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Unity in Christ: An Annotated Bibliography

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Abstract

A review of the recent book publications related to the spring theme, "Unity in Christ." We include the following titles.

- Alma, Hans et al. *Moral and Spiritual Leadership in an Age of Plural Moralities*.
- Anatolios, Khaled. *Deification through the Cross: An Eastern Christian Theology of Salvation*.
- Barrett, Matthew. *Canon, Covenant and Christology: Rethinking Jesus and the Scriptures of Israel*.
- Beck, William David and Mike Licona. *Raised on the Third Day: Defending the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus*.
- Chia, Edmund Kee-Fook. *Confucianism and Christianity: Interreligious Dialogue on the Theology of Mission*.
- Emerson, Matthew Y. *He Descended to the Dead: An Evangelical Theology of Holy Saturday*.
- Fairbairn, Donald, and Ryan M. Reeves. *The Story of Creeds and Confessions: Tracing the Development of the Christian Faith*.
- Farhadian, Charles E. *Christianity: A Brief Introduction*.
- Gallagher, Edmon L., and John D. Meade. *The Biblical Canon Lists from Early Christianity: Texts and Analysis*.
- Jipp, Joshua W. *The Messianic Theology of the New Testament*.
- Kaemingk, Matthew and Cory B. Willson. *Work and Worship: Reconnecting Our Labor and Liturgy*.
- Price, J. Randall. *What Should We Think About Israel?: Separating Fact from Fiction in the Middle East Conflict*.
- Wellum, Stephen J. *The Person of Christ: An Introduction*.

Keywords

Routledge, Eerdmans, InterVarsity, Lexham, Baker, Oxford, Crossway, Harvest

Cover Page Footnote

Ratio Christi at Liberty University

Alma, Hans et al. *Moral and Spiritual Leadership in an Age of Plural Moralities*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2020. 316 pages. \$160.00.

Hans Alma received her Ph.D. in the field of religion from Free University of Amsterdam and has studied cultural psychology as well as psychology of religion in depth. She currently holds a highly esteemed chair position in Contemporary Humanism at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel's Department of Philosophy and Ethics. Alma's is well known for her specialty research focusing on the purpose and meaning of life and coping with diversity and fluidity in the modern world. Some of her works include *Self-development as a spiritual process*, *Religious pluralism as an imaginative practice*, and *Religious and aesthetic experiences: A Psychological Approach*. The purpose of this book is to tackle a variety of concerns within the growth of religion, such as liquid modernity, ethics, and existential crises, as well as answer the overarching question of how one can further develop religious practice and theory through both moral and spiritual leadership, and strengthen coexistence in a world with many moralities. Alma accomplishes this by first addressing the plural moralities from several differing perspectives, then exploring leadership that is both relational and multicultural. Finally, this is followed by several chapters dedicated to educating the general public as to the morals necessary for coexistence. With a diversity of authors providing their perspectives, this book is recommended for, as Alma states in the introduction, "all scholars and practitioners committed to leadership based on equality and equity."

Anatolios, Khaled. *Deification through the Cross: An Eastern Christian Theology of Salvation*. Grand Rapids, MI: William. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2020. 484 pages. \$50.00.

Khaled Anatolios is a professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame with a focus on historical Christianity and Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity. He holds a Ph.D. from Boston University and is well known for his research in and contribution to biblical exegesis, early Christian doctrine, and methods of theology. Some of his written works include *Retrieving Nicaea* and *The Trinity in the Life of the Church* and several biographies and analyses of the early church father, Athanasius. Anatolios holds a particular fascination for the work of early church fathers and Greek philosophers, which relates well to his interest in the historicity of the church. Due to his vast knowledge of church history, a recent focus of his work is in regard to the relation of early church doctrine to modern-day theological methods. His work *Deification Through the Cross* is separated

into two sections, the first of which focuses on doxological contrition within the early church, ecumenical councils, Scripture, and even the Byzantine liturgy, and the second of which focuses on systematic theology of said contrition, which focuses on existence, sin, the Trinity, soteriology, and similar dogmatic principles. Anatolios' primary focus of this book is to relate the work of the early church fathers to modern-day doctrine. It is recommended for "all who seek to understand and teach 'the joy of our salvation.'"

Barrett, Matthew. *Canon, Covenant and Christology: Rethinking Jesus and the Scriptures of Israel*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2020. 384 pages. \$35.00.

Matthew Barret received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and currently holds a position of associate professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas, as well as executive editor of *Credo Magazine*. He has written numerous novels and textbooks, including *Simply Trinity*, *None Greater*, *Salvation by Grace*, *40 Questions about Salvation*, and *The Doctrine on Which the Church Stands or Falls*. In *Canon, Covenant, and Christology*, Barrett explores the gospels within their own historical and canonical context, further probing into the authorial intent. Barrett elaborates on his foundational belief, which is as follows: If all Scripture is God-breathed, we should read it not through the eyes of the human author but the eyes of God. More so, the Bible should not be read as a compilation of human adventures but as a whole account of God's communication to humanity and his redemptive action to save it from sin. The book is laid out in clearly defined sections regarding the canon, the differing covenants, how Christology became canon and ends with an assessment of whether or not a human doctrine of Christology is satisfactory for salvation. Barrett recommends this source for pastors, theologians, biblical scholars, and all interested in God's personification through Christ.

Beck, William David and Mike Licona. *Raised on the Third Day: Defending the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020. 392 pages. \$26.99.

William David Beck served for several years as the dean of Graduate Studies and served many more as a professor of philosophy at Liberty University. He is a scholar in medieval, ancient, and religious philosophy, publishing numerous articles on the cosmological argument. Beck received his Ph.D. from Boston University, and some of his written works include publications to *Philosophia Christi*, *Christianity Today*, and *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. Michael Licona received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from the University of Pretoria and is currently an associate professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University. He specializes in teaching courses on Jesus' Resurrection, historical philosophy, and synopses of the Gospels. Some of his written works include *The Resurrection of Jesus*, *Paul Meets Muhammed*, and *Why are there Differences in the Gospels?* This book is not only written by Beck and Licona but includes publications from many significant theologians and apologists, some of which include William Lane Craig, David Baggett, Alex McFarland, and Mark Foreman. Many contributors work together to prove not only that resurrection from the dead is possible but historically likely. Other authors focus on related issues, such as the moral argument for God's existence. The authors recommend this source for scholars, pastors, theologians, apologists, and any who seek assurance that Jesus did indeed conquer death.

Chia, Edmund Kee-Fook. *Confucianism and Christianity: Interreligious Dialogue on the Theology of Mission*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2021. 222 pages. \$160.00.

Edmund Kee-Fook Chia received a Ph.D. from the University of Nijmegen and has held the position of senior lecturer at Australian Catholic University's Department of Theology in Melbourne, Australia, since 2011. Before this, he was a chairman and associate professor at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He has written and edited many books, including *Interfaith Dialogue: Global Perspectives*, *Mission after Christendom*, and *World Christianity Encounters World Religions*. The aim of this book is to first demonstrate to the average Christian how Confucian principles can better emphasize the church's mission and goal, and secondly to show the Confucian individual how Confucian tradition supports the church's mission and how both worldviews can be mutually supportive and enriching in their efforts to evangelize and love the people of Asia

along with the rest of the world. Chia accomplishes this by separating the volume into three parts, the first of which surveys the historical background of Confucian-Christian relationships, the second of which compares and contrasts the two belief systems, and the third of which primarily emphasizes the church's mission to both the Asian people and the rest of the world. This work is recommended for religious scholars and anyone interested in comparative theological studies focusing on Confucianism and Christianity.

Emerson, Matthew Y. *He Descended to the Dead: An Evangelical Theology of Holy Saturday*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2019. 272 pages. \$30.00.

Matthew Emerson received a Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and currently holds the position of associate professor at Oklahoma Baptist University, specializing in church history, systematic theology, and Old and New Testament Survey. He has over twenty publications, including *The Story of Scripture, Christ and the New Creation*, and *Between the Cross and the Throne*. The purpose of this book is to demonstrate the events that took place before and after Jesus' death but focusing on the death itself. Emerson illustrates the fact that death is imminent and that there is no escape, and that Jesus Himself died as well. However, Jesus' descent to the dead is often debated because biblical scholars claim to find little to no support in Scripture. Emerson emphasizes this by exploring the biblical, historical, theological, and practical implications of Jesus' descent into death. Emerson recommends this book for "those who profess faith in Christ" because the church often glosses over the actual death and descent of Jesus.

Fairbairn, Donald, and Ryan M. Reeves. *The Story of Creeds and Confessions: Tracing the Development of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019. 416 pages. \$64.99.

Donald Fairbairn earned a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge and is currently a professor of Early Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Some of his written works include *Life in the Trinity, Grace and Christology in the Early Church*, and *Eastern Orthodoxy Through Eastern Eyes*. Ryan Reeves also received a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge and has held teaching positions at many esteemed colleges, including Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, and Cambridge. In

addition, he has written many books, including *Know How We Got Our Bible*, *Historical Theology for Everyone*, and *Reformation & Modern Church History*. The purpose of the book is to demonstrate why creeds written both in Scripture and by early church fathers are important and relevant in modern society as well as in the context of Scripture and how they are necessary for fully understanding the story of the Bible. Ultimately, this book seeks to answer why modern Christians should care about ancient biblical creeds. It does this through analysis of popular creeds and Scriptural evidence and context and fact-checking of those responsible for writing them. The authors recommend this book for students and interested “laypeople” of ancient creeds.

Farhadian, Charles E. *Christianity: A Brief Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2020. 187 pages. \$39.99.

Charles Farhadian received his Ph.D. from Boston University and an M.Div. from Yale University and is currently a professor at Westmont College specializing in Christian missions, world religions, and globalization. Some of his written works include *Introducing World Religions*, *Christian Worship Worldwide*, and *The Testimony Project*. Interestingly, this book focuses not on any specific aspect of Christianity but Christianity as a whole. Farhadian mentions that he had non-Christians in mind when writing this book, so it is recommended for both non-Christians as well as Christians who seek to be able to explain Christianity to others in an understandable and relatable way. Farhadian separates the book into chapters, each of which answers different questions about Christianity such as what Christianity is, where Christians are, why the Bible is important, etc. In addition to answering the foundational questions of Christianity, the book also covers many important topics such as the contradictions of Scripture, how Christianity relates to other religions and the different ways people have use and misuse Scripture as justification for evil.

Gallagher, Edmon L., and John D. Meade. *The Biblical Canon Lists from Early Christianity: Texts and Analysis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. 352 pages. \$44.49.

Edmon L. Gallagher received his Ph.D. in the History of Biblical Interpretation from Hebrew Union College in 2010 and is currently an associate professor of Christian Scripture at Heritage Christian University. He is well-known for his many scholarly publications, some of which include the novel *Hebrew Scripture in Patristic Biblical Theory: Canon, Language, Text*, and journal article “The Old Testament ‘Apocrypha’ in Jerome’s Canonical Theory.” John D. Meade received his Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has been an associate professor of Old Testament at Phoenix Seminary since 2012. He is known for his novel *A Critical Edition of the Hexaplaric Fragments of Job 22-42* and published articles regarding Articles on Masoretic Text, Septuagint, and the Hexapla in *The Dictionary of the Bible and Ancient Media*. The primary purpose of this book is to search for comprehension of biblical history through the early sources of its time. It does so by discussing in-depth analyses of ancient sources from the biblical era that offer relevant statements regarding the Bible, specifically the books that were not accepted as canon. It is recommended for current students and scholars of church history and biblical studies.

Jipp, Joshua W. *The Messianic Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: William. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2020. 480 pages. \$50.00.

Joshua Jipp is an associate professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity and received a Ph.D. from Emory University. He is the author of many books, including *Saved by Faith and Hospitality*, *Christ is King*, and *Divine Visitations and Hospitality to Strangers in Luke-Acts*. The purpose of this book is to answer the ultimate question of how well New Testament Christology can be classified as Messianic. Jipp does this by showing the identity and Christology of Jesus through the context of Messianic culture and showing the primary content of New Testament theology, which is Jesus. This book is separated into the following two factions: Messianic Testimony of the New Testament, which is devoted to exploring the exegesis of Scripture, and Messianic Theology, which focuses on themes such as Christology, soteriology, eschatology, sanctification, etc. Jipp recommends this work for scholars, theologians, pastors, students, and any interested in Messianic testimony.

Kaemingk, Matthew and Cory B. Willson. *Work and Worship: Reconnecting Our Labor and Liturgy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2020. 304 pages. \$29.99.

Matthew Kaemingk is an assistant professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary and holds two Ph.D.s, one from Vrije Universiteit and one from Fuller Theological Seminary. Some of his works include *Biblical Natural Law*, *Christian Hospitality and Muslim Immigration in an Age of Fear*, and *Reformed Public Theology*. Cory Willson is currently an associate professor of Missiology and Missional Ministry at Calvin Theological Seminary and the director of the Institute for Global Church Planting and Renewal. As stated in the introduction, “The purpose of this book is... is to explore how these separated worlds of labor and liturgy might actually come to be reconciled.” *Work and Worship* is divided into the following three sections: foundations, resources, and practices. Foundations emphasize the different types of worship which can both form and fail workers. This chapter then goes on to describe how a person and works within worship. Resources outline both work and worship themes within Scripture, such as Psalm work, prophecy work, and work within the early church. The final section, practices, draw connections between work and worship so that the church is not torn between duty and purpose. Kaemingk and Willson outline three different target audiences for this book: workers in the marketplace, worship leaders in the sanctuary, and scholars and students in the academy.

Price, J. Randall. *What Should We Think About Israel?: Separating Fact from Fiction in the Middle East Conflict*. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2019. 336 pages. \$17.99.

J. Randall Price received a Ph.D. from the University of Texas and is Distinguished Research Professor of Biblical and Judaic Studies at Liberty University. Known as the “real life Indiana Jones” for his work in archaeology, Price is the author of numerous books, including the Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology (2017). This title has an array of well-known contributors such as Walter Kaiser Jr., Michael Brown, and Andy Woods. The book focuses on Israel’s role in the Middle East Conflict from a more scholarly viewpoint and answers questions about “what we should think about” Zionism, Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, the Palestinians, replacement theology, Jews in world history, and more. The book is aimed at those who feel uninformed or confused about the complexity of issues Israel faces, especially from a Christian perspective.

Wellum, Stephen J. *The Person of Christ: An Introduction*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021. 208 pages. \$18.99.

Stephen Wellum received a Ph.D. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and is currently a professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has written many books and articles for journal publications, including *God the Son Incarnate*, *Christ Alone*, and *Progressive Covenantalism*. Wellum separates the book into three sections: Biblical Foundations, Theological Formulation, and Theological Summary. Within these three sections, Wellum elaborates on the identity of Christ and who he claims to be, clarifications and comments made by early church fathers, Christological orthodoxy, and orthodox identity. Simply put, the purpose of this book is to answer the age-old question of who Jesus is. Wellum states in the introduction, “My goal in writing this book is to help the church know the Lord Jesus...to lead the church to trust him more as our only Lord and Savior, and to equip the church to articulate a Christological orthodoxy...” This book is recommended for pastors, teachers, students, and those interested in both the deity and humanity of Christ.

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