

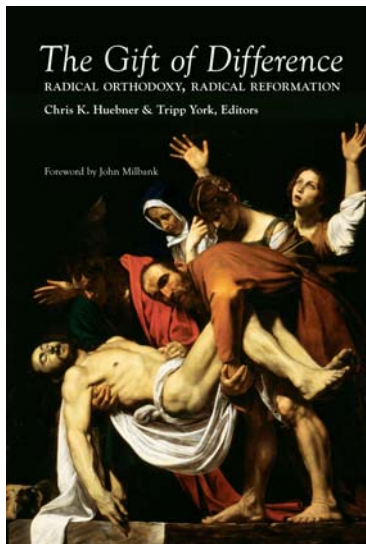
The Gift of Difference *Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation*

Chris K. Huebner and Tripp York, Editors
Foreword by John Milbank
CMU Press 2010 | 240 pages, paper | \$29.50
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The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation is a collection of essays in which leading theologians consider the strengths and weaknesses of Radical Orthodoxy in dialogue with the Radical Reformation tradition. Writers in this volume engage topics such as ecclesiology, martyrdom, worship, oath-taking, peace and violence.

For more information about *The Gift of Difference*, or to request a review copy, contact: Jonathan Dyck at cmupress@cmu.ca or 1-204-885-2565 ext. 659. A jpeg cover image of the book is available upon request.

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Endorsements

“What hath the Radical Reformation to do with Anglo-Catholics—especially Anglicans who have a lingering penchant for Christendom? The answer from this book: a lot more than you might expect! Huebner and York have staged a mutually critical interaction between Radical Orthodoxy and Mennonite theology, illuminating both as a result.”

James K. A. Smith, Calvin College, author of *Introducing Radical Orthodoxy* & editor of *Radical Orthodoxy and the Reformed Tradition*

“This book is a breath of fresh air. Retrieving central themes of classical theology, it is both faithful to tradition and innovative, offering a third way between liberalism and conservatism, one which sees theology as critical for public life without privatizing Christianity, on the one hand, or slipping into Constantinianism, on the other.”

A. James Reimer, Conrad Grebel University College, author of *Mennonites and Classical Theology: Dogmatic Foundations for Christian Ethics* & *The Dogmatic Imagination: The Dynamics of Christian Belief*



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About the Editors

Chris K. Huebner is Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Canadian Mennonite University. He is the author of *A Precarious Peace: Yoderian Explorations on Theology, Knowledge, and Identity* (Herald Press, 2006) and co-editor, with Peter Dula, of *The New Yoder* (Wipf & Stock, 2010).

Tripp York is an Instructor of Religious Studies at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He is the author of *The Purple Crown: The Politics of Martyrdom* (Herald Press, 2007) and *Living on Hope While Living in Babylon: The Christian Anarchists of the 20th Century* (Wipf & Stock, 2009).



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Press Release

NEW BOOK FROM CMU PRESS BRINGS RADICAL ORTHODOXY INTO DIALOGUE WITH RADICAL REFORMATION THEOLOGY

Essay collection includes works by theologians Craig Hovey, Harry Huebner and Stephen Long

For release July 5, 2010

Winnipeg, MB – CMU PRESS is pleased to announce the publication of *The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation* edited by Chris K. Huebner and Tripp York. *The Gift of Difference* is a collection of essays in which theologians such as Craig Hovey, Harry J. Huebner, and D. Stephen Long consider the strengths and weaknesses of Radical Orthodoxy in dialogue with the Radical Reformation tradition. Writers in this volume engage topics such as ecclesiology, martyrdom, worship, oath-taking, peace and violence.

In recent years, Radical Orthodoxy has become an important and influential movement in contemporary theology and philosophy. Spearheaded by John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward, Radical Orthodoxy enlists the resources of classical theology to engage the current strongholds of secular and religious thought.

Proponents of Radical Orthodoxy argue that the Enlightenment project to remove reason, ethics, politics and economics from a theological framework culminates in the nihilism of postmodern discourse. They suggest that much contemporary theology is idolatrous in nature because it takes the isolation of such disciplines for granted.

In the Foreword, John Milbank writes that “[modern Mennonites] see the Church itself as the true polity and (unlike most of the magisterial Reformation) they see the possibility of ‘living beyond the law’ in terms of a new sort of social and political practice.” What might this concrete expression of Christian discipleship have to suggest to a movement like Radical Orthodoxy? What gifts does Radical Orthodoxy offer academics, ministers and laypeople from Radical Reformation tradition?

“This book explores both common and divergent themes between Anabaptist/Mennonite theologians and their counterparts in the Radical Orthodoxy movement,” says co-editor Chris K. Huebner. “For example, while they jointly reject as false the dualisms characteristic of modernity, the manner in which questions of peace and justice get framed remains an ongoing debate.”

The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation (CMU PRESS) is available from the CMU Bookstore, located at 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg. Contact cmubookstore@cmu.ca; telephone 204.487.3300. The cost is \$29.50.

From the Foreword

By John Milbank

Now, at this point, what I gather from the excellent essays in the current volume is that modern Mennonites would tend to say that they offer, *not* the path of misguided purism, not the illusion of “beautiful souls,” but rather their own middle way between apoliticism and political compromise. This is because, as they rightly say, they see the church itself as the true polity and (unlike most of the magisterial Reformation) they see the possibility of “living beyond the law” in terms of a new sort of social and political practice. With all this I thoroughly agree, and am entirely at one with Stanley Hauerwas in recognising the specifically *Catholic* witness of the churches of the Radical Reformation and their later descendants, including the Quakers. For beyond the false dichotomies of faith and works, individual and association, they have understood how to be saved *is* to belong to the church in the sense of belonging to a mystical space within the world—a space that can sometimes be literally geographical, as in the invocation of a visionary Quaker Northumbria by the Quaker-raised Basil Bunting in his long poem *Briggflats* (considered by many to be the most important long poem in English in the twentieth century after T. S. Eliot’s *The Wasteland*).

From the Foreword by John Milbank in *The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation*, Chris K. Huebner & Tripp York, Editors.

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From the Introduction

If there is anything that we have in common with those within the Radical Orthodoxy movement, it is the attempt to live as faithfully as possible during this in-between time. We must raise questions that explore the meaning of how Christians are to be differently ethical and differently political. What does such difference look like in terms of our publicly-embodied lives? What does self-expression, aesthetics, art, music, and our desires look like when we reject the modern bifurcations of nature and grace as well as, in particular, the sacred and the profane? This reader functions as an attempt to address these questions.

Though there are many important differences between these two movements, some of which will be highlighted in this book, the one important commonality between the two revolves around how Christians are to seek to live in the here and the now in light of both our past and our future. Though the answer that some of the adherents of Radical Orthodoxy give may not always coincide with the Radical Reformers, the fact that they are raising these questions is a resource we would do well not to ignore.

From the Introduction to *The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation*, Chris K. Huebner & Tripp York, Editors.

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