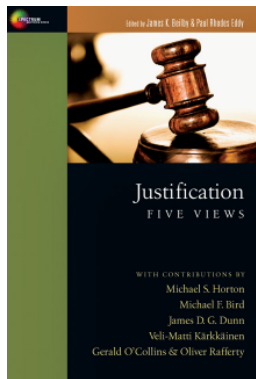


BOOK DETAILS



Justification: Five Views

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Contributors:

Michael S. Horton

Michael F. Bird

James D. G. Dunn

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen

Gerald O'Collins and
Oliver P. Rafferty

The Interpretation of Justification

"I can think of no better introduction to these important debates than this outstanding volume." –Alister E. McGrath, King's College, London

In recent years, debates over the nature of the doctrine of justification have grown increasingly heated. Given that how one understands justification is intricately linked to one's conception of sin, the atonement, conversion and even salvation itself, understanding the true meaning of justification is of critical importance.

In the latest (and perhaps most urgently needed) Spectrum series volume from IVP Academic, editors James K. Beilby and Paul Rhodes Eddy have chosen six contributors to represent the most prominent views of justification being espoused today. After each contributor sets forth his case, representatives of the differing perspectives engage and respond. Further, Beilby, Eddy and associate editor Steven E. Enderlein provide necessary context in the introduction, describing justification in historical perspective as well as in contemporary debate.

Representing the traditional Reformed perspective, **Michael S. Horton** argues that justification is a "declarative, judicial verdict" and that the wicked are saved through Christ's imputed righteousness by faith alone. Further, justification and sanctification are distinct processes, where "one is being sanctified because one has already been justified." Horton is the J. Gresham Machen Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Seminary California, president of White Horse Inn and editor-in-chief of *Modern Reformation* magazine.

Michael F. Bird advocates for a "progressive Reformed" perspective, asserting that justification is "Paul's contingent juridical expression of how deliverance is wrought in Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, whose atoning death and powerful resurrection avails for the salvation of the covenant family." He contests the traditional theory of imputation and clarifies the connection between faith and works. Bird is lecturer in theology and Bible at Crossway College in Queensland, Australia. Among his books in New Testament studies are *The Saving Righteousness of God* (2007) and the edited volume *The Faith of Jesus Christ: Exegetical, Biblical, and Theological Studies* (2009).

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Editors:

James K. Beilby
(Ph.D., Marquette University) is professor of systematic and philosophical theology at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Paul Rhodes Eddy
(Ph.D., Marquette University) is professor of biblical and theological studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Additional Spectrum series books edited by Beilby and Eddy:

Divine Foreknowledge: Four Views

The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views

The Historical Jesus: Five Views

Articulating the “new perspective” view, **James D. G. Dunn** contends that if Paul’s view of justification is to be fully grasped, then the following must occur: a revision in the traditional attitude toward Judaism, an appreciation of the context in which Paul taught about justification, a reexamination of what is meant by “the works of the law” and an appraisal that takes the whole gospel of Paul into account. Dunn is Emeritus Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University in Durham, England, and one of the leading figures on the new perspective on Paul.

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen presents the deification position, highlighting the attempt by some Lutheran theologians to understand justification in relation to *theosis*. Here, justification and deification refer to the “participation” of the believer in Christ, which, because Christ is God, is also a participation in God himself. Kärkkäinen considers the implications of this interpretation with regards to the relatively new Catholic-Lutheran “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” and sets this ecumenical convergence in wider theological perspective. Kärkkäinen is professor of systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and docent of ecumenics at the University of Helsinki. He is the author of numerous theological studies, including *One with God: Salvation as Deification and Justification* (2005).

The Roman Catholic position is presented by **Gerald O’Collins** and **Oliver Rafferty**. Rafferty traces the historical development of the Catholic Church’s teaching on justification from Augustine to the Council of Trent. O’Collins offers the development of his understanding of justification as an individual Roman Catholic, beginning with his Australian seminary days through his years teaching theology in Rome to his recent collaboration with theologians Mario Farrugia and Michael Keenan Jones. O’Collins, S.J., is emeritus professor of theology at Gregorian University in Rome and adjunct professor at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. He has authored or coauthored fifty-seven published books, the latest including *Jesus: A Portrait* (2008) and *Jesus Our Priest* (2010). Rafferty, S.J., teaches church history at Heythrop College at the University of London. His recent publications include *The Catholic Church and the Protestant State: Nineteenth-Century Irish Realities* (2008) and the edited collection *George Tyrrell and Catholic Modernism* (2010).