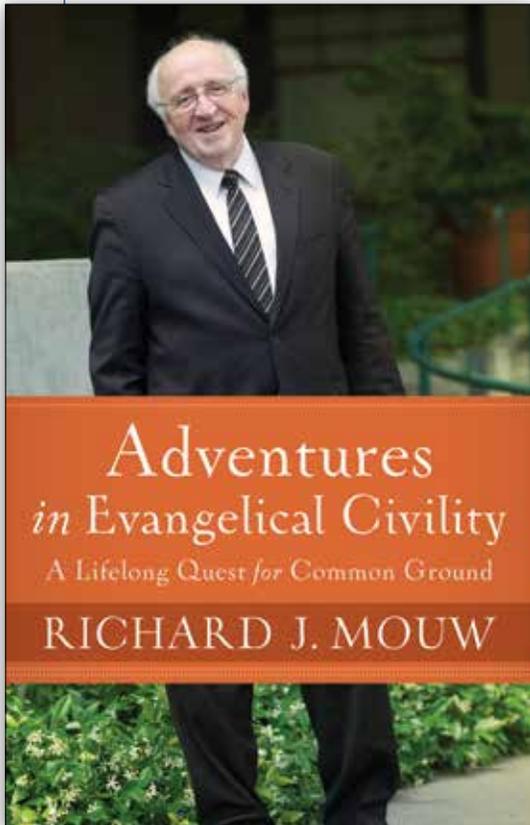
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## Adventures in Evangelical Civility

*A Lifelong Quest for Common Ground*

Richard J. Mouw

Richard Mouw, one of the most influential evangelical voices in America, has been on a lifelong “quest for commonness”—engaging with others in a positive manner and advocating for a “convicted civility” when conversing with those with whom we disagree. Through nearly half a century of scholarship, leadership, and ministry, Mouw has sought to learn from non-Christian scholars and other faith traditions.

In *Adventures in Evangelical Civility*, Mouw reflects on his almost fifty years of Christian public life, which provides a unique lens for understanding twentieth-century evangelicalism. He explores themes such as common grace, the *imago Dei*, and interfaith dialogue, offering a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of what he has accomplished as a spokesperson for evangelical and Reformed perspectives. Throughout, Mouw provides a model for a humble and hopeful Calvinism engaging the world.

### ENDORSEMENTS

“Fine gems often come in small packages. With graceful prose and elegant simplicity, Mouw draws on classical Calvinists, biblical scholars, Mormon leaders, recent historians, Catholic and Anabaptist theologians, and theist and atheist philosophers to explore the manifold links between common and particular grace. As the premier evangelical public intellectual of his time, Mouw finds a mandate squarely within historic Christian orthodoxy for ‘convicted civility.’ This mandate calls for a principled effort both to speak to other ears and to listen to other voices that have similarly sought to see the glories of God’s self-revelation in the wider reaches of contemporary culture.”—**Grant Wacker**, Duke Divinity School; author of *America’s Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation*

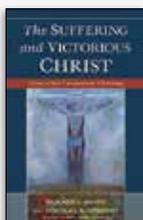
“Richard Mouw and I were walking together to a dinner meeting in Washington, DC, one evening when we realized we were lost. It took us an hour to get where we were going, and I consider that God’s providence. I learned more in that hour’s walk than I had in a long time, and I’m still quoting what I learned from Dr. Mouw that night. This book is much like that walk. You, the reader, will find here deep insight into important topics, told with a gleam in the eye, all at a brisk, entertaining pace. You will ponder what you read here often. Even on those few points when I as a reader would argue with Mouw (on Mormonism, for instance), he keeps my attention and sharpens me in ways I hadn’t anticipated. His life, brilliance, experience, and prose are extraordinary.”—**Russell Moore**, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention



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**Richard J. Mouw** (PhD, University of Chicago) is professor of faith and public life at Fuller Theological Seminary. He served as the president of Fuller Seminary for twenty years. Mouw is the author of numerous books, including *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World*, *He Shines in All That’s Fair: Culture and Common Grace*, *Calvinism in the Las Vegas Airport*, and *Talking with Mormons: An Invitation to Evangelicals*. He is also the coauthor of *The Suffering and Victorious Christ*. Mouw was awarded the Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life by Princeton Theological Seminary and is a leader in interfaith theological conversations.

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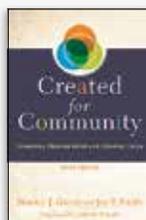
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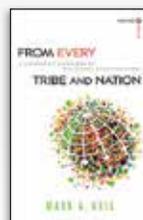
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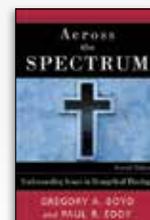
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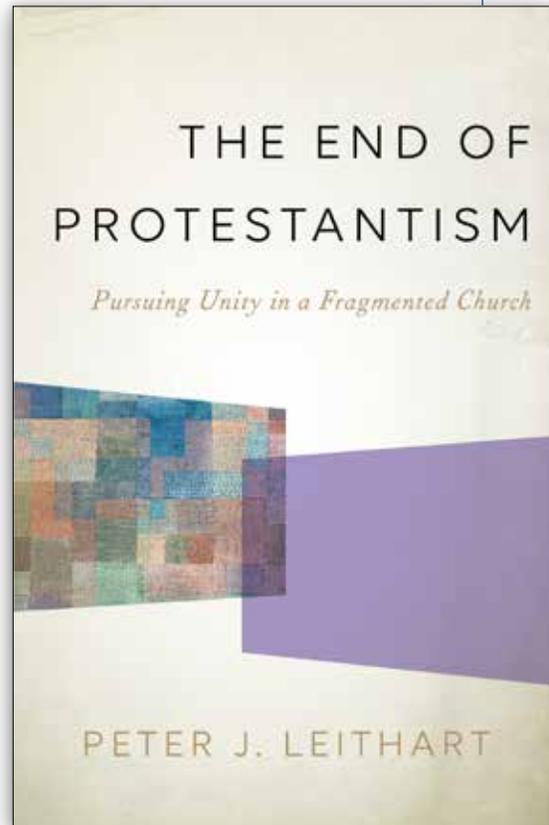
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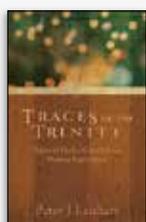
**Peter J. Leithart** (PhD, University of Cambridge), a former pastor, is president of Theopolis Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, and adjunct senior fellow of theology and literature at New Saint Andrews College. He is the author of numerous books, including *Traces of the Trinity*, *1 & 2 Kings* in the Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible, and *Athanasius* in the Foundations of Theological Exegesis and Christian Spirituality series. He is also a contributing editor for *Touchstone* and a regular blogger at [firstthings.com](http://firstthings.com).



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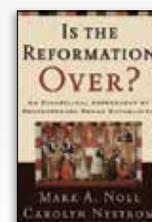
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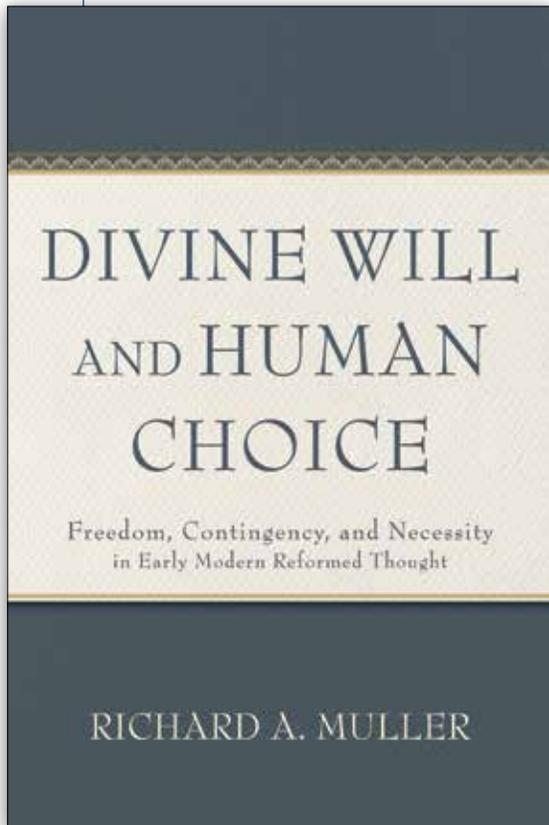
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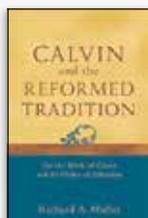
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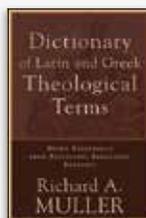
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**Richard A. Muller** (PhD, Duke University) is P. J. Zondervan Professor of Historical Theology Emeritus and senior fellow of the Junius Institute for Digital Reformation Research at Calvin Theological Seminary. He is the author of numerous books, including *Calvin and the Reformed Tradition*, *Dictionary of Latin and Greek Theological Terms*, *The Unaccommodated Calvin, After Calvin*, and the multivolume *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*.

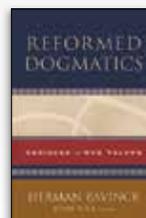
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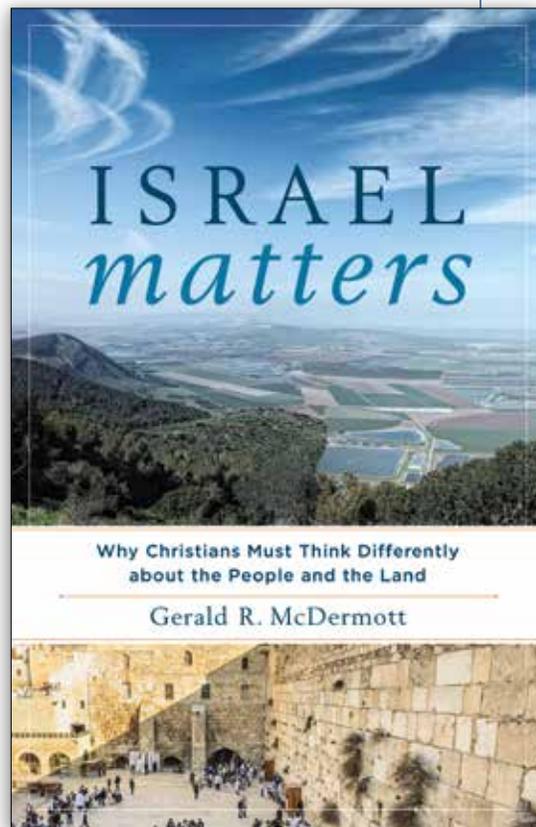
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**Gerald R. McDermott** (PhD, University of Iowa) is Anglican Chair of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School. He previously taught at Roanoke College and is an Anglican priest. McDermott is the author, coauthor, or editor of numerous books, including *Famous Stutterers*, *The Theology of Jonathan Edwards*, *God’s Rivals: Why Has God Allowed Different Religions?*, *Can Evangelicals Learn from World Religions?*, *World Religions: An Indispensable Introduction*, and *A Trinitarian Theology of Religions*.



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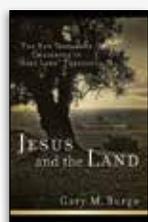
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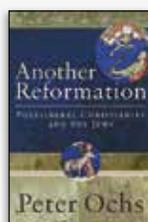
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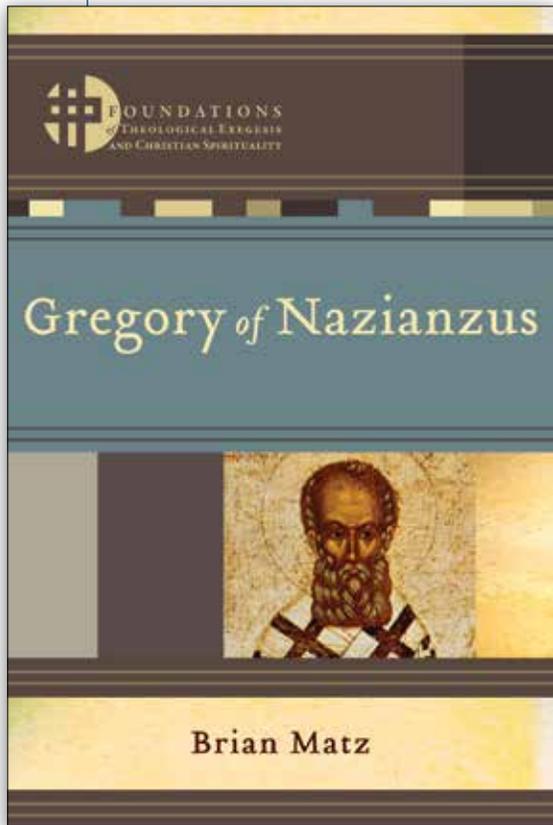
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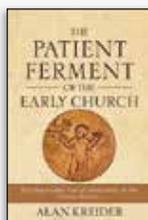
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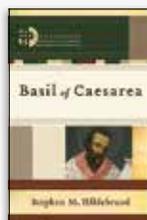
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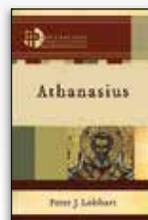
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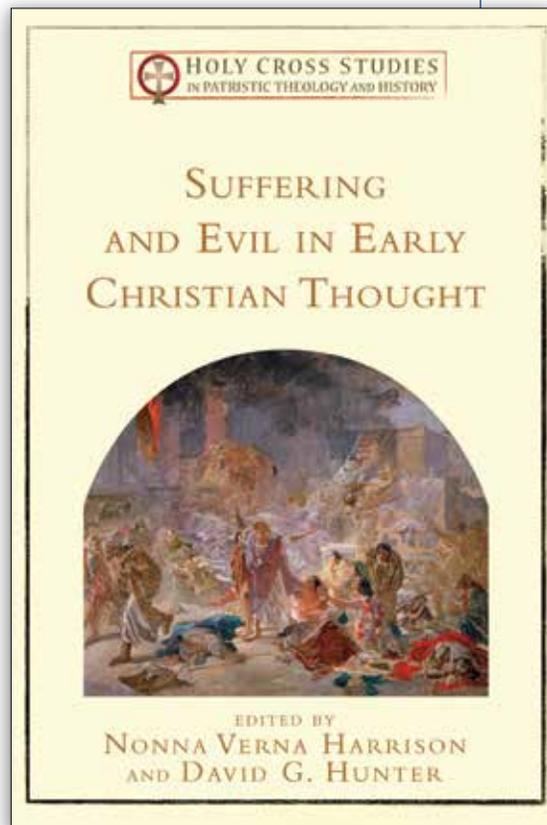
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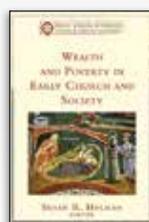
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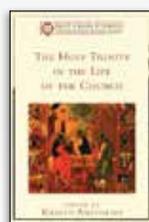
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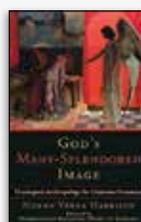
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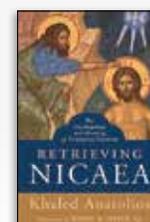
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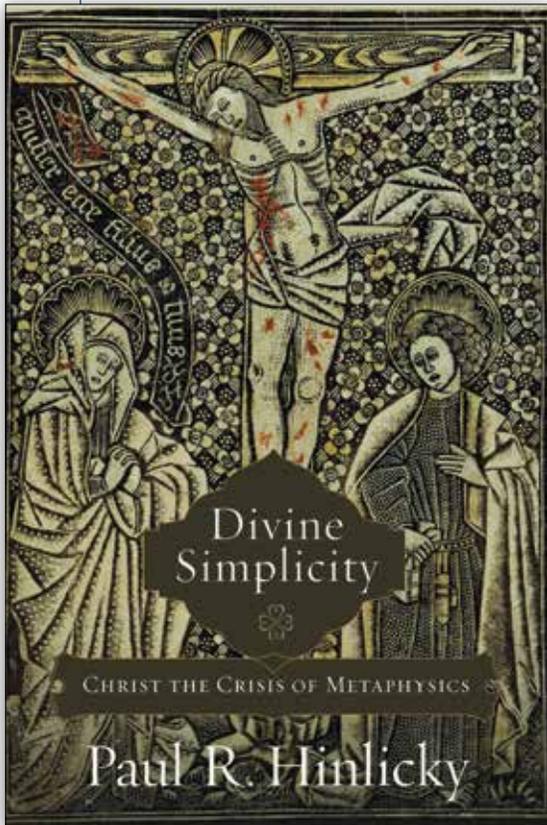
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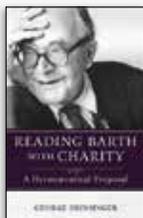
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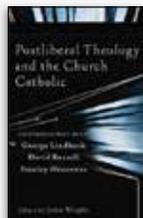
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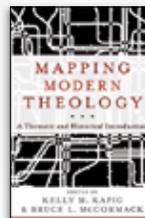
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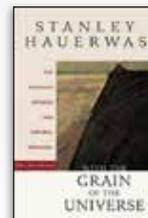
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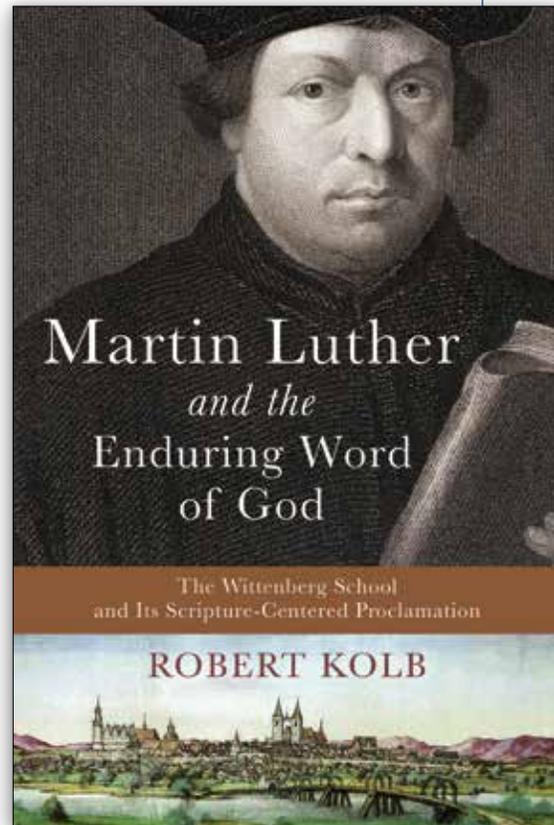
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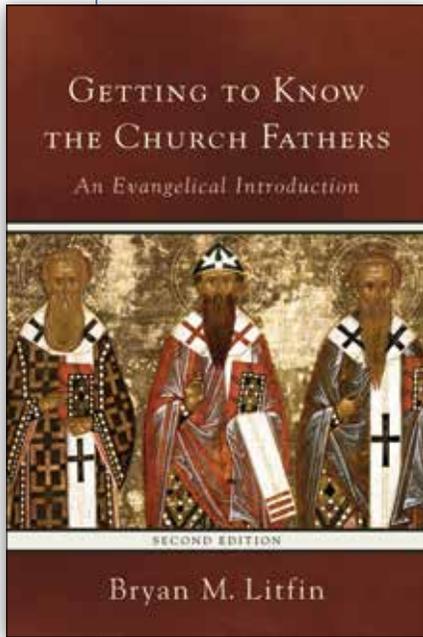
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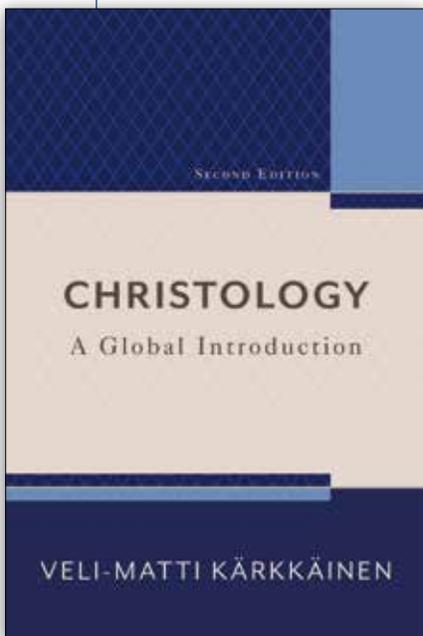


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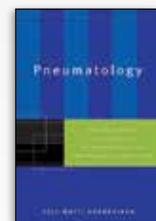
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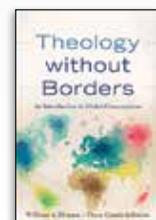
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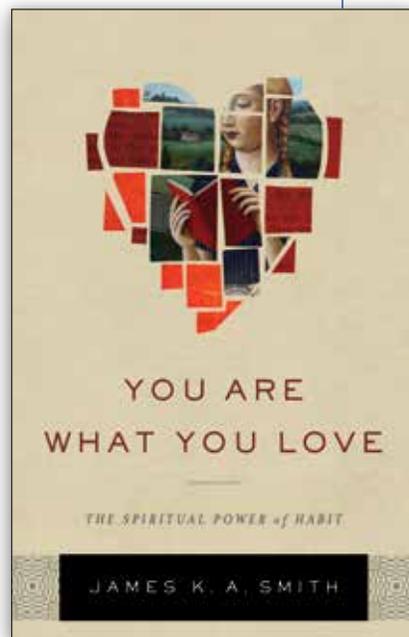
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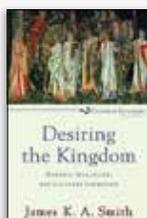
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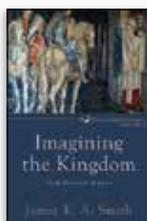
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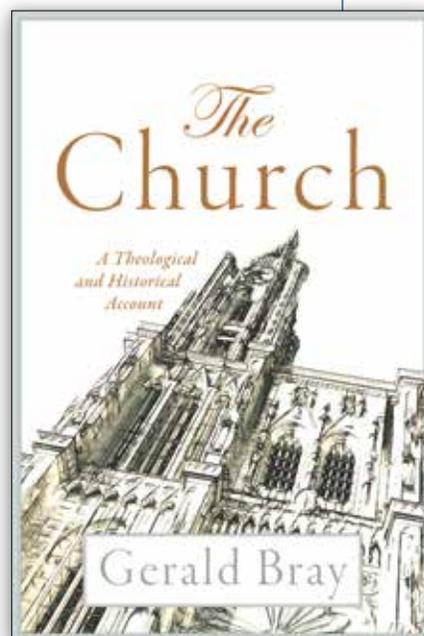
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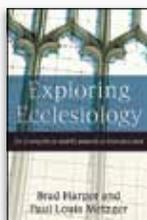
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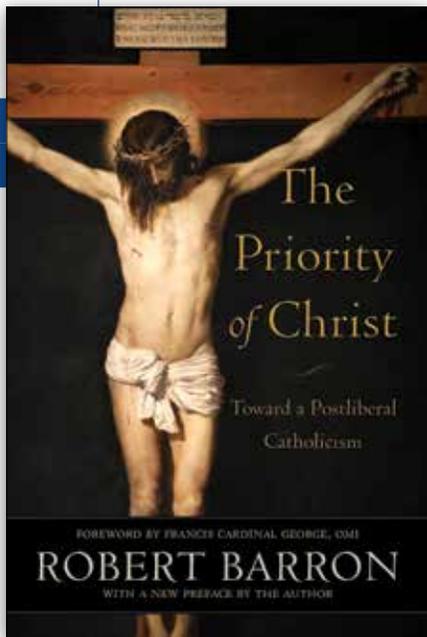
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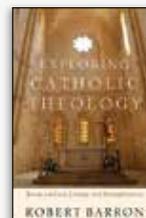
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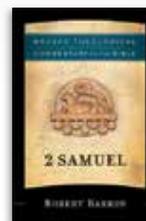
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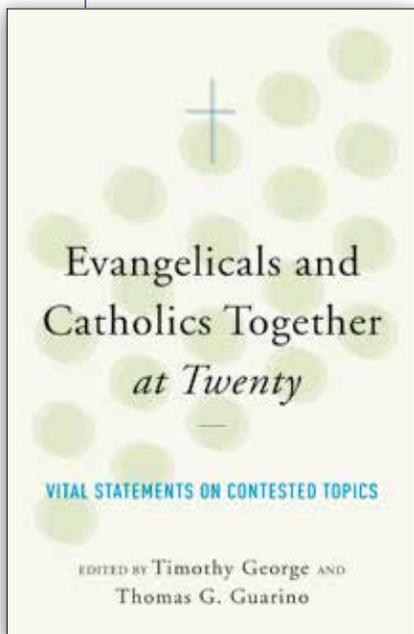
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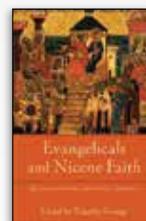
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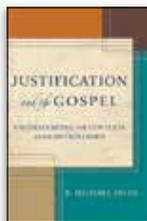
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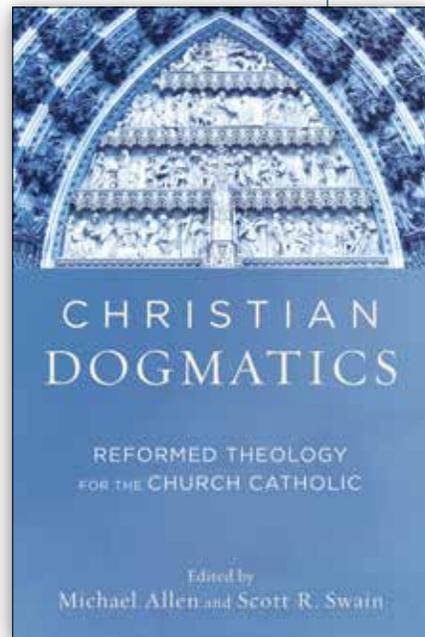
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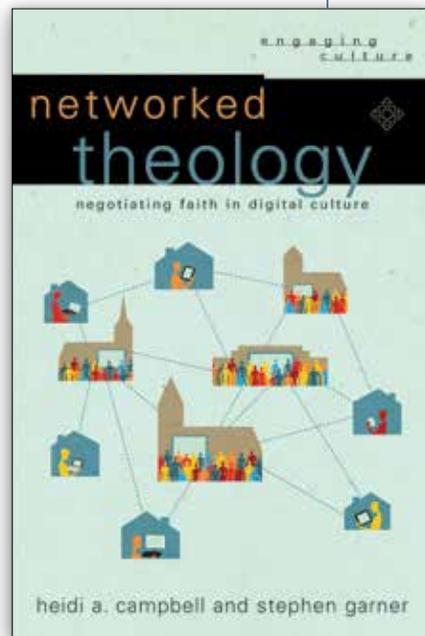
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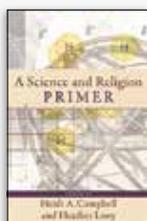
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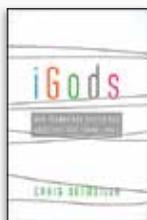
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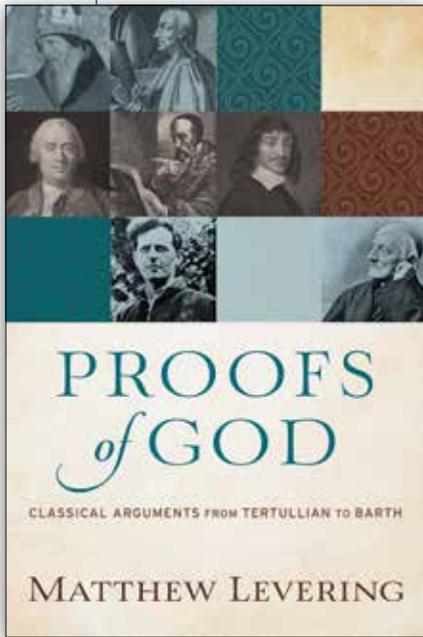
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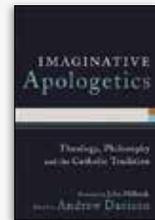
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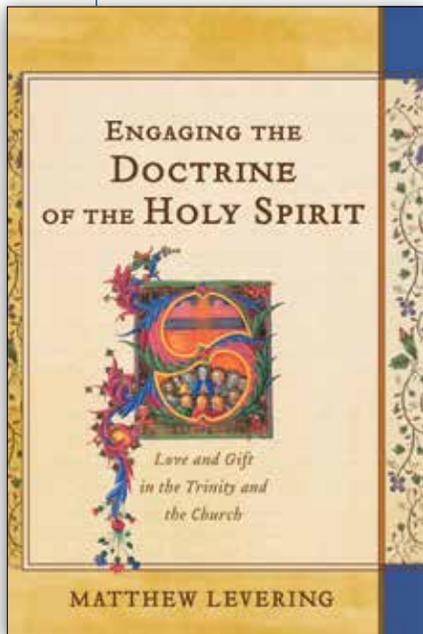


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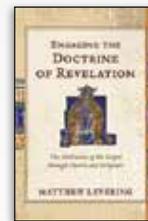
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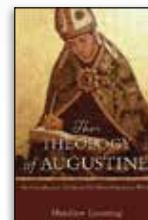
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