



Created and Creating: A Biblical Theology of Culture

Available January 2017

\$24, x+262 pages, paperback
978-0-8308-5152-2

William Edgar is professor of apologetics, holder of the John Boyer Chair of Evangelism and Culture, and coordinator of the apologetics department at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He is the author of several books, including *A Transforming Vision: The Lord's Prayer as a Lens for Life*, *Francis Schaeffer on the Christian Life*, *Christian Apologetics Past & Present*, and *Truth in All Its Glory: Commending the Reformed Faith*.

Culture, Christianity, Calling

Culture plays an undeniable role in the Christian's vocational calling in the world. How might we engage our culture with discernment and faithfulness? Exploring Scripture and gleaned insights from a variety of theologians, William Edgar offers a biblical defense of the cultural mandate, arguing that we are most faithful to our calling when we participate in creating culture.

The subtitle for your book is *A Biblical Theology of Culture*. Why did you think a biblical theology was necessary for this subject matter?

William Edgar: The purpose of this book is to defend the ongoing validity of the cultural mandate as the primary vocation of the human race. I will unpack the mandate from Genesis 1:26-30 through the lens of Christ and the New Covenant. With the numerous (and often competing) points of view concerning the relationship between Christianity and culture out there, Christians need some direction. As far as I know, there is not a thorough biblical theology focused on culture. Nor is there much on cultural studies with the aim of testing them in light of Scripture. With that in mind, this book argues for the need for an awareness of the importance of culture for our Christian understanding of our calling in the world.

Who influenced you in this area of study?

Edgar: My approach is inspired by the hermeneutics of "biblical theology" as understood by scholars such as Geerhardus Vos and Herman Ridderbos. That is, we read Scripture to witness the progressive historical unfolding of the plan of redemption, culminating in Jesus Christ and applied to the Christian church.

How does this subject matter relate to your personal work and studies?

Edgar: Much of my work has been in Christian apologetics, broadly conceived. I have spent a good deal of time interacting (a) with sociologists and anthropologists from places such as the Birmingham School, as well as (b) with theologically oriented scholars, such as Eliot, Niebuhr, Lewis, Crouch, and others. The book has been an opportunity to consolidate my thinking and put it into a synthetic whole.

How will you walk readers, skeptical of culture or not, through your biblical theology?

Edgar: Following an introductory chapter, I summarize where cultural studies have taken us, with suggestions about how they can benefit us. This is followed by a chapter describing how to approach the Bible and some of the more theological contributions to cultural criticism (including Niebuhr, T.S. Eliot, C. S. Lewis, Kuyper, Schilder, etc.). The bulk of the book then examines biblical texts from various angles. I look at the *contra mundum* texts, the great culture-affirming texts, and the succession of iterations of the cultural mandate, all in an effort to affirm the ongoing importance of understanding our relationship with culture.

INTERVARSITY PRESS

Visit ivpress.com/media



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT THE INTERVARSITY PRESS PUBLICITY TEAM:

Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, broadcast and online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com

ivpress.com/academic