

**THE RAY S. ANDERSON COLLECTION by
WIPF & STOCK PUBLISHERS**

Ray Sherman Anderson (1925-2009) worked the soil and tended the animals of a South Dakota farm, planted and pastored a church in Southern California, and completed a PhD degree in theology with Thomas F. Torrance in New College Edinburgh. He began his professional teaching career at Westmont College, and then taught and served in various administrative capacities at Fuller Theological Seminary for thirty-three years (retiring as Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ministry). While teaching at Fuller, he served as a parish pastor, always insisting that theology and ministry go hand-in-hand.

The pastoral theologian who began his teaching career in middle age penned twenty-seven books. Like Karl Barth, Prof. Anderson articulated a theology of and for the church based on God's own ministry of revelation and reconciliation in the world. As professor and pastor, he modeled an incarnational, evangelical passion for the healing of humanity by Jesus Christ, who is *both* God's self-revelation to us *and* the reconciliation of our broken humanity to the triune God. His gift of relating suffering and alienated humans to Christ existing as community (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) is a recurrent motif throughout his life, ministry, and works.

The Ray S. Anderson Collection comprises books by Ray Anderson, an introductory text to his theology by Christian D. Kettler, two edited volumes that celebrate his distinguished academic career (*Incarnational Ministry: The Presence of Christ in Church, Society, and Family* and *On Being Christian . . . and Human*), and a reprint of an *Edification* volume that focuses on Ray Anderson's contributions to the field of Christian Psychology. A word of gratitude is due to The Society of Christian Psychology and its parent organization, The American Association for Christian Counselors, for their permission to make the *Edification* issue available in book form. Jim Tedrick of Wipf and Stock Publishers deserves a special word of thanks for publishing many of Ray Anderson's books and commissioning this collection of works to continue his legacy.

Todd H. Speidell, General Editor



I consider Ray Anderson to be one of the finest pastoral theologians of his era. When students ask me for a pastoral theologian who goes unerringly to the theological heart of pastoral dilemmas, I point them toward Ray Anderson's incomparable work. The scope, depth, sophistication and relevance of his work for ministry today is unparalleled. He has tackled all the difficult questions with amazing graciousness and clarity and offers a theology that lives and breathes. Though the field of pastoral theology has sadly lost one of its finest contributors, we are blessed to have the distillation of his mature wisdom in his literary legacy.

Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, Ph.D.
Charlotte W. Newcombe Professor of Pastoral Theology
Princeton Theological Seminary

I am grateful to Todd Speidell and Wipf & Stock Publishers for making The Ray S. Anderson Collection available. Anderson wrote, "theology is meant to be an open and continuing inquiry into the the truth of God revealed through God's ministry . . ." (*The Soul of Ministry*). He taught that the church's main task is to discern and participate in the Triune God's love for the world. By insisting that we pay attention to God's activities in the world, Anderson taught countless students and pastors to think theologically about congregational life and mission. As he wrote when he autographed a book for me, "We live our theology before we write it." This new collection will include most of Anderson's 27 books and the first full monograph on Ray S. Anderson written by Christian Kettler. We will have stories and reflections, biblical interpretation and ministry challenges, leadership practices and prayerful pondering--all shaping a theology in service of God's missional church.

Rev. Dr. Mark Lau Branson
Homer Goddard Associate Professor of Ministry of the Laity
Fuller Theological Seminary

Ray Anderson pioneered a path that changed the direction of pastoral theology. At a time when ministry studies were Christologically anemic, he brought to bear a rigorous Trinitarian doctrine of God on the ground of a thoroughgoing understanding of Jesus Christ as a basis for a theology of ministry that was singular and ground-breaking. His opening essay on theology of ministry in his edited volume, *Theological Foundations for Ministry*, is arguably the most important essay on ministry in the last fifty years. Anderson went on to write extensively on

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pastoral theology, covering an astonishing range of topics, including theological anthropology, death and dying, family, psychology and counseling, and method in practical theology. I am delighted that Anderson's legacy in print will be available to a new generation of men and women who seek to ground their practice of ministry in conversation with a godly theologian, pastor, and teacher.

Andrew Purves, Ph.D.
Professor of Reformed Theology
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Ray Anderson, more than any other theologian I have known, epitomized what it means to be fully human. During the eight years in which we taught a psychology class together based on his book, *Christians Who Counsel*, I was deeply privileged to experience firsthand his consummate teaching and scholarship. He gave countless students the gift of a comprehensive framework for integrating psychology and theology, not merely as an intellectual discipline, but as an endeavor for the whole person. Now, this timely republishing of Anderson's rich collection of writings will doubtless give many new readers the same opportunity to be blessed by this psychologically-minded scholar with a passionate pastor's heart.

Jeff Bjorck, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology, Graduate School of Psychology
Fuller Theological Seminary

Because of his profoundly Christ-centered theological orientation as a minister of the Gospel, Ray Anderson approached the field of Christian counseling from a radically different standpoint than most. Weary of abstract, theoretical models of the integration of psychology and theology, his work seems better to exemplify the paradigm of Christian psychology. He utilized contemporary human science research, but he assumed a holistic model of human beings as fundamentally embodied, psychological, social, and spiritual. Moreover, he concentrated his attention on the soul-healing resources of the Christian faith, particularly the saving activity of God in the incarnate, crucified, and resurrected Christ. Consequently, he was ahead of his time, and it will take the rest of us a while to catch up.

Eric L. Johnson, Ph.D.
Lawrence and Charlotte Professor of Pastoral Care
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary