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Rigby's "Holding faith: A practical introduction to Christian doctrine" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Rigby, C.R. (2018). *Holding faith: A practical introduction to Christian doctrine*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon. 372 pp. \$24.22. ISBN 9781426758140

Cynthia L. Rigby is the W. C. Brown Professor of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She holds a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rigby's academic interest is to join in conversation Reformed theologies with liberation theology, particularly feminist theologies. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and currently, Rigby is the co-chair of the Reformed Theology and History Unit for the American Academy of Religion.

Rigby's latest volume, *Holding Faith*, is most similar to a theology textbook; however, the author has written *Holding Faith* with the design to reach a broad and diverse demographic (p. xxvii). Rigby's agenda is "to enter into the treasure trove of the Christian faith and revel in what we have inherited, sorting through it all with curiosity, honesty, and integrity" (p. xi). This includes an honest exploration of the Christian faith and those doctrines that have done harm (p. xi). She later supports her thesis by asserting that "this book will help you gain a basic grasp of major Christian doctrines as well as explore why and how they matter to our lives of faith" (p. xii).

One of Rigby's major goals in the book is to "offer clear explanations of certain key technical terms," as she believes that once this work is done the reader will have a basic meaning of a term (p. xix). As a result, the reader will no longer feel excluded or intimidated by the technical language or concepts. Rigby fears that for too long the ideas and language of theology have been the exclusive property of trained theologians and she desires to change that in *Holding Faith*. It is also important for Ribgy, that the reader is given space to be "curious enough to be skeptical of certain claims made by the Christian faith, and skeptical in ways that lead to further pursuit of what matters rather than to 'shutting down' in relation to matters of faith" (p. xxvii).

Overall, this book is clear and thorough with well-documented endnotes. I believe that Rigby accomplishes her goal and *Holding Faith* would be a valuable resource for any student of theology, particularly those interested in an introduction to Christian doctrine.

Reviewer

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