



Beyond the Bounds: Open Theism and the Undermining of Biblical Christianity

John Piper (Editor) , Justin Taylor (Editor) , Paul Kjoss Helseth (Editor) , Wayne A. Grudem (Contributor) , William C. Davis (Contributor) , Russell Fuller (Contributor) , Michael S. Horton (Contributor) , Bruce A. Ware (Contributor) , more... Mark Talbot (Contributor) , Ardel B. Caneday (Contributor) , Stephen J. Wellum (Contributor) , Chad Brand (Contributor) ...less

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"Everyone who believes in God at all believes that He knows what you and I are going to do tomorrow."
-C. S. Lewis

This understanding of God's foreknowledge has united the church for twenty centuries. But advocates of "open theism" are presenting a different vision of God and a different view of the future.

The rise of open theism within evangelicalism has raised a host of questions. Was classical theism decisively tainted by Greek philosophy? How should we understand passages that tell us that God repents? Are essentials of biblical Christianity-like the inerrancy of Scripture, the trustworthiness of God, and the Gospel of Christ-at stake in this debate? Where, when, and why should we draw new boundaries-and is open theism beyond them? Beyond the Bounds brings together a respected team of scholars to examine the latest literature, address these questions, and give guidance to the church in this time of controversy.

Contributors include:

John Piper Wayne Grudem Michael S. Horton Bruce A. Ware Mark R. Talbot A. B. Caneday Stephen J. Wellum Justin Taylor Paul Kjoss Helseth Chad Brand William C. Davis Russell Fuller "We have prepared this book to address the issue of boundaries and, we pray, bring some remedy to the present and impending pain of embracing open theism as a legitimate Christian vision of God. . . . As a pastor, who longs to be biblical and God-centered and Christ-exalting and eternally helpful to my people, I see open theism as theologically ruinous, dishonoring to God, belittling to Christ, and pastorally hurtful. My prayer is that Christian leaders will come to see it this way, and thus love the church by countering open theism beyond the bounds of orthodox Christian teaching."

-From the Foreword by John Piper

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From Reader Review Beyond the Bounds: Open Theism and the Undermining of Biblical Christianity for online ebook

Ian Hodge says

The outburst of Open Theism into the Christian community was bound to stir many responses. What can you expect when Christian authors suggest that in order to maintain genuine free will, God has to curtail himself. In Christian theology God was always the one in who there was no unrealized potentiality, and therefore he was unchangeable in his being and wisdom.

Open Theism rejected that view of God and replaced it with a God of potentiality, one who does not know the future, always adjusting to the "free will" decisions made by his creatures. Yes, he may know all the possible choices you might have, but he doesn't know which one you'll choose until you've made the choice. In this view, God is *becoming* the God of orthodox Christianity, and on the day there are no more human choices to be made, that is the day God will reach his full potential.

Why Open Theists expect people to pray to a God who makes mistakes, does not know everything, is temporally located is a challenge to the best of minds. If their view of God is correct, how can we know if God is within hearing distance when we pray?

The authors seek to address these issues, and others from Open Theism. The chapter "God's Self-Revelation in Human Likeness-A Biblical Theology of God's Anthropomorphic Self-Disclosure" by A.B. Caneday is alone worth the price of book.

David Smiley says

Great book on the subject! However, I did not like the harshness of some of the authors.

Jared Daugherty says

Great challenge to those who think that God is not Sovereign or in control of our destiny. Hard and tough, but a definite for personal library and preparation for battle with open theists.

Garey says

Well written book. Essentially numerous authors writing in response to the book "The Openness of God."

Douglas Wilson says

Really good.

Matt says

This entire book is written in opposition to the Open Theist theological viewpoint on divine providence. The book is made up of various essays and articles written by scholars/theologians such as John Piper, Paul Kjoss Helseth, Mark R. Talbot, Wayne Grudem, and more.

The sections in this book, each of them about Open Theism, include:

- Historical Influences
 - Philosophical Presumptions and Cultural Context
 - Anthropomorphisms, Revelation, and Interpretation
 - What is at Stake in the Openness Debate?
 - Drawing Boundaries and Conclusions
-

Bryan McWhite says

This is a biblical and thorough refutation of the perspective known as Open Theism that not only identifies the theological, philosophical, and (most importantly) biblical flaws of Open Theism, but also draws attention to the disastrous implications of Open Theism for pastoral care.
