

# One Holy And Happy Society The Public Theology Of Jonathan Edwards

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and Promise of Freedom Essays in Public Theology Public Theology in Law and Life Toward a  
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Darkness Public Theology Perspectives on Religion and Education The Public Theology of  
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the book is a unique stocktaking by a leading international group of theologians social  
scientists and other scholars on issues facing public theology at the beginning of the 21st  
century it combines retrospect and prospect in that it reflects on the issues and approaches  
that have characterized public theology in the 20th century especially its latter half and  
attempts to anticipate those which will or should come to the fore in the 21st century  
seeking to discern continuities and changes three opening chapters deal with the overall  
theme of public or political theology with jurgen moltmann giving a critical historical  
account from the second world war onwards raymond plant relating such theology to  
cultural pluralism and andrew morton illustrating it from the work of duncan forrester  
these are followed by pairs of contributions relating public theology to more specific topics  
history technology and creation globalization spirituality punishment and forgiveness  
medical ethics tolerance and human rights social exclusion and equality

the term public theology was introduced by martin e marty in a 1974 article since then  
scholarly discussions on public theology have become more popular in academic circles this

book however is about the invitation for moving beyond the academy it provides two reasons for doing so first an overtly academic public theology is in crisis today although public theology may be flourishing in the academy its relevance for real life is limited second there is the ecclesial flourishing among grassroots christian communities across asia who witness to their lived faith in public and hidden life their voices are largely unheard due to the gaps between the academy and the church this volume argues that we should consider their voices as key sources for developing a relevant lived asian public theology the author makes the case for reimagining the paradigm shifts in lived asian public theology of religions and for bridging the unhappy gaps between the academic and grassroots voices

postcolonial public theology is a tour de force theological reflection transformed by encounter with the most compelling intellectual discourses of our time it offers prophetic challenge to the hegemony of economic globalization evolutionary science s encounter with life s limit questions requires an ethically responsible practice of scientific rationality measured by sufficient sustainable livelihood for all interreligious engagement compels us to take seriously the realities of cultural hybridity and social location in reimagining a polycentric christianity postcolonial public theology makes the case for public theology to turn toward postcolonial imagination demonstrating a fresh rethinking of public and global issues that continue to emerge in the aftermath of colonialism this book provides students and scholars in these various fields an interesting framework from which to continue to dialogue about the relevance of this literature and in particular the continuing importance of christian theology in the public arena

this book gives a persuasive answer to the need for public theology today rudolf von sinner can draw from a rich basis of scholarship and experience related to the topic of public theology his clear awareness of the contextuality of public theology is the reason for his repeated assurance in this book that we cannot speak about public theology but always only of a public theology at the same time it is very clear for him that there is also an intercontextuality one of the great strengths of this book is its embeddedness into an international discourse on public theology with a special emphasis on the south south exchange it is a contribution to public theology scholarship in its best sense i proudly welcome its publication in our series bishop prof dr heinrich bedford strohm evangelical church of germany rudolf von sinner is professor of systematic theology at the pontifical catholic university of paran  at curitiba as well as professor extra ordinary at the faculty of theology of the university of stellenbosch south africa

a substantial and definitive introduction to public theology by one of the leading experts in the field a key text for third year undergraduate modules and ma courses in social ethics political theology and public theology

jesus calls us to make disciples of all the nations many christians believe this means enlisting soldiers in a culture war but putting faith in the service of politics risks remaking god in our own image how can the church help bring god s kingdom to earth without relying on the political structures of this world critiquing our idolization of the values of classical western liberalism steven f lix j ger seeks a renewal of the church s public witness he points out the pitfalls that stem from our obsession with individual freedom from the prosperity gospel to christian nationalism to conformity with secular progressivism true freedom is not about individual liberty or free market economics but about flourishing in covenant with god f lix

jäger offers a public theology that challenges the church to be a holy loving and generous witness to a world bound by visions of self absorbed autonomy and materialism inspired by jubilee and pentecost he ultimately constructs an alternative model for public witness rooted in the abundance of the spirit the problem and promise of freedom not only serves as an indispensable resource for students of religion and society but also offers urgent and clear sighted witness to the church today

what is the role of the church in society what role did the church play in south africa during apartheid in the struggle against apartheid and during the period of transformation the essays collected and published in this volume deal with questions such as these they are all occasional pieces they were written over two decades and reflect the times in which they originated always intended for specific audiences always addressing issues of the particular moment

public theology involves the application of biblical and theological principles outside the confines of the church and assesses their implications for wider society it examines both the theoretical structures of society the nature of secularity government globalisation pluralism and so forth and the myriad specific issues involved in daily life everything from sport to work place relations to economics public theology is also very importantly a discipline that is practiced by the ordinary christian as well as the academic and it is done in public with all the scrutiny that entails and in such a way that it communicates to non christians although it remains a theological endeavour in a real sense it is theology for the world from the word by the people of god the volume has a variety of contributors and includes an article on the role of public theology in islam

the essays in this volume reflect the journey of a team from myanmar and india listening and learning from each other the intention is for theologians pastors and public intellectuals from southeast asia starting from the association of theological education in south east asia atesea to initiate or strengthen discussions on the theme of public witness in situations where the discussion has begun we hope this contribution will add to the process at a fundamental level this volume will trigger a rethinking of mission in myanmar in the context of re imposed military rule the volume is divided into three parts the first offers an introduction leading up to the book and to the association of theological education in myanmar atem the second a section on theology of public witness and broad theoretical formulations concluding with a wide array of the contemporary issues on the ground the articles come out of the five workshops for professional theologians from seminaries social activists from a christian faith background and pastors

public theology is an increasingly important area of theological discourse with strong global networks of institutions and academics involved in it elaine graham is one of the uk s leading theologians and an established scm author in this book elaine graham argues that western society is entering an unprecedented political and cultural era in which many of the assumptions of classic sociological theory and of mainstream public theology are being overturned whilst many of the features of the trajectory of religious decline typical of western modernity are still apparent there are compelling and vibrant signs of religious revival not least in public life and politics local national and global this requires a revision of the classic secularization thesis as well as much western liberal political theory which set out separate or at least demarcated terms of engagement between religion and the public

domain elaine graham examines claims that western societies are moving from secular to post secular conditions and traces the contours of the post secular the revival of faith based engagement in public sphere alongside the continuing perhaps intensifying questioning of the legitimacy of religion in public life she argues that public theology must rethink its theological and strategic priorities in order to be convincing in this new post secular world and makes the case for the renewed prospects for public theology as a form of christian apologetics drawing from biblical classical and contemporary sources

this book is about the vital leadership role that true religion must play in society in order to be relevant for the threatening challenges and in order to be true to the mission and the high calling of god in christ in this 21st century to highlight this challenge the author brings forth a most difficult and bothersome question that has evolved out of the dynamic mix of cultural diversity in that question is how can the christian americans hold on to their patriotism for america and their loyalty to jesus christ with uncompromising conviction and yet be inclusive of the growing influx of cultural diversity and religious pluralism in a high technological society this book provides the theological foundation for validating the christian and american heritage in america and how this unique heritage must learn how to relate redemptively to cultural diversity ecumenism universalism and the world the enlightening principles and practice of public theology offer a ray of light and a star of hope out of the darkness

in order to draw out the relationship between publicly oriented christianity and education this book demonstrates that education is an important method and prerequisite of public theology as well as an urgent object of public theology research s attention featuring work from diverse academic disciplines including religion education theology philosophy and religious studies this edited collection also contends with the educational challenges that come with the decline of religion on the one hand and its transformation and regained public relevance on the other taken together the contributions to this volume provide a comprehensive argument for why education deserves systematic attention in the context of public theology discourse and vice versa

wolfhart pannenbergs understanding of public based on his view of revelation as history is literally everything and as everything in history from religions ideologies customs ideas etc is revelation everything in public is potentially a theology of course a public theology of everything is impossible therefore this dissertation limits itself to five spheres which are generally considered to constitute a civil society which is what public theology is concerned with i develop a pannenbergian public theology with categories and spheres provided by max stackhouse political economic familial cultural and religious and the growing field of public theology chapters 2 and 3 by first correlating pannenbergs theological methods postfoundational eschatological and trinitarian with the aims and methods of public theology chapter 4 and second with pannenbergs views on the aforementioned spheres chapter 5 arguing that pannenbergs public theology engages not just the academic world but also the political economic familial and cultural particularly notable of max stackhouses definition of public theology is the role of powers and principalities which shape and drive the ethos of the institutional clusters of respective spheres for its similarities with pannenbergs understanding of spirit as an exocentric and propulsive field my conclusion is that pannenberg can be seen as a public theologian because the public purpose of his theology is not to coerce or inject a christian agenda onto the public political theology

challenge and subvert unjust structures liberation theology or to substitute overtly christian religion with a publicly palatable secular and vaguely religious one civil religion but to cooperate and dialogue with the established order under the presumption of a christianity outside the church and the church its theology and its spirit of fellowship mutual reciprocity and beneficence this side of the eschaton is a proleptical preview of the eschatological kingdom of god which is literally everything moreover the church ethos of love responsibility responsibility and unity in distinction resembles the covenantal structures of modern democracies

this study commends the public theology of the english reformation as a fruitful though neglected resource for a critical analysis of the contradictions of freedom that riddle late modern liberal democracies and a constructive response to them drawn from the key legal liturgical homiletic and confessional elements of the english reformation this foundational anglican tradition provides a theological vantage point for understanding current moral and political impasses in the western legacy of natural rights the extensive development of natural rights in pre modern scholastic theory and practice and its continuity with theoretical development from the 17th century onward make the reformers criticisms of scholastic moral political and ecclesial thought germane to identifying the problematic features of the prevailing modern tradition and to furnishing a theological alternative to them these features are an individualistic and voluntarist conception of moral agency a regulative and juridical orientation to human relationships and an anthropocentric concentration on human rather than on divine right judgement and freedom the humanity they portray is detached from its created ordering to christological perfection and bound within a self enclosed ethical and political self understanding this is effectively countered by the english reformers presentation of the salvation of creation in christ faith working through love the spiritual fellowship of the church and the provisional character of political jurisdiction

from wealth creation to wealth distribution and social ethics from urban mission to religious studies and psychology the work of john atherton was breathtaking in scope and variety unifying all of his work however was a concern with engaging the work of theology with wider society with contributions from some of the leading lights in public theology today this book offers not only an appreciation of john atherton s work within a prodigiously large array of disciplines but also an attempt to ask what next taking his work forward and considering where the future of public theology might lie john atherton s last published article is also reproduced

building on the work of german theologian wolfgang pannenberg 1928 2014 this book develops a pannenbergian public theology

max l stackhouse is one of the most prolific and influential american theologians of the last half century and he has been widely recognized for his contributions to the emerging field of public theology this volume compiles some of stackhouse s most significant shorter writings these selections make clear his central role in the development of public theology as a distinct disciplinary perspective in the fields of christian theology and theological ethics shaping public theology serves as an introduction to stackhouse s extensive corpus readers will see the depth and breadth of his comprehensive public theology while also gaining insight into his singular importance for the field

a synthesis and critical evaluation of murray s social writings which argues that murray s life work still represents the best starting point for public theology in the united states of america

what happens when edward schillebeeckx s theology crosses paths with contemporary public theology this volume examines the theological heritage that schillebeeckx has left behind as well as it critically assesses its relevance for temporary theological scene in tracing the way s in which schillebeeckx observed and examined his own context s increasing secularization and concomitant development toward atheism the contributors to this volume indicate the potential directions for a contemporary public theology that pursues the path which schillebeeckx has trodden the essays in the first part of this volume indicate a different theological self critique undertaken in response to developments in the public sphere this is followed by a thorough examination of the degree to which schillebeeckx succeeded in leading christian theology ahead without merely accommodating the christian tradition to current societal trends the third part of the volume discusses the issues of climate change social conceptions of progress as well as the evolutionary understandings of the origins and purpose of religions the final part examines schillebeeckx s soteriology to contemporary discussions about wholeness

higher education has not escaped the imperative of transformation which has marked the post apartheid south african landscape the nature of the changes at universities however is open to critique fundamental questions concerning the ideological moorings of knowledge and the politics of the curriculum have not yet been satisfactorily addressed during the apartheid era theology faculties played influential roles at traditional universities and were often characterised by unsettling exclusion of non christian religions non calvinist denominations and marginalised voices this volume of essays evidences a process at the university of the free state s faculty of theology to reflect seriously about the need for transformation at the fundamental level that is of knowledge the challenge for theology at a public university is framed in terms of epistemological transformation a number of outstanding public intellectuals such as jonathan jansen crain soudien and lis lange have been invited to present papers to clarify the conceptual challenge and what this might entail for theology well known theologians such as conrad wethmar allan boesak and martin prozesky reflect on the nature of theology and religion at universities amidst social exigencies two international theologians harold attridge from the prestigious yale divinity school and bram van de beek from the free university of amsterdam share their experiences of institutions that exemplify excellence and ecumenical openness theologians from the departments of practical theology and systematic theology at the university of the free state writing from the inside articulate the challenges they envision for theology in a post apartheid dispensation the essays represent a variety of perspectives but all attest to a commitment to re think the nature and task of theology at a public university accepting the challenge of knowledge and power of plurality and otherness and of restorative intellectual justice these timely essays make a unique contribution to the discourses on transformation and on theology at a public university

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