Classic Christianity A Systematic Theology By Thomas C Oden

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One Faith James Innell Packer 2004 Jesus Christ promised a unity for his church. Are there now clear evidences of that within evangelicalism? Or are evangelicals fragmenting into ever smaller divisions? Renowned theologians J. I. Packer and Thomas C. Oden make the case that there is a significant theological consensus holding the evangelical church together. With copious citations from statements produced since 1950 that are widely representative of international evangelical faith, Packer and Oden let these witnesses speak for themselves. Packer and Oden survey several key documents of evangelicalism, particularly the Lausanne Covenant (1974), the Manila Manifesto (1989), The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration (1999) and The Amsterdam Declaration (2000). Charting sixteen different theological themes, they also include references to numerous documents produced by evangelical theological seminaries and societies, mission agencies, parachurch organizations and assorted special convocations. More than informational, One Faith arises out of the hope that it may not only edify the evangelical church but also provide a potential foundation for a new ecumenism that gives glory to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the good news of his gospel.

Systematic Theology Louis Berkhof 1996-09-24 This new printing of Louis Berkhof's classic Systematic Theology represents a publishing landmark. For the first time in its long and acclaimed history, Berkhof's monumental treatment of the doctrines of the Reformed faith is now available together in one volume with Introduction to the Study of Systematic Theology, Berkhof's formal prolegomenon to his theology. Meant to be read together with Systematic
Theology, the Introduction includes Berkhof's discussions of the nature and character of dogmatics, the methods and history of theological system, and the principia, or foundations, of theology - Scripture and God. This edition also includes a new preface by Richard A. Muller that explains both the publishing history and the relation and importance of the Introduction to the rest of Berkhof's text. Written in a concise and compact style and organized in a manner ideal for detailed study, Systematic Theology covers the full range of theology in traditional systematic fashion - examining, in order, the doctrines of God, anthropology, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. The work also includes an extensive bibliography and full indexes to the authors, subjects, and Scriptures referenced in the text. Revised and enlarged throughout his lifetime until it reached its present final form, Systematic Theology not only stands as Berkhof's magnum opus but also is widely considered to be the most important twentieth-century compendium of Reformed theology.

**Systematic Theology** John Miley 1894

*Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine* H. Wayne House 2019-01-15 Provides a visual overview of the major subjects within the discipline of theology as well as various perspectives on doctrines. Packed with teaching and learning tools—from charts and timelines, to tables and visual guides—Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine will help any student of theology quickly grasp and remember the basics. Notable topics include: Distinctive traits of theological systems. A guide to interpretation of biblical texts. Classic arguments for the existence of God. Charts on Christology (the study of Christ) and Pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit). Views of salvation and other charts on soteriology. Charts concerning ecclesiology, including guides to understanding the differing views on sacraments and church office. Key terms to the second coming of Christ. Perfect for enhancing every type of teaching and learning situation and style, including homeschooling curricula and tutoring, church classes and Sunday school. ZondervanCharts are ready references for those who need the essential information at their fingertips. Accessible and highly useful, the books in this library offer clear organization and thorough summaries of issues, subjects, and topics that are key for Christian students and learners. The visuals and captions will cater to any teaching methodology, style, or program.

*Learning Theology* Amos Yong 2018-09-04 Theology—the attempt to come to a deeper, more faithful understanding of one's encounter with God—is something to which all Christians are called. In Learning Theology, Amos Yong invites the reader to lay claim to that calling and to see it as yet another opportunity to love God. Written for those taking their first course in the subject, this book introduces the foundational sources and tasks of theology. It asks what difference theology makes in our lives, how it can influence the way we write and study, and how we understand other forms of learning as part of the Spirit's leadership. Yong encourages the reader to see all of life through the lens of faith, and Learning Theology offers tools to more thoughtfully and faithfully perform that task.
Systematic Theology Thomas C. Oden 2006-02-01 Emphasizing the beliefs common to all branches of Christendom rather than the issues that divide, Thomas Oden brings the full weight of two millennia of discussion to bear on the ever-contemporary questions of Christian faith. His magisterial study not only treats the traditional elements of systematic theology, referencing hundreds of theologians-Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, charismatic—but also highlights the foundational exegetes of history. Broadly ecumenical in the truest sense of the word, and written from the perspective of a theological liberal-turned-evangelical, Oden's direct, frank, and provocative approach articulates the concerns of a broad spectrum of Christians-pastors, teachers, seminarians, and thoughtful laity.

The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology John Webster 2009-09-10 The Oxford Handbook of Systematic Theology brings together a set of original and authoritative accounts of all the major areas of current research in Christian systematic theology, offering a thorough survey of the state of the discipline and of its prospects for those undertaking research and teaching in the field. The Handbook engages in a comprehensive examination of themes and approaches, guiding the reader through current debates and literatures in the context of the historical development of systematic theological reflection. Organized thematically, it treats in detail the full array of topics in systematic theology, as well as questions of its sources and norms, its relation to other theological and non-theological fields of enquiry, and some major trends in current work. Each chapter provides an analysis of research and debate on its topic. The focus is on doctrinal (rather than historical) questions, and on major (rather than ephemeral) debates. The aim is to stimulate readers to reach theological judgements on the basis of consideration of the range of opinion. Drawn from Europe, the UK, and North America, the authors are all leading practitioners of the discipline. Readers will find expert guidance as well as creative suggestions about the future direction of the study of Christian doctrine.

Theology in the Context of World Christianity Timothy C. Tennent 2007 As Christianity advances in the South and East, its universal truths face new questions and are expressed in new ways. Majority world theological reflection needs to be brought into conversation with Western theology. Doing so will uncover blind spots and biases and will bring a potentially revitalizing agent into the Western church.

Life in the Spirit Thomas C. Oden 2006-02 Life in the Spirit is the third volume of Thomas Oden's Systematic Theology. It considers the presence of the Holy Spirit in history, and his power in the lives and communities of present day believers.

Requiem Thomas C. Oden 1995 Requiem: A Lament in Three Movements is a post-liberal critique of the mainline liberal ecclesiastical establishment, especially the theological seminaries and church bureaucracies. Thomas C. Oden identifies the failure of contemporary theological education and its
accompanying ideology, maps out the ultra-liberalization of church bureaucracies and special-interest politics, and calls for a return to classical Christian theological roots and categories. Broadly ecumenical in the truest sense of the word, and written from the perspective of a former fellow traveling liberal, Oden's direct, frank, and provocative approach articulates concerns many church people - leaders, pastors, teachers, seminarians, and the faithful in the pews - hold. Requiem promises to be one of the most controversial and important contributions to the debate about the nature and calling of the church in the last half of the last decade of this millennium.

"Born Again": A Portrait and Analysis of the Doctrine of Regeneration within Evangelical Protestantism Stephen J. Hamilton 2017-04-03 Stephen J. Hamilton attempts to create a "portrait" of "born-again" Christianity by providing a general introduction to the doctrine of regeneration, including its development in modernity, as well as short exegeses of relevant scriptural texts, followed by a close reading of four theologians — Philipp Jakob Spener, Jonathan Edwards, Friedrich D.E. Schleiermacher, and Charles G. Finney — who all associate the doctrine of regeneration with an experience of presence in the individual believer. In light of these analyses, he then traces a general theological structure of the "born-again" understanding of regeneration, including a catalogue of theological issues over which there is significant disagreement, in order to create a topography of "born-again" theologies. In the final section, he applies these results to contemporary conversion narratives of non-theologians. It is in such conversion narratives, the author argues, that theologians can discover an implicit, "lived" theology that reveals how doctrines are perceived and put into practice among Christians. Accordingly, this is to be understood as the result of the creative reciprocity between (often tacit) theological convictions and the experiences of the Christian life. The final chapter, as a coda to the entire work, offers some concluding reflections on the present cultural and political situation in the USA pertaining to "born-again" Christianity and argues against any oversimplifications of the relationship between "born-again" theologies, culture, and politics.

Divine Simplicity Paul R. Hinlicky 2016-07-19 A Fresh Articulation of the Unity of God This volume critiques various ways divine simplicity--which suggests God's being is identical to God's attributes--has shaped Christian theology and offers a fresh articulation of the unity of God. The author proposes that the concept of divine simplicity, carried over from the Greek metaphysical tradition, was heedlessly incorporated into the language of Christian trinitarian theology during the patristic period. He identifies numerous problems that have resulted from its retention in postpatristic Christian dogmatics, arguing that uncritical use of the concept renders the biblical God inexpressible and unknowable. This major contribution to contemporary trinitarian dogmatics also contains a unique approach to the problem of Christian-Muslim relations.

Types of Pentecostal Theology Christopher A. Stephenson 2016-10-01 In the first
critical study of the major theologians of pentecostalism, one of the fastest
growing and most influential religious traditions in the world, Christopher A.
Stephenson establishes four original categories to classify pentecostal
theologians' methodologies in systematic/constructive theology. The four
categories are based respectively on: the arrangement of biblical texts; the
relationship between theology and Christian spirituality; doctrine concerning
the kingdom of God; and pneumatology as a basis for philosophical and
fundamental theology. Stephenson analyzes each methodological type and suggests
a pentecostal theological method that builds on the strengths of each. He then
offers his own, original contribution, arguing for a reciprocal relationship
between pentecostal spirituality and doctrine that follows the pattern of lex
orandi, lex credendi, and develops a doctrine of the Lord's supper as a
demonstration of this reciprocal relationship. Types of Pentecostal Theology
provides critical insight into such fundamental issues as the relationship
between theology and philosophy, the dynamic between scripture and tradition,
and the similarities and differences between recent pentecostal theology and
other currents in contemporary theology.

Volume III of a tetralogy devoted to Divine Agency and Divine Action
articulates a comprehensive vision of systematic theology focused on divine
action from creation to eschatology. Volume I developed the foundational
conceptual work by showing that the concept of action is a radically open
concept that readily makes possible the appropriation of divine action for
today. Volume II explained that in exploring divine action one needs to specify
the actual divine actions under review and thus showed that there could be no
progress with extensive soundings across the tradition from Paul to Molina.
Work on divine action requires extended work in doctrinal criticism rooted in
the history of theology as a prelude to normative work that communicates a
normative vision of divine action for today. This vision is best explored by
taking up the great themes of systematic theology from creation to eschatology
yet treating them in a deflationary manner that sees systematic theology as
university-level, postbaptismal, Christian instruction. Leading scholar William
J. Abraham recognises that we live in a golden period of theological studies-
the range and depth of material is extraordinary-yet we also live in a period
of disorientation and confusion that calls for a fresh engagement with the
demands of systematic theology. Divine Agency and Divine Action, Volume III
meets that demand by insisting that systematic theology has its own content and
modes of inquiry; that it belongs intimately to the journey of faith; and that
it requires authentic academic clarity and rigor. It reclaims the rightful
place of systematic theology as the center of gravity for theological studies
but does so in a manner that makes it available to both the church and to the
academy.

The Word of Life Thomas Oden 2001

The Bible and the Pursuit of Happiness Brent A. Strawn 2012-09-27 Scholars of
the social sciences have devoted increasing attention of late to the concept of
human happiness, mainly from sociological and psychological perspectives. This groundbreaking volume, which includes twelve essays from scholars of the New Testament, the Old Testament, systematic theology, practical theology, and counseling psychology—along with an extensive introduction and epilogue by the editor—poses a new and exciting question: what is happiness according to the Bible? Informed by developments in positive psychology, the contributions explore representations of happiness throughout the Bible and demonstrate the ways in which they impinge upon both religious and secular understandings of happiness.

**John Wesley's Teachings, Volume 1**

**Thomas C. Oden** 2012-08-07

The first presentation of John Wesley's doctrinal teachings in a systematic form that is also faithful to Wesley's own writings in ebook format. Wesley was a prolific writer and commentator on Scripture, yet it is commonly held that he was not systematic or internally consistent in his theology and doctrinal teachings. On the contrary, Thomas C. Oden intends to demonstrate here that Wesley displayed a remarkable degree of consistency over sixty years of preaching and ministry. The book helps readers to grasp Wesley's essential teachings in an accessible form so that the person desiring to go directly to Wesley's own writings (which fill eighteen volumes) will know exactly where to turn. This volume focuses on Wesley's doctrinal teaching. Other volumes in this series deal with his ethical and pastoral care teachings.

**Systematic Theology**

**Robert Letham** 2019-11-19

This comprehensive systematic theology by respected theologian Robert Letham covers the whole field of Reformed Christian doctrine from biblical, historical, and theological angles. Letham begins with God's ultimate self-revelation as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in indivisible union, continuing on with the works of God in creation, providence, and grace. He draws deeply from Scripture and important voices from the church to provide a clear and concise articulation of the Reformed faith. He also addresses current issues such as feminism, charismatic gifts, sexual ethics, environmentalism, other religions, the nature of truth, and civil liberties. Each chapter is followed by discussion questions, with a glossary of terms included at the end. This work grounds theological understanding and practice in the life and ministry of the church, accessible to pastors, students, scholars, and anyone who desires to understand, believe, and live scriptural doctrine more fully.

**The African Memory of Mark**

**Thomas C. Oden** 2011-07-27

We often regard the author of the Gospel of Mark as an obscure figure about whom we know little. Many would be surprised to learn how much fuller a picture of Mark exists within widespread African tradition, tradition that holds that Mark himself was from North Africa, that he founded the church in Alexandria, that he was an eyewitness to the Last Supper and Pentecost, that he was related not only to Barnabas but to Peter as well and accompanied him on many of his travels. In this provocative reassessment of early church tradition, Thomas C. Oden begins with the palette of New Testament evidence and adds to it the range of colors from traditional African sources, including synaxaries (compilations of short
biographies of saints to be read on feast days), archaeological sites, non-Western historical documents and ancient churches. The result is a fresh and illuminating portrait of Mark, one that is deeply rooted in African memory and seldom viewed appreciatively in the West.

**Theological Institutes** Richard Watson 1836

*Systematic Theology* Anthony C. Thiselton 2015-10-21 In this concise, one-volume systematic theology, celebrated scholar Anthony Thiselton comprehensively covers the spectrum of Christian doctrine with an eye to practical application for Christian discipleship. Written with students and busy ministers in mind, this book is readable and accessible, comprising fifteen chapters of relatively equal length, with each chapter containing five evenly balanced subsections for teaching and learning convenience. Rather than setting out an abstract system, Thiselton explores theology as a living, organic whole. The book thus includes biblical foundations, historical thought, contemporary writers, and practical implications. Expertly incorporating biblical exegesis, philosophy, conceptual grammar, and hermeneutics, this work is the most succinct multidisciplinary systematic theology available.

**Dogmatic Theology** William Greenough Thayer Shedd 1888

*A Change of Heart* Thomas C. Oden 2014-11-06 How did one of last century's most celebrated liberals change so dramatically? In this intellectual and spiritual memoir, Thomas Oden journeys from conservative rural Methodism in Oklahoma to free-spirited theological innovation in the land of academia and back to the foundations of ancient Christianity.

**The Living God** Thomas C. Oden 1992-08-14 "Required, indispensable, and edifying reading. This book and books like it help us in the believing and living of these days".....The Circuit Rider

**The Structure of Awareness** Thomas C. Oden 1969 "This book is addressed to the one who lives in a passionate quest for deepened awareness, who hungers to touch and taste human existence more intimately, who delights in the celebration of now." "In the era of the multiversity with its fragments of introverted expertise, it does sound absurdly ambitious to make an integrative attempt at synoptic reflection, seeking to conjoin disparate insights from developmental psychology, psychotherapy, ontology, epistemology, ethics, phenomenology, the fine arts, jurisprudence, linguistics, theology, hermeneutics, liturgics, history, and the philosophy of history...Admittedly it is not because I am an expert in any or all of these fields, but instead a human being--a single, experiencing, time-bound, warm-bodied human being--that emboldens me to speak with any assurance about the human situation. More than most other academic bailiwicks, my own academic discipline (theological ethics) invites and demands such integrative reflection on man, culture, time, being and value, dysfunctional and constructive human behavior." "Our thesis: The structure of human awareness emerges directly out of man's temporal situation..."
and his relation to being." (excerpts from the Introduction, by Thomas C. Oden)

**Ancient Christian Devotional** Cindy Crosby 2009-03-25 A follow-up to the previous Ancient Christian Devotional, which follows lectionary cycle A, this devotional guide follows lectionary cycle C, which begins in Advent 2009. This guide to prayer and reflection combines excerpts from the writings of the church fathers as found in the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture with a simple structure for daily or weekly reading and prayer.

**Classic Christianity** Thomas C. Oden 2009-08-04 For the first time, Thomas Oden's Systematic Theology classic series (individually titled The Living God, The Word of Life, and Life in the Spirit) is available in one complete volume. A renowned theologian, Oden provides a consensus view of the Christian faith, delving deeply into ancient Christian tradition and bringing to the contemporary church the best wisdom from its past. In this magisterial work, Oden tackles the central questions of Christian belief and the nature of the trinity. Written for clergy, Christian educators, religious scholars, and lay readers alike, Classic Christianity provides the best synthesis of the whole history of Christian thought. Part one explores the most intriguing questions of the study of God: Does God exist? Does Jesus reveal God? Is God personal, compassionate, free?—and presents answers that reflect the broad consensus culled from the breadth of the church's teachers. It is rooted deeply and deliberately in scripture but confronts the contemporary mind with the vitality of the Christian tradition. Part two addresses the perplexing Christological issues of whether God became flesh, whether God became Christ, and whether Christ is the source of salvation. Oden details the core beliefs concerning Jesus Christ that have been handed down for the last two hundred decades, namely, who he was, what he did, and what that means for us today. Part three examines how the work of God in creation and redemption is being brought to consummation by the Holy Spirit in persons, through communities, and in the fullness of human destiny. Oden's magisterial study not only treats the traditional elements of systematic theology but also highlights the foundational exegetes throughout history. Covering the ecumenical councils and early synods; the great teachers of the Eastern church tradition, including Athanasius and John Chrysostom; and the prominent Western figures such as Augustine, Ambrose, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, and John Calvin, this book offers the reader the fullest understanding of the Christian faith available.

**How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind** Thomas C. Oden 2010-07-23 Thomas C. Oden surveys the decisive role of African Christians and theologians in shaping the doctrines and practices of the church of the first five centuries, and makes an impassioned plea for the rediscovery of that heritage. Christians throughout the world will benefit from this reclaiming of an important heritage.

**God Is Love** Gerald Bray 2012 Traces the common theme of God's love through the Bible categorically -- from God's love for himself and his creation to the cross as the ultimate expression of God's love.
John Wesley's Teachings---Complete Set  Thomas C. Oden 2014-02-04 This complete set of Thomas C. Oden's masterful study is a text-by-text guide to John Wesley's teachings. It introduces Wesley's thought on the basic tenets of Christian teaching: God, providence, and man (volume 1), Christ and salvation (volume 2), the practice of pastoral care (volume 3), and issues of ethics and society (volume 4).

John Wesley's Scriptural Christianity  Thomas C. Oden 1994 Oden shows that Wesley displayed a remarkable degree of internal consistency in his teachings over sixty years of preaching. The book helps readers to grasp Wesley's essential teachings in an accessible form so that the person desiring to go directly to Wesley's own writings will know exactly where to turn.

Across the Spectrum  Gregory A. Boyd 2022-08-16 This accessible yet comprehensive primer helps readers understand the breadth of viewpoints on major issues in evangelical theology, with chapters using the popular multiple-views format. This third edition of a well-received textbook (over 60,000 copies sold) has been updated and revised throughout. It examines positions taken by evangelical scholars on seventeen seminal issues. In addition, it offers end-of-chapter "For Further Reading" sections, an extensive glossary, and an appendix that addresses contrasting views on fifteen additional issues in contemporary evangelicalism.

The Transforming Power of Grace  Thomas C. Oden 1993 How does an infinite God relate to finite human beings? How does the death of Jesus Christ bring about human salvation? How are Christians able to actively address the world's ills while maintaining their citizenship in the kingdom of God? These are questions the church grapples with today, as it always has. Yet, according to Thomas C. Oden, contemporary theology has neglected the church's traditional answer to these questions: the doctrine of grace. All too often modern theologians either ignore the doctrine of grace or relate it to the achievement of a particular political agenda. Oden asserts that only by reclaiming the centrality of grace-defined as God's self-giving through Jesus Christ in personal encounter with the individual human will--can Christian theology be true to the gospel. In order to reclaim the doctrine of grace, the author reaches back, beyond the fragmentation of theology that took place during and after the Enlightenment. He draws upon the ecumenical consensus held by early Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant theologians, councils, and creeds regarding this cardinal Christian doctrine. By adducing this ancient unity, Oden challenges modern assumptions concerning the sources and methods of the theological enterprise and calls contemporary Christians to discern what their forebears in the faith knew to be essential to the gospel: that to be a Christian is to be formed, nurtured, and upheld solely by divine grace.

The Justification Reader  Thomas C. Oden 2002 Oden uses a broad brush to paint his narrowly focused subject---salvation by grace through faith. Athanasius, Chrysostom, Ambrose, Basil, Jerome, and Augustine are just some of the figures Oden cites---church fathers whose teachings were restated nearly verbatim by...
16th-century Reformers. An accessible and detailed search for the core of this theological linchpin.


**Systematic Theology** Francis Schüssler Fiorenza 2011 Unique among contemporary resources, the landmark Systematic Theology and its distinguished contributors present the major areas or loci of Roman Catholic theology in light of contemporary developments--especially the sea-change since Vatican II thought, the best new historical studies of traditional doctrines and scripture, and the diverse creative impulses that come from recent philosophy and hermeneutics, culture and praxis, and ecumenical contacts.

**Systematic Theology, Second Edition** Wayne A. Grudem 2020-12-08 This new edition of Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem is one of the most important resources for helping you understand Scripture and grow as a Christian. The most widely used resource of the last 25 years in its area, Systematic Theology has been thoroughly revised and expanded for the first time while retaining the features that have made it the standard in its field: clear explanations, an emphasis on each doctrine's scriptural basis, and practical applications to daily life. With nearly 250 pages of new content and revisions, this new edition now includes the following distinctive features: Updated analysis of recent controversies within evangelical theology, including the eternal relationship between the Father and the Son in the Trinity, the role of women in the church, miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, and contemporary worship music. New discussion and critiques of recent theological controversies situated outside of traditional evangelical theology, such as open theism, the "new perspective on Paul," Molinism (or "middle knowledge"), "Free Grace" theology, and the preterist view of Christ's second coming. Completely revised chapter on the clarity of Scripture. Completely revised chapter on creation and evolution, including a longer critique of theistic evolution and an extensive discussion on the age of the earth. New discussion of how biblical inerrancy applies to some specific "problem verses" in the Gospels. Additional material explaining evangelical Protestant differences with Roman Catholicism, Protestant liberalism, and Mormonism. Completely updated bibliographies. All Scripture quotations updated from RSV to ESV. Updated section on contemporary worship music. Numerous other updates and corrections. Part of the brilliance of Systematic Theology has been its simplicity and ease of use. Each chapter follows the same structure: discussion of the doctrine being considered, an explanation of that doctrine's biblical support and possible objections, followed by personal application and key terms to know for personal growth. Chapters also include a Scripture memory passage, references to other literature on the topic, and suggested hymns and worship songs. If you think theology is hard to understand or boring, then this new edition of Systematic Theology will change your mind.

**Classic Christianity** Thomas C. Oden 2009-08-04 For the first time, Thomas
Oden's Systematic Theology classic series (individually titled The Living God, The Word of Life, and Life in the Spirit) is available in one complete volume. A renowned theologian, Oden provides a consensus view of the Christian faith, delving deeply into ancient Christian tradition and bringing to the contemporary church the best wisdom from its past. In this magisterial work, Oden tackles the central questions of Christian belief and the nature of the trinity. Written for clergy, Christian educators, religious scholars, and lay readers alike, Classic Christianity provides the best synthesis of the whole history of Christian thought. Part one explores the most intriguing questions of the study of God—Does God exist? Does Jesus reveal God? Is God personal, compassionate, free?—and presents answers that reflect the broad consensus culled from the breadth of the church's teachers. It is rooted deeply and deliberately in scripture but confronts the contemporary mind with the vitality of the Christian tradition. Part two addresses the perplexing Christological issues of whether God became flesh, whether God became Christ, and whether Christ is the source of salvation. Oden details the core beliefs concerning Jesus Christ that have been handed down for the last two hundred decades, namely, who he was, what he did, and what that means for us today. Part three examines how the work of God in creation and redemption is being brought to consummation by the Holy Spirit in persons, through communities, and in the fullness of human destiny. Oden's magisterial study not only treats the traditional elements of systematic theology but also highlights the foundational exegetes throughout history. Covering the ecumenical councils and early synods; the great teachers of the Eastern church tradition, including Athanasius and John Chrysostom; and the prominent Western figures such as Augustine, Ambrose, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, and John Calvin, this book offers the reader the fullest understanding of the Christian faith available.

**Doctrinal Standards in the Wesleyan Tradition** Thomas C. Oden 2008 The history of Wesleyan family of churches doctrines What are our core beliefs? Doctrinal Standards in the Wesleyan Tradition, Revised Edition, narrates the history of the formation of Wesleyan doctrines, describing how they were transplanted from the British Isles to North American, how they became constitutionally protected in Wesleyan-rooted churches. The first edition of this book affected the outcome of the 1988 General Conference of The United Methodist Church as the delegates decided many then-disputed doctrinal issues. This revised edition addresses the continuing hunger for more precise and useful information on the doctrinal traditions of mainline Protestantism. Hence the arguments have been updated with more than 400 changes. Included are doctrinal statements for the Evangelical United Bethren, Free Methodist, Methodist Protestant, Wesleyan, Nazarene, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and African Methodist Episcopal Churches; as well as an outline syllabus of a Course on the Articles of Religion.

**Pastoral Theology** Thomas C. Oden 1983-05-25 This much-needed book fully integrates principles of pastoral care, leadership, and theology to restore to ministers a clearly defined pastoral identity. Moving from a critique of inadequate models for ministry -- from community organizer to T. V. evangelist,
-- Oden develops a more classical model, rich in its references to the past and compatible both with Christian faith and theology through the ages and with current needs. Reconciling classical tradition with practice, Pastoral Theology will be a standard resource and reference in the field. Oden distills the best ideas of the two millennia of ecumenical Christian thinking concerning what pastors are and do. Pastoral Theology provides the foundational knowledge of the pastoral office requisite to the practice of ministry. It will be of interest to persons preparing for ordination in its review of key issues; at the same time, Pastoral Theology will appeal to all those who have considered entering the ministry, those who want to know more about what clergy do and why, and those ministers who want to review their ongoing work in the light of a systematic reflection on the pastoral gifts and tasks.