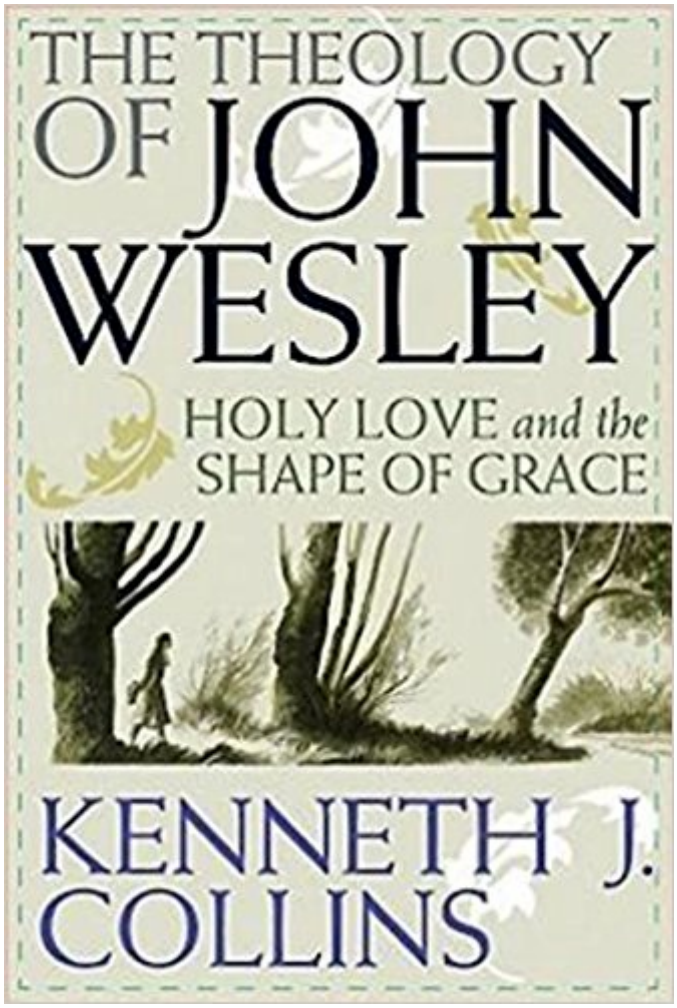
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The Theology Of John Wesley: Holy Love And The Shape Of Grace



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Synopsis

A rich articulation of John Wesley’s theology that is appreciative of the old and mindful of the new, faithful to the past and attentive to the present.This work carefully displays John Wesley’s eighteenth century theology in its own distinct historical and social location, butÃ Â then transitions to the twenty-first century through the introduction of contemporary issues.Ã Â So conceived, theÃ Â book is both historical and constructiveÃ Â demonstrating that the theology of Wesley represents a vibrant tradition. Cognizant of Wesley’s own preferred vocabulary, Collins introduces Wesley’s theological methodÃ Â beginning with a discussion of the doctrine of God. "In this insightful exposition the leitmotif of holy love arises out of Wesley’s reflection on the nature of the divine being as well as other major doctrines." (Douglas Meeks)Ã Â

Book Information

Paperback: 423 pages

Publisher: Abingdon Press; 7.2.2007 edition (August 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0687646332

ISBN-13: 978-0687646333

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #119,038 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Methodist #618 inÃ Â Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity #662 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church History

Customer Reviews

Kenneth J. Collins is Professor of Historical Theology and Wesley Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore Kentucky, and an elder in the Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church. He also teaches at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary in Estonia, and is a member of the Wesleyan Theological Society, Wesley Historical Society, and Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. He is the author of A Real Christian: The Life of John Wesley, The Scripture Way of Salvation: The Heart of John Wesley’s Theology, co-editor of Conversion in the Wesleyan Tradition, and John Wesley: A Theological Journey.

I needed a solid primer/refresher of Wesleyan theology for a project I found myself involved in, and Collins provided me with exactly what I needed. This is a clearly written, well laid out compendium of Wesley’s thought that is rich in quotations and discussions of primary texts (chiefly Wesley’s sermons). It is also a compelling presentation of Wesley’s vision for the Christian life and of God’s salutary interventions in the same.

This is not an "easy read", but it is a very important read. I could not read this book in "one sitting" I found myself reading, thinking, researching, and reading some more. Having recently become interested in John and Charles Wesley, I first read about their history and times, and realized the are historical giants. John Wesley is to theology what Isaac Newton was to science. He was a genius, and a man of enormous energy any vision. He was honest and totally dedicated to finding spiritual truths, and once convinced that he had found the Holy Spirit, he devised practical methods for others to become saved. It worked, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and he changed the world. We are all the beneficiaries of his hard, relentless work for the Kingdom of God!I do not think you need to be a theologian to benefit from this book, but the novice to Christianity will struggle with many of the concepts presented herein. I think for the experienced Christian, this is an excellent description of Wesley’s ideas, and how Wesley synthesized the ideas of scripture into a workable theology that was rational, practicable, and based on the scripture!This can work well as a book used by Christian discussion groups!

The problem and importance of creating a Theology of John Wesley is that Wesley left us no Systematic Theology to study. His theology is found in his sermons, letters, notes and various treatises’. The present work succeeds is organizing Wesley’s views on various topics in a useful manner. In such an endeavor, the bias of the writer must be viewed and weighed against the source material from which the writer draws his material. Fortunately, Wesley’s writings are all readily available and delightful to read such that students will enjoy studying the source material along with this important book.It is important, in my opinion that any student wishing to understand Wesley should not rely on a book such as this regardless of its qualities. Rather, "The Theology of John Wesley" should serve as a guide to Wesley’s writings and be read alongside of them rather than in their stead. Wesley’s concepts are quite fluid at times and evolved over time and a full understanding of Wesley can only come from reading the material first hand as it developed and evolved and in its historic context.Unlike a systematic theology that seeks to define and answer all if not most theological issues, this is a book about John Wesley’s theology which was more focussed

and certainly not systematic or comprehensive. It is not, therefore, a substitute for the study of classic systematic theology. Wesley’s goal in life was not to produce a systematic theology but to come to a personal understanding of God and our relationship to Him and as important, to save souls through preaching and creating a vehicle for evangelism called Methodism. Therefore, Wesley’s theology was living, breathing, theoretical and applied whose singular thrust was for salvation of all.Dr. Collins writes lucidly and I believe he fairly interprets Wesley’s viewpoints on the issues raised in the book. There are some areas that are not as clearly presented as we would expect in a systematic theology. An example is God’s relationship to man and the Moral Law. The apparent lack of clarity may reflect Wesley more than Dr. Collins. Furthermore, the text does not always bring into discussion other theological views which may be in contrast or augment that of Wesley unless vital to Wesley’s argument. An example is the discussion of how sin entered the world. The Augustine view of evil being the privation of good is an example. Wesley’s assertion that Satan introduced sin into the world must be read in context of Augustine lest we fall into the trap of making God the author of Sin. The author’s conclusion may better be stated: "that Satan and unregenerate man are depraved and the vehicles through which sin is worked out in creation." Satan, as a created being, is part of creation and therefore could not have created sin de novo. Regardless, the reader must remember that these are Wesley’s views and should familiarize him/herself with the full repertoire of historical and current lines of thought.I believe that the student wishing to understand Wesley will find this book an excellent teacher and guide, a resource to be read and reread as Wesley’s original material is primarily studied.I am glad that a solitary text cannot substitute for reading Wesley. It would be tragic and a great loss for students to miss the joy and blessing of reading Wesley.Finally, Dr. Collins draws much from Wesley’s great sermon "The Image of God" which is not available in all collections of Wesley’s sermons and, to the best of my knowledge, not available on line. This one sermon, this gem, contains much Wesley was to offer. It is published in the "John Wesley’s Sermons: An Anthology" edited by Outler.

good book

Wonderful book on the theological perspective of John Wesley.

I bought this for my husband who is a pastor as a gift. He really likes this book. He said it has a lot of great insight. He loves to read - he finished it in about a week. That should tell you something.

It’s a Good Book

I am very satisfied with item.

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