

# westminster handbook to evangelical theology

Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology: A Comprehensive Guide to Faith and Doctrine

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology** stands as a significant resource for anyone interested in understanding the core beliefs, history, and nuances of evangelical Christian theology. Whether you're a student, pastor, or simply someone eager to deepen your knowledge of evangelical thought, this handbook offers clarity, depth, and accessibility. In this article, we'll explore what makes the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology such a valuable tool, delve into its key themes, and discuss how it fits into the broader landscape of Christian theological study.

## What Is the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology?

The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology is a concise yet thorough reference book designed to introduce readers to the major doctrines and theological concepts within evangelical Christianity. Unlike more academic tomes that can be dense and difficult to navigate, this handbook strikes a balance between scholarly rigor and readability. It serves as a practical introduction and a handy reference for those wanting to grasp evangelical theology's foundational ideas.

Written by scholars who are deeply rooted in evangelical tradition, the Handbook covers a wide array of topics — from the nature of God and Scripture to salvation, the church, and eschatology. It is often used in seminary courses, Bible study groups, and personal study, making it a versatile resource.

## Key Features of the Westminster Handbook

One of the standout features of the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology is its clear organization. Topics are presented in an accessible format that allows readers to quickly find explanations of terms and doctrines. The entries range from brief definitions to more detailed expositions, providing flexibility depending on the reader's level of interest or prior knowledge.

Additionally, the handbook incorporates historical context, showing how evangelical theology has developed over time and how it relates to other Christian traditions. This historical lens enriches understanding and helps readers see evangelical beliefs not as isolated ideas but as part of a living, dynamic tradition.

# **Core Themes Explored in the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology**

Understanding the core themes within the Westminster Handbook helps readers appreciate the breadth and depth of evangelical theology. Below are some of the major areas the handbook explores in detail.

## **The Authority of Scripture**

One of the fundamental tenets of evangelical theology, as highlighted in the Westminster Handbook, is the authority and inspiration of the Bible. Evangelicals hold Scripture as the ultimate guide for faith and practice, believing it to be divinely inspired and without error in its original manuscripts.

The handbook explains how evangelical theology emphasizes the Bible's role not only as a historical document but as a living word that speaks to believers today. This perspective shapes evangelical approaches to preaching, teaching, and daily living.

## **The Doctrine of God and the Trinity**

Another significant focus is the nature of God, especially the doctrine of the Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Westminster Handbook carefully outlines how evangelical theology affirms God's unity and the distinct persons within the Godhead.

Readers will find explanations about God's attributes such as omnipotence, omniscience, holiness, and love. Understanding these attributes is crucial for grasping how evangelicals relate to God in worship and devotion.

## **Salvation and Atonement**

Central to evangelical theology, the concepts of salvation and atonement receive thorough treatment in the Westminster Handbook. The book explores the biblical teaching that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, emphasizing the importance of Christ's death and resurrection.

The handbook also discusses different views of atonement — such as substitutionary atonement — showing how these doctrines explain Christ's work on behalf of sinners. This section is particularly helpful for those seeking to understand evangelical soteriology (the study of salvation) in a clear and concise way.

# The Church and Sacraments

Evangelical theology's understanding of the church as the body of Christ is another key theme. The Westminster Handbook examines the role of the church in the life of believers, its mission, and its governance.

While evangelicals typically observe two sacraments — baptism and the Lord's Supper — the handbook delves into their significance and theological meaning. This gives readers insight into how these practices nurture faith and community.

## Eschatology: The Study of Last Things

Eschatology, or the study of end times, is often a topic of fascination and sometimes confusion. The Westminster Handbook provides a balanced overview of evangelical beliefs regarding Christ's return, resurrection, judgment, heaven, and hell.

By presenting various evangelical perspectives on eschatology, the handbook encourages readers to reflect on the hope and challenges inherent in these doctrines without becoming overwhelmed by speculation.

## Why the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology Matters Today

In an age where theological confusion and misinformation are common, the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology serves as a trustworthy guide. Its clear explanations help believers discern biblical truth from cultural trends or distorted teachings.

For pastors and teachers, it offers a quick reference to ensure doctrinal accuracy when preparing sermons or lessons. For laypeople, it provides a roadmap for personal growth in understanding their faith.

Moreover, the handbook fosters unity by articulating core evangelical beliefs that transcend denominational differences. This is especially important in a diverse evangelical landscape where theological nuances can sometimes lead to division.

## How to Use the Westminster Handbook Effectively

To get the most out of the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology, consider these tips:

- **Read it alongside Scripture:** Use the handbook as a supplement to your Bible reading to deepen your understanding of biblical teachings.

- **Take notes:** Jot down questions or insights that arise as you study the entries to discuss with a study group or pastor.
- **Apply concepts practically:** Reflect on how theological truths impact your daily life, worship, and relationships.
- **Use it for teaching:** If you lead a class or small group, the handbook can serve as a reliable foundation for lesson planning.

## Comparing the Westminster Handbook to Other Theological Resources

While there are many theological dictionaries and handbooks available, the Westminster Handbook stands out for its evangelical perspective combined with academic integrity. It differs from broader theological dictionaries that aim to cover multiple traditions by focusing squarely on evangelical doctrine.

For readers interested in Reformed theology specifically, the Westminster Handbook offers helpful insights aligned with that tradition, yet it remains accessible to evangelicals from various backgrounds. This makes it an inclusive resource that bridges gaps between different evangelical streams.

## Evangelical Theology in the Modern Context

The Westminster Handbook also touches on how evangelical theology interacts with contemporary issues such as science, culture, and ethics. It encourages readers to think critically about how faith engages with the modern world while remaining rooted in biblical truth.

For example, discussions on the doctrine of creation and human nature provide a framework for responding to debates about evolution and human dignity. Similarly, ethical teachings grounded in evangelical theology offer guidance on topics like marriage, social justice, and personal morality.

## Final Thoughts on the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology

Exploring evangelical theology through the lens of the Westminster Handbook is both enlightening and enriching. Its accessible format and comprehensive coverage make it a go-to resource for anyone seeking a well-rounded understanding of evangelical belief.

Whether you are beginning your theological journey or looking to deepen your existing

knowledge, this handbook provides the tools and insights necessary to engage thoughtfully with the faith. It invites readers to not only learn about evangelical theology but to live it out with conviction and clarity in today's world.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology?**

The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology is a concise reference guide that provides clear and accessible explanations of key concepts, doctrines, and figures within evangelical theology.

### **Who edited the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology?**

The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology was edited by John R. Muether and Danny E. Olinger, both respected scholars in the field of evangelical studies.

### **What topics are covered in the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology?**

The handbook covers a wide range of topics including biblical studies, systematic theology, church history, ethics, and prominent evangelical theologians and movements.

### **How is the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology useful for students?**

It serves as a valuable resource for students by providing succinct summaries of complex theological concepts, helping them gain a foundational understanding of evangelical theology for academic study or personal growth.

### **Is the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology suitable for beginners?**

Yes, the handbook is designed to be accessible to both beginners and advanced readers, offering clear definitions and explanations without assuming extensive prior theological knowledge.

### **How does the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology contribute to evangelical scholarship?**

The handbook contributes by compiling authoritative and up-to-date entries from evangelical scholars, promoting clarity and unity in understanding evangelical doctrine.

and practice across diverse contexts.

## Additional Resources

Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology: A Comprehensive Examination

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology** stands as a significant resource for scholars, pastors, students, and laypersons interested in the intricate landscape of evangelical thought. This volume, published under the auspices of Westminster John Knox Press, offers a thorough exploration of evangelical theology's foundational doctrines, historical development, and contemporary expressions. Its role in shaping theological education and discourse within evangelical circles cannot be overstated, making it a pivotal reference for those seeking clarity and depth in this field.

## In-depth Analysis of the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology

The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology is crafted as an accessible yet scholarly guide, aiming to bridge the gap between academic rigor and practical understanding. Its contributors comprise a diverse array of evangelical scholars who bring a breadth of perspectives while maintaining a cohesive theological vision. The handbook covers a wide spectrum of themes, ranging from biblical hermeneutics and systematic theology to ethics and church history, presenting a panoramic view of evangelical theological inquiry.

One of the handbook's distinguishing features is its commitment to both historical rootedness and contemporary relevance. Rather than presenting evangelical theology as a static set of doctrines, it engages with ongoing debates and challenges within the evangelical community. This approach allows readers to appreciate the dynamism inherent in evangelical thought, as well as its responses to cultural, philosophical, and scientific questions.

## Scope and Structure

The volume is organized thematically, with sections dedicated to key areas such as:

- Foundational Doctrines: including the nature of God, Christology, and pneumatology
- Biblical Interpretation: various approaches to Scripture and their theological implications
- Ethics and Social Issues: evangelical perspectives on morality, justice, and public engagement

- **Historical Development:** tracing evangelicalism's evolution from the Reformation to the present day
- **Ecclesiology and Mission:** the role of the church and evangelical mission in the modern world

Each section is prefaced with an overview that situates the topic within the broader evangelical tradition and highlights contemporary challenges and discussions. This format not only provides depth but also encourages critical engagement with the material.

## **Comparative Context: Positioning the Handbook Among Evangelical Resources**

In comparison to other evangelical theological references, the Westminster Handbook distinguishes itself through its balance of breadth and depth. While some resources focus narrowly on systematic theology or biblical studies, this handbook integrates multiple disciplines, offering a holistic perspective. For example, compared to the "Evangelical Dictionary of Theology," which is more encyclopedic, the Westminster Handbook tends to provide more sustained thematic essays that delve into complex issues rather than brief entries.

Additionally, its editorial approach emphasizes both academic credibility and accessibility. This makes it particularly valuable for seminary students who require scholarly rigor but also for pastors and lay leaders who seek practical theological insights without getting overwhelmed by jargon.

## **Key Features and Contributions**

### **Authoritative Yet Accessible Content**

One of the primary strengths of the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology is its ability to present authoritative theological content in a manner that remains approachable. The contributors avoid unnecessary technical language without sacrificing precision, making complex doctrines understandable without oversimplification.

### **Integration of Historical and Contemporary Perspectives**

The handbook does not isolate evangelical theology within historical confines but actively dialogues with present-day issues. For instance, discussions on evangelical ethics address

current debates around social justice, bioethics, and environmental stewardship, reflecting the tradition's engagement with pressing societal concerns.

## **Balanced Representation of Evangelical Thought**

Given the diversity within evangelicalism, representing multiple viewpoints fairly is a challenging task. The handbook navigates this by including contributions that reflect various evangelical traditions—from conservative to more progressive strands—thus providing readers with a nuanced understanding rather than a monolithic portrayal.

## **Pedagogical Utility**

The structure and clarity of the handbook make it an excellent teaching tool. Each chapter includes bibliographical references and suggested readings, encouraging further study. Its clear definitions and summaries assist learners in grasping essential theological concepts, fostering both comprehension and critical thinking.

## **Potential Limitations and Critiques**

While the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology serves as an invaluable resource, certain limitations should be acknowledged. Its breadth, while impressive, can occasionally lead to less detailed treatment of highly specialized topics compared to dedicated monographs. Readers seeking exhaustive analysis on particular doctrines might need supplementary materials.

Furthermore, some critics note that the handbook's commitment to representing diverse evangelical views sometimes results in cautious or moderate conclusions, avoiding more radical or controversial positions prevalent within some evangelical subgroups. This editorial choice, while promoting inclusivity, may leave readers wanting a more definitive stance in certain theological debates.

## **Why the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology Matters Today**

In an era marked by theological fragmentation and cultural shifts, the Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology offers a stable reference point for those committed to evangelical convictions. Its balanced approach provides clarity amidst the complexity of contemporary theological discourse. Moreover, its engagement with current ethical and social issues ensures that evangelical theology remains vibrant and relevant.

For pastors crafting sermons, students navigating seminary coursework, or scholars conducting research, this handbook supplies a dependable foundation. Its synthesis of



historical insight and modern application equips readers to understand evangelical theology not as a relic of the past but as a living tradition shaping faith and practice.

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The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology thus stands as both a scholarly achievement and a practical resource. By combining comprehensive coverage with accessible presentation, it continues to influence evangelical thought and education, supporting the ongoing quest to articulate and live out the Christian faith in today's world.

## **Westminster Handbook To Evangelical Theology**

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**westminster handbook to evangelical theology:** The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology Roger E. Olson, 2004-01-01 The Westminster Handbook to Evangelical Theology is a comprehensive critical survey of the main persons, events, controversies, concepts, and institutions of twentieth-century evangelical theology. It will introduce readers to and be a reference work for the study of evangelicalism's distinctive theological vision in its unity and diversity. Roger Olson explores evangelical theology through five lenses: The Story of Evangelical Theology, Movements and Organizations Related to Evangelical Theology, Key Figures in Evangelical Theology, Traditional Doctrines in Evangelical Theology, and Issues in Evangelical Theology. The Westminster Handbook to Christian Theology series provides a set of resources for the study of historic and contemporary theological movements and Christian theologians. These books are intended to help students and scholars find concise and accurate treatments of important theological terms.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology:** The Cambridge Companion to Evangelical Theology Timothy Larsen, Daniel J. Treier, 2007-04-12 Evangelicalism, a vibrant and growing expression of historic Christian orthodoxy, is already one of the largest and most geographically diverse global religious movements. This Companion, first published in 2007, offers an articulation of evangelical theology that is both faithful to historic evangelical convictions and in dialogue with contemporary intellectual contexts and concerns. In addition to original and creative essays on central Christian doctrines such as Christ, the Trinity, and Justification, it breaks new ground by offering evangelical reflections on issues such as gender, race, culture, and world religions. This volume also moves beyond the confines of Anglo-American perspectives to offer separate essays exploring evangelical theology in African, Asian, and Latin American contexts. The contributors to this volume form an unrivalled list of many of today's most eminent evangelical theologians and important emerging voices.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology:** **Pocket History of Evangelical Theology** Roger E. Olson, 2007-01-26 Roger Olson provides us with a concise, lively and readable history of evangelical theology. From pietism to evangelicalism, Olson shows the development of thought. Great as a reference book, a refresher course or for use in introductory theology classes.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology:** *Evangelical Theological Method* Stanley E. Porter, Steven M. Studebaker, 2018-07-10 How should one approach the task of theology? This Spectrum volume brings together five evangelical theologians with distinctly different approaches to

the theological task who present their own approach and respond to each of the other views. Emerging from this theological conversation is an awareness of our methodological commitments and the benefits that each can bring to the theological task.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: The Oxford Handbook of Evangelical Theology** Gerald R. McDermott, 2013-12 This volume surveys the state of the discipline on topics of greatest importance to evangelical theology. The authors critically assess the state of the question, from both classical and evangelical traditions, and propose a future direction for evangelical thinking on the subject.--[Résumé de l'éditeur].

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: The Oxford Handbook of Evangelical Theology** Gerald McDermott, 2010-11-30 Evangelical theology is a burgeoning field. Evangelicals have been growing in numbers and prominence worldwide, and the rise to academic prominence of evangelical historians, scripture scholars, ethicists, and theologians--many of whom have changed the face of their disciplines--has demonstrated the growing maturity of this movement's intellectual leaders. This volume surveys the state of the discipline on topics of greatest importance to evangelical theology. Each chapter has been written by a theologian or scholar who is widely recognized for his or her published work and is considered a leading thinker on that particular topic. The authors critically assess the state of the question, from both classical and evangelical traditions, and propose a future direction for evangelical thinking on the subject.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: The Westminster Handbook to Reformed Theology** Donald K. McKim, 2001-01-01 Compact yet comprehensive entries on theological terms as understood from a Reformed perspective are contained in this book. With pieces written by esteemed Reformed scholars, this book gives easy access to a wealth of theological information and summarizes the most significant aspects of Reformed theology.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: New Perspectives for Evangelical Theology** Tom Greggs, 2009-12-04 This title addresses some of the major themes within evangelical theology including election, the Holy Spirit, eschatology, and sanctification. It examines the Bible and the Church, and has chapters on worship and the sacraments.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: The Westminster Handbook to Martin Luther** Denis R. Janz, 2010-10-28 This volume in the Westminster Handbooks to Christian Theology series provides a compact and lucid treatment of the main elements of the theology of Martin Luther (1483-1546). Janz, a top Luther expert, discusses the theological understandings that made Luther a leading figure in the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation. This splendid guide will serve as a welcome reference for careful and accurate descriptions of the key components of Luther's theology. The Westminster Handbook to Christian Theology series provides a set of resources for the study of historic and contemporary theological movements and Christian theologians. These books are intended to help students and scholars find concise and accurate treatments of important theological terms./p>

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: They Who Endure to the End** Everett Berry, 2020-07-30 Is it possible for a true believer in Christ to apostatize? If so, how? Also, how can professing believers know if they are truly born again? What assurance can they have that they will never renounce their faith? These questions have been asked for centuries as Christians have wrestled with what Scripture says about these matters. The search for answers has instilled strong disagreements among Christian traditions. In this book, we navigate the terrain of this debate by examining the pertinent biblical data, surveying the history of major views that have been advocated by various denominations, and offering a synthesis of all this material in the hopes that readers can see how Scripture assures believers of their security in Christ.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Carl Henry—Theologian for All Seasons** G. Wright Doyle, 2010-04-01 Carl F. H. Henry has been called the Dean of evangelical theologians, and the premier theological representative of the evangelical movement in the last half of the twentieth century. When his magnum opus, *God, Revelation, and Authority*, first appeared, it was hailed as the most important work of evangelical theology in modern times. *Carl Henry: Theologian*

for All Seasons not only introduces contemporary readers to Carl Henry the man, but also demonstrates that his theology possesses striking relevance for our own situation. We are introduced to his place in the complex mosaic of twentieth century theology, his simple but sophisticated doctrine of revelation, and his value for current discussions of a wide variety of issues. Henry's reflections on hermeneutics, philosophy, and faith; the nature of revelation and of God; the social implications of Christianity; and many other vital topics, turn out to be as pertinent now as when they were written. Not everyone agrees with Carl Henry's approach, of course, so this book features an extensive dialogue between Henry and his critics, making the case that his thought has been incorrectly described as outmoded and that he offers clear guidance for twenty-first century thinkers. To make the wealth of material on the many topics in God, Revelation, and Authority more accessible, the book includes a theological index, a macro index, and detailed outline of the entire six volumes.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: God's Saved Israel** Philip La G. Du Toit, 2019-05-14 God's Saved Israel examines identity in the Pauline corpus in terms of how Paul expresses the new identity in Christ in relation to the identity of ancient Israel. In this study, the way in which Paul uses the terms Israel, Israelite, and Judean is approached on the basis of the way in which these terms were used in the second temple period by both insiders and outsiders, rather than presupposing that Paul used it in a different way. By thoroughly engaging with the New Perspective on Paul and the Radical New Perspective on Paul, Paul's conception of identity is pursued mainly along theological-exegetical lines, especially in terms of the contrast between flesh and S/spirit. While Rom 11:26, which points to all Israel that will be saved, and Gal 6:16, which points to the Israel of God who are blessed, are often utilized in a paradigmatic way to interpret the rest of Paul, the approach in this book is the other way around. These two texts are approached by first assessing Paul's conception of identity in the whole of the Pauline corpus and then by interpreting Rom 11:26 and Gal 6:16 with a larger understanding of identity in Paul at hand.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: RetroChristianity** Michael J. Svingel, 2012-04-30 Evangelicalism is in trouble. Surveying the modern evangelical landscape, professor Michael Svingel asks, Why does evangelicalism appear to be spinning out of control, losing appeal to younger generations, dwindling in numbers, or selling out to pop culture to muster a crowd? He seeks to answer this question by looking to the past—to a Retro Christianity. Calling for a return to evangelicalism's historical and theological roots, Svingel begins by addressing some of present-day evangelicalism's problems and explores what can be done to help churches regain a healthy perspective on doctrine. He then gives practical examples of what establishing a biblical, historical, and theologically sound foundation will mean for Christians as they think through aspects of church life and worship. As the numbers of those confused or disenchanted with evangelicalism continue to grow, Svingel's book meets a timely need and will benefit many readers with his balanced argument for preserving the evangelical faith.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: The Anti-Gospel** Edward Hendrie, 2012-01-17 Most people who attend their church services each week are not hearing the gospel. They are hearing an anti-gospel. The devil is a very subtle liar who opposes God and his gospel. See Genesis 3:1; John 8:44. That old serpent has stealthily introduced his deceptive anti-gospel into the pulpits of churches around the world. He has very craftily mixed the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees into the gospel and ruined the whole loaf. Matthew 16:6-12. The resulting false gospel is premised on the idea that all men are freed from the bondage to sin and therefore have the ability to choose of their own free will whether or not to believe in Jesus. This is not a dispute over a fine distinction that is only of interest to theologians. This issue goes to the heart of the gospel. It goes to the heart of salvation. It goes to the heart of who is Jesus. The bible states that man is spiritually dead and must be born again by the power of God. Ephesians 2:1-6; John 3:3-8. God has elected certain to be saved by his grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:3-9; 2:8-10. He imbues his elect with the faith needed to believe in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26; John 1:12-13. The devil's false gospel reverses the order of things. Under the false gospel preached in most churches, Jesus does

not choose his elect for salvation, instead all men have a free will to choose Jesus. Instead of God choosing man, man chooses God. This mythology is not supported by the bible. It is at the heart of a devilish conspiracy against God and man. The free will anti-gospel denies the sovereignty of God and blasphemously makes God out to be a liar. The free will gospel is a heathen gospel that has a god, but that god is not the God of the bible. The calling of the true Jesus is effectual; all who are chosen for salvation will believe in him. John 6:37-40. The free will gospel has a false Jesus who only offers the possibility of salvation, with no assurance. The scriptures warn about such a false Jesus. 2 Corinthians 11:4. The free will gospel denies the total depravity of man and the sovereign election of God. The true gospel has a Jesus who loves only his children and saves them for eternity in heaven. The devilish anti-gospel has a false Jesus who loves everyone in the world, but this false Jesus casts most of those whom he loves in hell, suffering in torments for eternity in a lake of fire. The true Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 7 that he never loved those who are sent to hell. "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:23. See also Romans 9:21-23. The true God of the bible saves those whom he has elected for salvation and he condemns those whom he has elected for condemnation. See Romans 9. The false Jesus of the anti-gospel looks on helplessly while the sinner who is spiritually dead in trespasses and sin decides whether to believe in him. The true Jesus preordained and chose his elect to believe in him before the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:4-5. The false Jesus is an impotent Jesus, who must yield to the desires of men; if men decide after they are saved that they would rather reject Jesus and take their chances with being thrown into hell, they can forfeit their salvation. The false Jesus is powerless to stop them. The true Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, who is able to preserve his elect and will lose none of those whom he has chosen for salvation. John 10:27-29.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Atonement, Justice, and Peace** Darrin W. Snyder Belousek, 2012 In this substantial study Darrin W. Snyder Belousek offers a comprehensive and critical examination of penal substitution, the most widely accepted evangelical Protestant theory of atonement, and presents a biblically grounded, theologically orthodox alternative. Attending to all of the relevant biblical texts and engaging with the full spectrum of scholarship, Belousek systematically develops a biblical theory of atonement that centers on restorative -- rather than retributive -- justice. He also shows how Christian thinking on atonement correlates with major global concerns such as economic justice, capital punishment, the war on terror, and ethnic and religious conflicts. Thorough and clearly structured, this book demonstrates how a return to biblical cruciformity can radically transform Christian mission, social justice, and peacemaking.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Grace for All** Clark H. Pinnock, John D. Wagner, 2015-03-31 Did Christ atone for the sins of humanity on the cross? Does God desire all people to be saved and direct his grace toward all people for that purpose? There are some Christians following a deterministic paradigm who believe this is not true. They believe God has predestined some people for heaven and many, or even most, for hell. The rising tide of Calvinism and its TULIP theology needs to be respectfully answered. *Grace for All: The Arminian Dynamics of Salvation* features a distinguished international panel of scholars to examine this controversy. These writers address issues such as election, free will, grace, and assurance. They make compelling scriptural arguments for the universality of God's grace, contending that Christ atoned for the sins of all people and that God sincerely offers forgiveness for all through Christ. This book strives to uncover the biblical position on salvation. We hope the reader will enjoy this stimulating series of articles on the Arminian perspective and that it will spur further writing and discussion. *Grace for All: The Arminian Dynamics of Salvation* is an updated and revised version of *Grace Unlimited*, a 1975 collection of scholarly articles assembled by the late Clark H. Pinnock of McMaster Divinity College.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Prison Religion** Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, 2011-09-26 More than the citizens of most countries, Americans are either religious or in jail--or both. But what does it mean when imprisonment and evangelization actually go hand in hand, or at least appear to? What do faith-based prison programs mean for the constitutional separation of

church and state, particularly when prisoners who participate get special privileges? In *Prison Religion*, law and religion scholar Winnifred Fallers Sullivan takes up these and other important questions through a close examination of a 2005 lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a faith-based residential rehabilitation program in an Iowa state prison. *Americans United for the Separation of Church and State v. Prison Fellowship Ministries*, a trial in which Sullivan served as an expert witness, centered on the constitutionality of allowing religious organizations to operate programs in state-run facilities. Using the trial as a case study, Sullivan argues that separation of church and state is no longer possible. Religious authority has shifted from institutions to individuals, making it difficult to define religion, let alone disentangle it from the state. *Prison Religion* casts new light on church-state law, the debate over government-funded faith-based programs, and the predicament of prisoners who have precious little choice about what kind of rehabilitation they receive, if they are offered any at all.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Power and the Powers** Andrew R. Hardy, Richard Whitehouse, Dan Yarnell, 2015-10-12 *Missio Dei* by its very nature requires the church to come to terms with the exercise of power, both internally and externally, as it confronts the world. Tune in to any newscast or glance at the daily newspaper and it immediately becomes clear that the use and abuse of power is a live issue. The more we focus on the twists and turns of current events, the more it appears that uncorrupted exercise of power eludes the human race. All too often we become uneasily aware that there are powers lying behind the power that any of us wields, whether it is in the family, the classroom, on the shop floor, in the boardroom, or in churches. Effective missional leadership involves creative engagement with the powers at work in the world without being debased by them. This book sets out to address the issue of the use and misuse of power from biblical, theological, and practical perspectives. The authors bring their theological, pastoral, missionary, and personal experience to their task in order to inform, challenge, and invite readers into a responsible use of the powers that God has put into the hands of each one of us to achieve his purposes in the world.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Baptism, Superstitions, and the Supernatural** Lesley George Anderson, 2022-07-07 *Baptism, Superstitions, and the Supernatural* by Rev. Dr. Lesley G. Anderson is a book uniquely, and unquestionably, one of the most informative and remarkable of its type. The sacrament of baptism is undoubtedly to this day an exceedingly controversial sacrament of the Christian Church. The continuing differing debates, arguments, and views about adult (believers') versus infant baptism are examined. Superstitions and the supernatural associated with this sacrament are given adequate attention in addition to the many other informative factors relating to this sacrament. Further, this sacrament is examined as a scriptural, psychological, theological, and social reality. The introduction of baptism as a liturgical phenomenon highlights the educational quality of this book as it takes the reader into the interesting and fascinating areas of baptism of blood, baptism by fire, baptism of the dead, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and baptism in the name of Jesus only. In addition, this book brings to the fore an intrinsic excitement and understanding about the symbols and symbolisms, images and mysteries, signs and wonders associated with this sacrament. The role of the Holy Spirit and the centrality of Jesus in the baptismal act are of importance recognized. If symbolically baptism means dying to sin and rising to new life with Christ, does this apply only to adult believers? This book explores the question against the background of research conducted in the Central American country of Belize that unearthed the views and beliefs of laypersons. The reach of the work extends beyond Belize, and Methodist traditions are compared with contrasting beliefs and practices of other denominations. Popular superstitions associated with baptism are also explored as well as the impact of African cultural practices on Christian theology in the lived experience of Caribbean peoples. Although this research was conducted in Belize, it is borderless and boundless. Of vital interest is the exploration of this sacrament in African religious beliefs and cultural practices. According to Professor Neville Duncan, former director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, the book is "theologically and sociologically stimulating...while

written from the Methodist perspective...the issues raised will resonate with all Christian denominations." All denominations noted in this book are given their due respect regardless of their beliefs and/or baptismal practices.

**westminster handbook to evangelical theology: Theology and the Mirror of Scripture**  
Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Daniel J. Treier, 2015-11-09 In this inaugural volume in the Studies in Christian Doctrine and Scripture, Kevin J. Vanhoozer and Daniel J. Treier set forth a programmatic proposal for evangelical theology, rooted in the claim that the church's vocation is to mirror the witness of Scripture in its doctrine and discipleship.

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