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Robinson's "Introduction to theology for ministry" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Robinson, E. A. (2017). *Introduction to theology for ministry*. Nashville: Wesley's Foundery Books. 199 pp. \$24.99. ISBN 9780938162407

The title of this book is very appropriate since it primarily addresses the beginning stages of doing theology for ministry – primarily for United Methodist (UM) pastors. Although the book is light on working out theology in the church, Robinson does a good job of answering four questions from a Wesleyan perspective: What is theology? How did theology develop? How do we do theology? and What do we believe? The author describes how theology developed in church history as a way to make sense of God and His presence and will for humanity and creation that can keep us from harm, deepen our relationship to God, and give us the ability to help others. She stresses Wesley's Quadrilateral, i.e. scripture, tradition, reason, and Christian experience as the source of theology, but her biblical citations are very few. Just before concluding the book, Robinson, who received her theological training from UM seminaries and who both teaches at a UM seminary and co-pastors a UM church, includes an overview of orthodox UM theology. However, the author also presents liberal Christian views as options. Her application is limited to Questions for Reflection and Resources for Further Reading at the end of the Introduction and each chapter, and a charge to UM pastors to put theology into their ministries in the three-page conclusion. While of limited use to Evangelicals, they may receive benefit from reading the first two chapters on the definition and development of theology.

Reviewer

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