



Kelly M. Kopic is professor of theological studies at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. He earned a Ph.D. in systematic and historical theology at King's College, University of London, and an M.Div. at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He has published articles in various journals, such as the *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Westminster Theological Journal*, *Foundations* and *Evangelical Quarterly*. He is a contributing editor for *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture*.

New Introduction to Theology a Worthy Heir to Thielicke's Legacy

In this quick and vibrant little book, Kelly Kopic presents the nature, method and manners of theological study for newcomers to the field. He emphasizes that theology is more than a school of thought about God; it's an endeavor that affects who we are. "Theology is about life," writes Kopic. "It is not a conversation our souls can afford to avoid."

In *A Little Book for New Theologians* you discuss the importance of integrating theology and spirituality. Why is this so vital?

Kelly M. Kopic: I have become concerned through the years that students of theology struggle to know how to integrate theology and spirituality, and that too often a growing interest in theology seems to correspond with a decreased concern with spirituality. I hope to push us to follow another path, one seen throughout the history of the church, in which theology and spirituality are seen together, rather than apart. This means that before one begins careful theological investigations, one should not only think about the relationship between faith and reason, but also consider questions about prayer, humility, tradition and community.

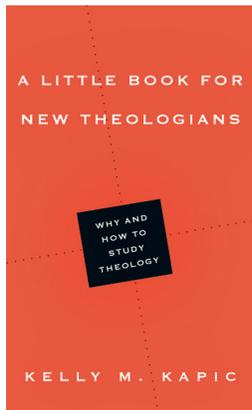
You assert that theology rightly approached is essential to worship. Can you explain?

Kopic: Worship uniquely anchors my book. We must come to recognize that theology and application, dogmatics and ethics, love and belief, always go together for good or ill, and our goal should be to try and bring them into harmony in response to the love of God, the grace of Christ and in the fellowship of the Spirit. For such past theologians like Augustine, the question of separating theology and spirituality was always passionately rejected, for they understood that true theology is always about worship.

Who is this book for?

Kopic: I have written this book for a broad audience, but often I have had the American evangelical college and seminary student in mind. Having gone through this system myself, as well as having taught for eleven years

AUTHOR Q & A



A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology

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in an evangelical college context-teaching well over thirteen hundred students in that time-I hope to provide a new generation of students a fresh introductory work in the spirit of books like Thielicke's *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. For example, I try to make a compelling argument for the legitimacy and importance of studying theology, an assumption the average evangelical student does not make these days.

Kapic also addresses:

Why Study Theology?

- Entering the Conversation
- To Know and Enjoy God: Becoming Wise
- Theology as Pilgrimage

Characteristics of Faithful Theologians and Theology

- The Inseparability of Life and Theology
- Faithful Reason
- Prayer and Study
- Humility and Repentance
- Suffering, Justice and Knowing God
- Tradition and Community
- Love of Scripture