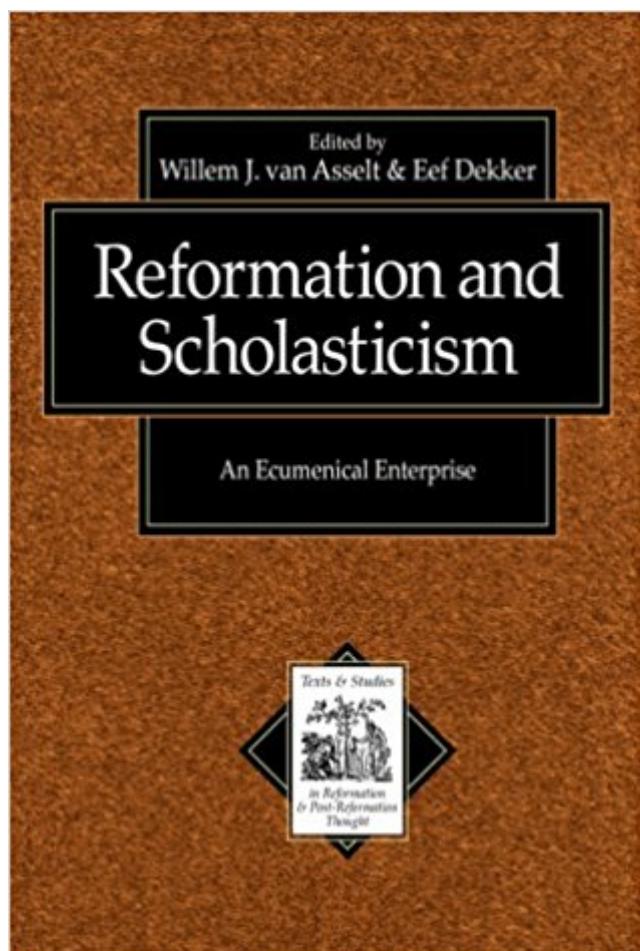


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Reformation And Scholasticism: An Ecumenical Enterprise (Texts And Studies In Reformation And Post-Reformation Thought)



Synopsis

Thirteen noted scholars look closely at the relationship between the Reformation and Calvinist Scholasticism, emphasizing overlooked connections between these two major intellectual movements.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Historical theologians have commonly held that no close connection exists between the two major intellectual movements of the sixteenth century-Reformation and Calvinist Scholasticism. Recent scholarship, however, has brought to light a number of theological misconceptions and historical inaccuracies, leading some researchers to claim that Calvinist Scholasticism is not a betrayal but a continuation of the Reformation heritage. This book brings together papers presented during a colloquium held Utrecht University by thirteen highly respected European and American church historians. These essays focus on both the backward-looking relationship between the Reformation and Medieval Scholasticism and the forward-looking relationship between the Reformation and Protestant Scholasticism. Willem J. van Asselt and Eef Dekker are faculty members at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Dr. van Asselt is lecturer in church history and Dr. Dekker is lecturer in philosophical theology. Both have been widely published in the academic community.

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This collection of very helpful essays introduces the reader to the issues surrounding the rise, development and nature of Protestant Scholasticism. As much as the Reformers sought to rid themselves of Aristotle and the much despised scholastics of the medieval era it was necessary to use precise terms that would be understood by Lutherans, Catholics and Reformed when they entered into dialogue. Aristotle and his categories provided a common language for all Europeans to speak and also granted much needed clarity. Ironically Protestants (both Lutheran and Reformed) began creating Summas of their own even as Roman Catholics developed a greater appreciation for Aquinas. The humanist agenda to eradicate Scholasticism had only temporarily succeeded, the need for clarity was greater. The 17th century has been maligned by many as a period of theological malaise or of excessive rationalism, but Protestant scholastics never dreamed of supplanting faith with reason. This collection of essays attempts to demonstrate that 17th century scholasticism was not a deviation from Reformation principles.

This book is a collection of papers presented at a colloquium in Utrecht in 2001. Like any collection of papers the quality is not uniform. However, these papers range from very good to excellent. This is a good overview of the discussion regarding continuity of medieval scholasticism - reformation thought - reformed scholasticism. One of the consistent refrains was appreciative reference to Muller's Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics. While this book is of particular interest to period specialists it is accessible to any reader who is willing to give the effort.

This outstanding volume brings together papers by thirteen highly respected European and American church historians, including Dr. Willem van Asselt, Dr. Cornelis Augustijn, Dr. Andreas J. Beck, Dr. Frits G. M. Boreyer, Dr. Lucio J. van den Brom, Dr. Eef Dekker, Dr. Harm Goris, Dr. Bernt Loonstra, Dr. Richard A. Muller, Dr. Sebastian Rehnman, Dr. Willem van't Spijker, Dr. Carl Trueman and Dr. Antonie Vos.

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