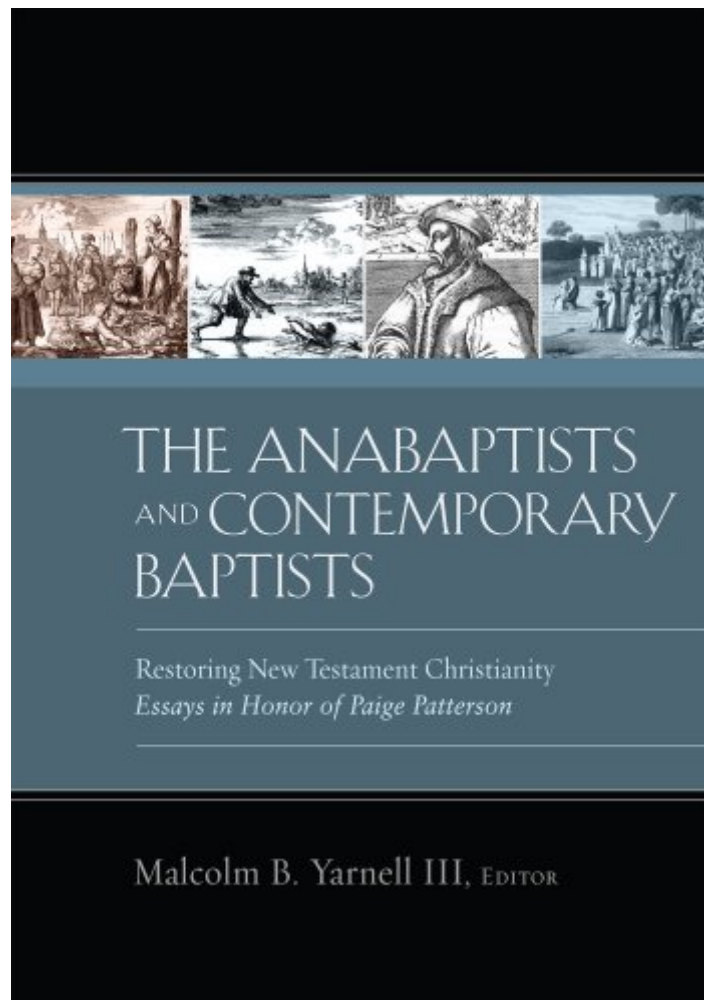


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The Anabaptists And Contemporary Baptists: Restoring New Testament Christianity



Synopsis

According to the scholarly and pastoral authors of this essay collection, sixteenth-century Anabaptists have much to teach Baptists and other Free Church evangelicals. A study of the lives and theology of evangelical Anabaptists encourages a reader to dig deeper into the Bible, count the cost of discipleship to Jesus Christ, and commit oneself to engaging the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The theological commitment of Anabaptists like Balthasar Hubmaier to the supremacy of the Word of God encourages us to live by the motto that "the truth is unkillable." The example of Leonhard Schiemer, who understood that following Jesus meant taking up the cross of Jesus Christ, prepares one for the joyous difficulty of a life of discipleship. The loving attitude, missionary fervor, and desire for communal integrity of leaders like Hans Denck and Michael Sattler draws us into a stronger commitment to share the gospel from an authentically Christian heart and life. Finally, such great contemporary leaders as Paige Patterson and Rick Warren have drawn upon the legacy of the evangelical Anabaptists to build great churches and seminaries. Their thoughts and stories are included here to encourage the recovery of the Anabaptist vision among Baptists and other free churches today. These papers also serve as a Festschrift honoring the lifelong work of Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in the study of the Radical Reformation. Indeed, he has inspired the recovery of the Anabaptist vision as a means of restoring New Testament Christianity.

Book Information

File Size: 63823 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: B&H Academic (September 15, 2013)

Publication Date: September 13, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00F97Z9E6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #438,550 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #72

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Customer Reviews

I am graciously and prematurely giving this book a 4-star review in hopes that what I write will be read. The Good: The formatting seems pretty good in this ebook, which is important because a poorly formatted ebook can make the book not-worth-reading to me. There were also some good things that I noticed while skimming through the first few chapters - some of the contributors truly GOT at least some of the heart behind the anabaptist movement. The Bad: Patterson quotes Bernard Rothmann in a couple side bars as an early Anabaptist source for theology- something that would make Anabaptists angry (Well, as angry as a Mennonite can get...). And here's the reason: Rothmann was HEAVILY involved in the Munster rebellion, and in fact wrote in favor of this violent takeover of a city, as well as in favor of its prophet's obscure views, such as Polygamy- something that has never been supported by the true anabaptists... The Munster Rebellion was comprised of new converts to the idea of believer's baptism, and generally did not have an Anabaptist theology past that; it was too early in the game for ideas of a new movement to be united. Because of this, and their violent nature, and obscure theology, many anabaptists would have trouble calling them anabaptists at all. How am I supposed to take this book seriously, when from Chapter 1, they use a poor example of the faith movement in which I am a part of in order to explain its doctrines?? In addition, Patterson also avoided/downplayed the Anabaptist commitment to nonviolence in chapter one when he was trying to compose his main tenant of their faith.

I give this book 5 stars and I don't even have a copy for myself yet. But, I was an attendee of the Anabaptist Conference in January 2012 at Southwestern Seminary where the essays in the book were presented. It was an outstanding conference and you will no doubt be blessed by the book if you have any interest in the Anabaptists. I am really excited about the Anabaptist emphasis at Southwestern as I believe it will help keep a balance in the Southern Baptist Convention that is experiencing a steady rise of Calvinist influence. If that is not of importance to you, this book is wonderful church history reading focused on a group of believers that have been overshadowed by the Magisterial Reformers. ~Jeff Bengs, Quinton, Oklahoma

Wonderful and well-sourced history. I learned more about Paige Patterson as an added benefit. I knew of his involvement in the SBC resurgence but did not realize the depth of the man as a scholar.

Excellent read!

I love the book, and the shipping is on time

Overall it is a good read for persons interested in historic Anabaptism. Book contains a long section (4 chapters) on Balthasar Hubmaier which included essays on Suffcientia Scripturae, Hubmaier's Catechism, Free Will, Integration of Discipline and Theology. However the most inspirational chapter in my mind was Michael Wilkinson's chapter entitled "Suffering the Cross: The Life, Theology, and Significance of Leonhard Schiemer." I learned a lot about Schiemer and was moved by his example and thought. Paige Patterson wrote the introductory chapter "What Contemporary Baptists Can Learn from the Anabaptists" and gave an apologetic for the book. I quote: "What remains of profound consequence for contemporary Baptists is the question of with whom shall we identify and imitate? Given that Baptists do not baptize infants, treasure the concept of the free church and religious freedom...the future is bright only if Baptists identify with and imitate the Anabaptists. The current trend in Southern Baptist life to identify with the Reformed faith is a major step backward and must be resisted. May God bless the rebirth of Anabaptism among the Southern Baptists today." Reading the book reminded me again how contemporary Mennonites who call themselves Anabaptists do so by identifying two themes "some ideology of community" and "pacifism". However I hear little of major Anabaptist themes of regeneration, new birth, and cross-bearing all which are prominent in the Anabaptist experience. Historic Anabaptists would think it strange to embrace pacifism without experiencing regeneration through God's saving grace. I'm just saying.

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