



Restoring the Soul of the University: Unifying Christian Higher Education in a Fragmented Age

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“Restoring the Soul of the University makes it clear that the Christian failure to sustain universities in service to God was the result of the failure of Christians to think through their most basic convictions. But this is not a negative book. It is an insightful and historically illuminating account of how the university became fragmented, institutionally and in the souls of those who teach and study in the university setting. An

The Interweaving of the Christian Story and the University

How does *Restoring the Soul of the University* offer hope for the future relationship between the academy and the church?

Perry L. Glanzer, Nathan F. Alleman, and Todd C. Ream: The university is one of the greatest contributions the church has made to culture. When it operates well, the university extends the reach of the human imagination, orders desires to God, and prepares the next generation for service. When it operates poorly, it does just the reverse—it curves the human imagination back in on itself, cultivates reductionism, fosters self-absorption in the next generation, and ultimately leads to fragmentation in our knowledge and lives. In recent decades, the latter is believed by many to have prevailed. Bookshelves are replete with titles announcing the university’s decline, demise, and even death. However, we believe that the Christian story—initially woven into the university’s very establishment centuries ago—still offers a promise for its future.

What topics does your book dig into that make it stand out from other books on higher education and leadership?

Glanzer, Alleman, and Ream: *Restoring the Soul of the University* explores the following topics:

- the historical roots of how the practice of theology was moved from the university’s center to its periphery
- the forces that currently vie for the university’s center but, in contrast, only continue to promote its fragmentation
- the ways theology can be the lifeblood that flows into and nourishes every part of a complex Christian university with soul

How does this book continue the trajectory of scholarly work you three have thus far accomplished?

Glanzer, Alleman, and Ream: All three of us are higher education scholars and see the Christian faith as being central to who we are as people, who we are as scholars, and to the role of the university. Nathan began his journey with various facets of this story while a doctoral student at the College of William and Mary by exploring the roots of movements, such as the YMCA. Perry and Todd have now written four books together pertaining to different aspects of Christian higher education. This book could be said to be the culminating Christian theology of higher education that emerged from those earlier books.

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imaginative theological proposal is developed that is a practical and hopeful alternative for restoring the soul of the university."

— **Stanley Hauerwas**, Gilbert T. Rowe Emeritus Professor of Divinity and Law, Duke University

What do you hope *Restoring the Soul of the University* achieves now that it's being read by those involved in higher education?

Glanzer, Alleman, and Ream: At the core of our book is the conviction that when the Christian identity and story that connects the university to God is removed from the university's center, the university loses its soul and collapses into a state of fragmentation. No other identity and saga can hold the university together. Theology in particular proves crucial for unifying the university. We describe some of the past mistakes that led to higher education's current state and then set forth how the Christian identity and story, particularly through the practice of humble theology, can animate the university's functions, ranging from athletics to residence life to any and every academic discipline.

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Perry L. Glanzer (PhD, University of Southern California) is professor of educational foundations at Baylor University and a resident scholar with Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion. He is the author, coauthor, or editor of several books including *Christian Higher Education: A Global Reconnaissance*, *The Idea of a Christian College: A Reexamination for Today's University*, *Christianity and Moral Identity in Higher Education: Becoming Fully Human*, *Christianity and Scholarship in Higher Education*, and *The Quest for Russia's Soul*. His primary scholarly and teaching interests pertain to moral education and the relationship between Christianity and education.

Nathan F. Alleman (PhD, The College of William and Mary) is associate professor of higher education studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Alleman studies and teaches about marginal and marginalized groups and institutions in higher education. His research includes sociological studies of faculty sub-groups (non-tenure track, faculty denied tenure, and religious outsiders) and the collegiate identities and experiences of student sub-groups (rural, first generation, undocumented, community college, religious minority, and food insecure). Alleman also writes about Christian higher education and the history of the YMCA student association movement.

Todd C. Ream (PhD, The Pennsylvania State University) is professor of higher education at Taylor University, distinguished fellow with Excelsia College (New South Wales), and director of the Explorations in Small College Athletics (NCAA DIII) research initiative. In addition to authoring and editing a number of books on higher education, he has served on college and university campuses in residence life, student support services, and as a chief student development officer.