



## The Holy Spirit (New Studies in Dogmatics)

By Christopher R. J. Holmes

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Who is the Holy Spirit and how does the Spirit come to be in relation to the Father and the Son? What is the mission of the Spirit and where does it come from? Chris Holmes takes up the questions surrounding the Spirit's procession and mission with the help of three of the church's greatest teachers—Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Karl Barth.

Drawing on their engagements with the Fourth Gospel, Holmes presents an account of the Spirit's identity, origin, and acts, to show how the acts of the Spirit derive from the Spirit's life in relation to Father and Son—and the extent to which the Spirit's mission testifies to the Spirit's origin.

Holmes presents a way forward for pneumatology. Housed within the doctrine of the Trinity, pneumatology's joyful task is to describe the Spirit's acts among us in light of their source in the Spirit's acts in God. The end of this inquiry is our beatitude—knowledge of the Trinity that yields to love of the Trinity.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

'With its scriptural alertness, its generous appropriation of elements of classical Christian thought, and its dogmatic intelligence and scope, this is a rewarding study of the lordly and life-giving Spirit.' (*John Webster, St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews*)

'This is a worthy contribution that enriches our understanding of the Holy Spirit's person and work by upholding the centrality of Christ.' (*George Hunsinger, Princeton Theological Seminary*)

'Here is adventuresome dogmatic theology at its best. Holmes's vibrantly Christological, exuberantly Trinitarian engagement with the Holy Spirit is demanding, invigorating theological engagement.' (*Will Willimon, Duke Divinity School*)

'Guided by such luminaries as John Webster and Kevin Vanhoozer, Reformed dogmatic theology has been powerfully revitalized in recent years. Professor Holmes's exploration of the glorious mystery of the Holy Spirit is a fruit of this renewal and a most welcome fruit indeed.' (*Matthew Levering, Mundelein Seminary*)

'An excellent companion for those who would like to accompany Barth and Aquinas through their rigorous and biblical accounts of the Holy Spirit.' (*Eugene F. Rogers Jr., The University of North Carolina, Greensboro*)

#### About the Author

Christopher R.J. Holmes (ThD, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto) is senior lecturer in Systematic Theology in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. Christopher is an Anglican priest and is the author of *Revisiting the Doctrine of the Divine Attributes: In Dialogue with Karl Barth, Eberhard Jüngel, and Wolf Krötke* (2007), *Ethics in the Presence of Christ* (2012), as well as many articles on the theology of Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and on Christian doctrine.

Michael Allen (PhD, Wheaton College) is Associate Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL. Michael is a Presbyterian teaching elder and is the author of several books, including *Reformed Catholicity: The Promise of Retrieval for Theology and Biblical Interpretation* (with Scott Swain) and *Justification and the Gospel: Understanding the Contexts and Controversies*, as well as many articles on Christian doctrine and historical theology. His articles have been published in the *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Journal of Theological Interpretation*, *Scottish Journal of Theology*, *Horizons in Biblical Theology*, *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*, *Westminster Theological Journal*, and *Themelios*. He serves as general editor (with Scott Swain) for T&T Clark's *International Theological Commentary* and Zondervan's *New Studies in Dogmatics* series and as book review editor for the *International Journal of Systematic Theology*.

Scott Swain is Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He is author of several books, including *The God of the Gospel: The Trinitarian Theology of Robert Jenson*, and *Trinity, Revelation, and Reading: A Theological Introduction to the Bible and its Interpretation*. He serves as general editor (with Michael Allen) for T&T Clark's International Theological Commentary and Zondervan's New Studies in Dogmatics series. He is a regular blogger at *Reformation21*.

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