



Sculptor Spirit *Models of Sanctification from Spirit Christology*

Available February 5, 2019 | \$28, 290 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5233-8

Leopoldo A. Sánchez M. (PhD, Concordia) is the Werner R. H. and Elizabeth R. Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries, professor of systematic theology, and director of the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He is the author of *Receiver, Bearer, and Giver of God's Spirit: Jesus' Life and Mission as a Lens for Theology and Life* and the coeditor (with M. Daniel Carroll R.) of *Immigrant Neighbors Among Us: Immigration Across Theological Traditions*.

The Invitation of Sanctification

Why did you decide to write *Sculptor Spirit*?

Leopoldo Sánchez: In my formal theological training, I learned well what the doctrine of sanctification was at a conceptual level. I could tell you how sanctification was distinct from justification by grace and how they related to each other. I could tell you how sanctification related to God's commands and promises, his word of law and gospel. However, I was not sure I could tell others what sanctification actually looked like in a more visually inviting way, using images, narratives, and illustrations of the sanctified life that people could relate to at a more immediate, personal level. I wrote this book to move the teaching of sanctification from a merely conceptual framework leading to an image-based framework that would assist pastors and church leaders in fostering spiritual practices through their teaching, preaching, and spiritual care.

Moreover, having the right conceptual definition of sanctification in place, I had gotten the impression that sanctification was more or less the same homogeneous reality for every Christian. Through a more diverse models-based approach to sanctification, my book proposes a rich variety of ways of portraying the Christian life that is capable of addressing pastorally and missionally a broader range of spiritual needs and hopes expressed by North American neighbors both in the church and outside the church.

How did this book draw upon the scholarship you've been working on?

Sánchez: This work expands on my previous dissertation work in the field of Spirit Christology and asks how the theology of sanctification it yields can address the deep spiritual yearnings and hopes of neighbors, such as millennials and Hispanics. Over the years, my scholarly contribution has focused primarily on two areas: the study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and the study of issues related to Hispanic/Latino theology and missions.

My research and teaching on the Holy Spirit has brought me into contact with audiences, including US millennials and US Hispanics, who in their own ways have a deep desire for growth in their spiritual lives. My work with first-generation immigrants in the US has sensitized me to their struggles and hopes, and has served as fertile ground for exploring the church's response to issues such as immigration, poverty, hospitality and marginality, and cultural identity.

My book in some ways brings together these strands of my scholarship by allowing me to explore how a Spirit-oriented theological framework can be deployed to discern the shape of a faithful and meaningful spiritual life among North American neighbors.

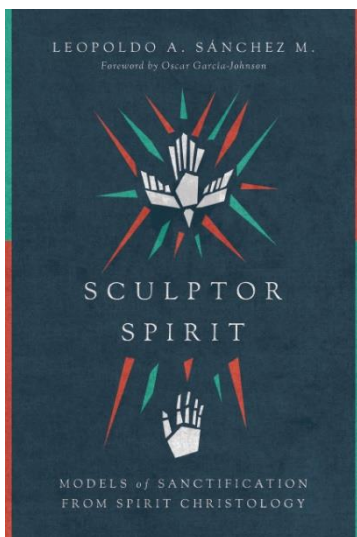


Alisse Wissman, print publicity
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, broadcast and online publicity
800.846.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com

INTERVARSITY PRESS | ivpress.com/media





Q & A

IVP Academic

Sculptor Spirit ***Models of Sanctification from Spirit Christology***

Available February 5, 2019 | \$28, 290 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5233-8

Like the work of an artist who molds a lump of clay, the Spirit's sanctifying work lies in shaping people into the image of Christ. Avoiding either a "Spirit-only" or a "Spirit-void" theology, Leopoldo Sánchez carefully crafts a Spirit Christology, which considers the role of God's Spirit in the life and mission of Jesus and leads to five distinct models of sanctification that can help Christians discern how the Spirit is at work in our lives.

What does sculptor Spirit mean?

Sánchez: Sanctification or holiness has often been discussed as a corollary of the theology of the Holy Spirit. So in order to unveil a models-based approach to sanctification, it made sense to turn to Spirit narratives that describe the Christian life. A related approach to sanctification has been to see it in terms of believers becoming Christlike as they live in the world. However, in terms of methodology, I felt that these somewhat disconnected approaches needed to be integrated into a more foundational and fuller trinitarian narrative, one in which God acts by his Spirit both in the life of Jesus and through Jesus in the lives of his disciples.

A Spirit Christology argues that the Spirit in whom Jesus lived his life before God and others is the same Spirit who shapes the lives of Jesus' disciples to live like him. My thesis is that a Spirit Christology, which explores the role of the Spirit in Christ's life, is a compelling theological framework for mining the rich array of ways Scripture and the great Christian tradition describe sanctification, as well as for exploring its productivity for pastoral care and missional engagement with North American neighbors.

What can readers take from your book into further study?

Sánchez: My book is the first comprehensive attempt to test the usefulness of a Spirit Christology in trinitarian terms for reflecting on and promoting a models-based approach to sanctification. Whereas the field of Spirit Christology has already dealt extensively with trinitarian and christological questions, its insights have yet to be applied critically and constructively to the theology and practice of sanctification. My book moves the conversation in this direction.

My book contributes to the field of studies on sanctification and holiness by developing a models-based approach to the topic that moves from a merely conceptual understanding of the topic toward a more engaging visual presentation that fosters participation in the spiritual life. Moreover, such an approach highlights various aspects or foci of life in the Spirit that are in continuity not only with the witness of Scripture but also with fourth century theologians writing extensively on the Holy Spirit, the Reformation tradition represented particularly by Luther, and contemporary authors from various church families with an interest in promoting faithful ways of being and becoming holy in the world today. While it is impossible to include all voices across the spectrum of the Christian tradition yesterday and today, the book's models-based approach contributes an example of a responsible ecumenical approach to the topic.

My book is the first attempt to bring a models-based approach to sanctification, grounded in a Spirit Christology, into conversation with research done by sociologists of religion, demographers of the church, church planters, generational gurus, and others writing about the spiritual needs and hopes of neighbors in North America, particularly in the United States. My approach to sanctification seeks to draw not only Christians into stories of sanctification but also draws them through their witness in word and deed.



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

Krista Clayton, broadcast and online publicity
800.846.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com

INTERVARSITY PRESS | ivpress.com/media

