



## DETAILS

IVP Academic

### ***Divine Impassibility*** *Four Views of God's Emotions and Suffering*

August 13, 2018 | \$25, 202 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5253-6

**Robert J. Matz** has his PhD from Liberty University and is assistant professor of Christian studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**A. Chadwick Thornhill** has his PhD from Liberty University and is the chair of theological studies for Liberty University School of Divinity and an assistant professor of apologetics and biblical studies for the School of Divinity. He is the author of *The Chosen People: Election, Paul, and Second Temple Judaism*.

#### DIVINE IMPASSIBILITY

FOUR VIEWS OF GOD'S  
EMOTIONS AND SUFFERING

CONTRIBUTIONS BY  
Daniel Castelo, James E. Dolezal,  
Thomas Jay Oord, and John C. Peckham

## Does God Suffer? Does God Experience Emotions? Does God Change?

The immutability of God is an attribute that “God is unchanging in his character, will, and covenantal promises.” While most Judeo-Christians believe that some aspects of God do not change, some opponents believe that God sometimes chooses to change his course of action, which implies a certain level of mutability. How should we interpret passages of Scripture that seem to support one view or the other? And where does the incarnation and Christ’s suffering on the cross fit into this? This Spectrum Multiview volume brings together four theologians with decidedly different answers to these questions.

The contributors make a case for their own view—ranging from a traditional affirmation of divine impassibility (the idea that God does not suffer) to the position that God is necessarily and intimately affected by creation. Each contributor then responds to the others’ views. The lively but irenic discussion that takes place demonstrates not only the diversity of opinion among Christians on this theological conundrum but also its ongoing relevance for today.

The views and contributors represented are

- Strong Impassibility (James E. Dolezal, assistant professor in the School of Divinity at Cairn University)
- Qualified Impassibility (Daniel Castelo, professor of dogmatic and constructive theology at Seattle Pacific University)
- Qualified Passibility (John C. Peckham, professor of theology and Christian philosophy at Andrews University)
- Strong Passibility (Thomas Jay Oord, professor of theology and philosophy at Northwest Nazarene University)

Thomas McCall, professor of biblical and systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, reminds us of the history and controversy encapsulated in this volume:

“The doctrine of divine impassibility—in some form or other—is an inheritance of the Christian tradition. It is also the subject of much disagreement and debate within recent theology. In this book, this debate is carried forward in a vigorous and very spirited manner as arguments are made from biblical and philosophical theology even as pastoral and experiential concerns are weighed. Anyone interested in the current state of evangelical theological debates about the doctrine of God will find this work enlightening.”

Paul Rhodes Eddy, professor of biblical and theological studies at Bethel University, points out that although the doctrine of impassibility is “an often-neglected topic in theology,” Matz and Thornhill offer us “a capable group of scholars who not only provide a stimulating set of perspectives on this issue, but who do so with winsomeness and grace.”



**Alisse Wissman**, print publicity  
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or [awissman@ivpress.com](mailto:awissman@ivpress.com)

**Krista Clayton**, broadcast and online publicity  
800.846.4587 ext. 4013 or [kclayton@ivpress.com](mailto:kclayton@ivpress.com)

INTERVARSITY PRESS | [ivpress.com/media](http://ivpress.com/media)

