

Curriculum Vitae for J. Todd Billings

J. Todd Billings
Assistant Professor of Reformed Theology
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EDUCATION

Harvard Divinity School Th.D., Theology	Cambridge, MA 2005
Fuller Theological Seminary M.Div.	Pasadena, CA 1999
Wheaton College B.A., <i>cum laude</i> Majors: Philosophy, English	Wheaton, IL 1995

DISSERTATION

“Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: the Activity of Believers in Union with Christ”
Advisor: Professor Sarah Coakley, Harvard Divinity School

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Participating in Christ: The Eucharistic Doorway to a Catholic-Reformed Vision of Salvation (working title), under contract with Eerdmans press (2010).

Introducing Theological Interpretation: Scripture, Revelation, and Interpretation (working title), under contract with Eerdmans press (2009).

Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: The Activity of Believers in Union with Christ, in “Changing Paradigms in Historical and Systematic Theology” Series with Oxford University Press (2007).

Peer Reviewed Articles

“United to God through Christ: Calvin on the Question of Deification,” *Harvard Theological Review* 98:3 (July 2005): 315-34.

“Milbank’s Theology of the Gift and Calvin’s Theology of Grace: A Critical Comparison,” *Modern Theology* 21:1 (January 2005): 87-105.

“‘Incarnational Ministry’: A Christological Evaluation and Proposal,” *Missiology: An International Review* 32:2 (April 2004):187-201.

“John Updike as Theologian of Culture: *Roger’s Version* and the Possibility of Embodied Redemption,” *Christianity and Literature* 52:2 (Winter 2003): 203-213.

“Theodicy as a ‘Lived Question’: A Postmodern Approach to the Theodicy Question,” *Journal for Christian Theological Research* 5:2, 2000.

Articles in Books

“Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period,” *The Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology*, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Radical Orthodoxy” and “John Milbank” entries, *New Dictionary of Theology*, Second edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, forthcoming.

“John Calvin: United to God through Christ,” in *Partakers of the Divine Nature: The History and Development of Deification in the Christian Traditions*, ed. M. Christensen, J. Wittung. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007, 200-218. Reprinted by Baker Academic in 2008.

Articles in Periodicals

“What Makes a Church *Missional*? Freedom from cultural captivity does not mean freedom from tradition,” *Christianity Today*, March 2008, 56-59.

“On Giving and Receiving: How can Christians live out the commands of Matthew 25 – without the pity,” *Sojourners Magazine*, April 2007, 48-51.

“Emergent Church: New Links, Old Traditions,” *The Church Herald*, April 2007, 5-7.

“The Problem with Mere Christianity: We Jettison ‘Nonessential’ Theology at Our Own Peril,” *Christianity Today*, February 2007, 46-47. Reprinted as “Featured Article” on *ChristianBibleStudies.com* website (July 2007).

“The Promise of Catholic Calvinism,” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 21:4 (April 2006) 12-15. Online: www.perspectivesjournal.org/2006/04/essay-promise.html.

“More Than an Empty Bed” (on Gregory of Nyssa’s “On Virginity”), *Regeneration Quarterly* 8:2 (2003) 12-13.

“John K. Roth, the Psalms of Lament, and the Place of Theological Reflection on the Problem of Suffering,” *The Other Journal*, www.theotherjournal.com, Issue 2, 2003. Online at <http://www.theotherjournal.com/article.php?id=216>.

“Theodicy as a ‘Lived Question’: A Postmodern Approach to the Theodicy Question,” reprinted from *Journal for Christian Theological Research in Constellation*, Fall 2002.

Book Reviews

The Promise of Baptism, by James V. Brownson, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, forthcoming.

The Promise of Baptism, by James V. Brownson, *Reformed Review*, forthcoming.

Reading the Bible with the Dead, by John L. Thompson, *The Christian Century* (September 18, 2007), 43-45.

John Calvin’s Ideas, by Paul Helm, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 58:1 (January 2007) 149-150.

Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology, by Michael S. Horton, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, 9:1 (January 2007) 109-112.

Introducing Radical Orthodoxy by James K. A. Smith, *Interpretation* 61:1 (January 2007) 104-105.

Violence, Hospitality and the Cross, by Hans Boersma, *Interpretation* 60:3 (July 2006) 352.

Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity by Kathryn Tanner, in *Christian Scholars Review* 32:1 (Fall 2002) 141-143.

An Ethics of Remembering by Edith Wyschogrod, *Koinonia* 7:2 (Fall 2000) 261-263.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited lecture on the Lord’s Supper, Calvin Symposium on Worship (Grand Rapids, MI): January 29-31, 2009.

“The Lord’s Supper and Dissent,” Invited Lecture for the 20th Anniversary celebration of First Church Shelter (Cambridge, MA): October, 2007.

“Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period.” Conference for the *Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology* (Oxford University, United Kingdom): August, 2007.

“United to God through Christ: Assessing Calvin on the Question of Deification.” Paper presented at *Partakers of the Divine Nature: The History and Development of Theosis/Deification in the Christian Traditions* (Madison, NJ): April, 2004.

“Milbank on Gift-Giving and the Theology of Grace in Calvin.” Paper presented at the *Engaging Radical Orthodoxy* conference (Grand Rapids, MI): September, 2003.

“Holding Together Confession and Practice: an Evangelical Reframing of the Problem of Suffering.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting (Nashville, TN) for the Evangelical Theology Group (ETG): November, 2000.

“After Tilley: The Sustaining Relevance of the Problem of Suffering as a Concrete Question.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting (Nashville, TN) for the Christian Theological Research Fellowship (CTRF): November, 2000.

“Salubrious Remembering? Nietzsche and Wyschogrod on the Function of History for Life.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Meeting (Azusa, CA): April, 2000.

“Terrence Tilley and the Problem of Suffering.” Paper presented at the Society of Christian Philosophers Pacific Regional Conference (Pasadena, CA): March, 2000.

“Wyschogrod’s Ethical Remembering Encounters Nietzsche: Negotiating the Ontology of Violence.” Paper presented at the Southern California Society of Philosophy annual conference (Irvine, CA): October, 1999.

“Beyond Belittlement: Nietzsche’s Critique of Gift-Giving and the Rejuvenation of Christian Compassion.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Meeting (San Francisco, CA): April, 1999.

TEACHING, PROFESSIONAL, AND ECCLESIASTICAL POSITIONS

Reformed Theology and History Group Steering Committee 2007-Present
American Academy of Religion

Theology Commission (elected member) 2007-Present
Reformed Church in America

Assistant Professor of Reformed Theology 2005-Present
Western Theological Seminary Holland, MI

Teaching Fellow Harvard Divinity School	2003-2005 Cambridge, MA
Church Elder First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)	2002-2005 Cambridge, MA
NECTT Advisory Counsel Northeast Colloquium on Teaching Theology	2002-2004
Homeless Shelter Staff First Church Shelter (UCC)	2000-2005 Cambridge, MA
Teaching Assistant Fuller Theological Seminary	1998 Pasadena, CA
Instructor Kale Hewet Ministry Training Center	1995-1996 (9 months) Dilla, Ethiopia
Community Development Worker HIL (in cooperation with Anglican church in Uganda)	1994 (6 months) Aringa, Uganda
Teaching Assistant Wheaton College	1993-1994 Wheaton, IL

ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS

Theological Scholars Grant (Lilly), "Participating in Christ: The Eucharistic Doorway to a Catholic-Reformed Vision of Salvation," The Association of Theological Schools, 2007-2008.

Wabash Fellow, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 2007-2008

Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, 2004-2005

Harvard Divinity School Grant and Stipend, Harvard Divinity School, 2000-2003

Dean's Scholar Award, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996-1999

ORDINATION

Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America (2007)

Ordained as Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA (2002)