



James L. Papandrea (PhD, Northwestern University), author of *The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in the Postapostolic Age*

Church History Professor Provides Entry Point for Early Christology

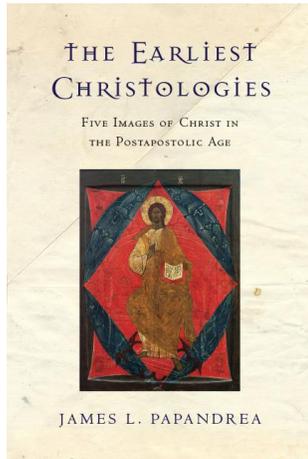
James L. Papandrea (PhD, Northwestern University) is a teacher, author, speaker and musician. He is currently serving as associate professor of church history at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary at Northwestern University, is a consultant in the area of adult faith formation, and a regular speaker in parish and lay formation programs in the Chicago area. He is the author of *The Trinitarian Theology of Novatian of Rome* and *Reading the Early Church Fathers*.

In his latest book, *The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in the Postapostolic Age*, Papandrea sets out five of the principal images of Christ that dominated the postapostolic age. Between varieties of adoptionism and brands of gnosticism, Papandrea helps us see how Logos Christology was forged as the beginning of the church's orthodox confession.

"I wanted to present a clear comparison—accessible to scholars, students and even the interested lay person—of the main views of the person of Christ in the early Church," Papandrea said. "Too many overviews of early doctrine confuse and/or conflate the different heresies while oversimplifying the debate over what Christians should believe about Christ. Scholarly approaches tend to focus on the diversity of thought, but present them as if they were all equal—or equally valid. On the other hand, more popular approaches tend to talk of orthodoxy and heresy as if there was no debate or as if the outcome of debate was a foregone conclusion. I wanted to present a kind of 'middle way,' in which the various views of Christ are presented fairly, but without pretending that there was no such thing as a mainstream majority at the time."

Also a published songwriter, professional musician and teacher of songwriting, Papandrea has written and arranged music for church choirs and has written two musicals. After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in music and theatre arts, he received his MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary with a concentration in youth ministry. He then spent several years in full-time youth and music ministry. He went on to receive a PhD in the history and theology of the early Christian church from Northwestern University, with secondary concentrations in New Testament interpretation and the history of the Roman Empire. He has also studied Roman history at the American Academy in Rome, Italy.

"James Papandrea eloquently introduces readers to dissident images of Jesus in the second-century church," said Michael F. Bird of Ridley College on *The Earliest Christologies*. "Many groups wrestled with the question 'Who is Jesus?' and came to diverse conclusions. In this book, Papandrea helpfully sets out their views and asks what motivated them and why they



(inevitably) failed to win the backing of the mainstream church. All in all, an excellent introduction to forms of 'other' Christianity and the whole discourse of early Christology. A lively, readable and informed introduction to Christologies deemed to be heretical."

Papandrea is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the North American Patristics Society and the Catholic Association of Music. When he's not teaching or performing music, he can be found traveling with his wife, Susie, taking photographs and making pilgrimages to places like Rome and Assisi.

The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in the Postapostolic Age

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