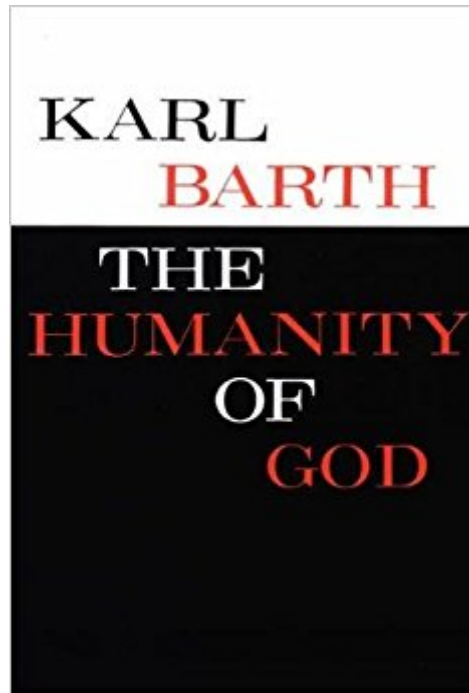




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The Humanity Of God



Synopsis

Karl Barth is generally regarded as the greatest Protestant thinker of modern times. The three essays in this book, "The Humanity of God," "Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century," and "The Gift of Freedom," show how Barth's later work moved beyond his revolt against the theology dominant in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press; Later Printing Used edition (March 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804206120

ISBN-13: 978-0804206129

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,481 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Systematic #86 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Christology #842 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

Customer Reviews

Karl Barth (1886-1968) was Professor of Theology at the University of Basel, Switzerland. One of the greatest theologians and preachers of the twentieth century, he is best known for his monumental systematic theology, *Church Dogmatics*.

Karl Barth is a polarizing figure, especially amongst evangelicals. Some, following Van Til, doubt whether his thought can even be called Christian; others find him a stimulating resource, and one of the most profound thinkers of the modern era. Part of the trouble is that his main work, *Church Dogmatics* is crazy long, and difficult to follow. One doesn't just look up "soteriology" in the index, his thought weaves lengthy and elaborate treatments, coming at a topic from a number of angles. *The Humanity of God* is a fantastic introduction to Barth's theology. It contains three lectures delivered in the 1950s, later in his life (he died in 1968). These lectures/essays "reflect a certain development in Barth's thinking. The mere fact of this development needs to be underscored. In America and in Britain, Barth's theology is often understood and judged primarily on the basis of some of his earlier writings available in English. It is no longer possible, however, to

think and speak responsibly about him if one's knowledge is limited to the earlier writings." (from the "Translator's Preface", p. 5) Each essay is complete in itself, yet they all fit together well.

"Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century" offers a fascinating glimpse at Barth's self-awareness of his context in history. It offers a penetrating but charitable critique of the liberal theologians of the previous generation, and begins to spell out his own positive account of Christian theology. His metaphor of a house with open windows (p. 19ff) is illuminating and his call for "a certain carefree and joyful confidence in the self-validation of the basic concerns of theology" (p. 20) offers a sturdy position with which to face philosophical and historical skeptics. "The Humanity of God" is the middle essay, offering an account of how it is that God can be, and is, "for us." This is a rich essay, one that I've read and re-read, and which exceeds my conceptual limits as I try to think about God. This is Barth at his best - painting such a magnificent and deep picture of God in Christ that humbles me, fills me with awe and wonder, and love and praise for such a God. Barth is not just obscure, technical, academic theology. He is very edifying, and warms and stirs the heart. "The Gift of Freedom" offers an ethical account of human freedom that is rooted in the lordly freedom of God. Another rich, "distinctly Christian" account of God and man, as opposed to more general philosophical constructions. This is rich stuff. Together with *Evangelical Theology*, these are a great introduction to the contours of Barth's theology. When one takes the plunge into the *Dogmatics*, you find these same themes explored much more expansively, but you can recognize the shape from his more accessible work. Highly recommended.

Humanity of God from Karl Barth makes you appreciate humanity in a whole new perspective. Man is in the heart of God and everyone is included in his love. When he shares about Calvin's not pushing his Christology enough towards God's humanity which in turn created a predestination teaching that would exclude God's humanity and create a downfall that Calvin would most certainly preferred not experiencing such gloomy aftermath concerning letters containing "so much bitterness", losing a friendship with Sebastian Castellio who went off against Calvin. "The humanity of God" is but the second essay in this book, which is preceded namely by "Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century" and followed by the third "The Gift of Freedom Foundation of Evangelical Ethics".

Barth's theology of the incarnation is clearly set forth.

I have Always enjoyed reading Barth.

Karl Barth is arguably one of the greatest Protestant theologians of the last 200 years. This book is one of his most easier to understand material. Here he writes for the average Christian and not the academic scholar. The writing is engaging as Barth's essays deal with three different subjects, yet, compliment each other. The first essay is "Evangelical Theology in the 19th Century." Barth concisely examines the dangers of liberal theology and the effects it had on the 20th Century. The second essay is "The Humanity of God" of which the book is titled. This essay is a Christological work and is well worth the read. The last section, "The Gift of Freedom", deals with the Christian life i regards to God's gift of Freedom. Frredom is a gift from God that He alone can bestow on us. This is a great work which is very easy to read and quick to get through (only 96 pages). This book will inspire to read more works by this great Christian thinker. Whether one agrees with him or not, Barth is always engaging.

Excellent product.

The title line or subject line is not from me. It's what said the Pope Pius XII. Karl Barth is a reference and a basement for the Christian faith.

Interesting content, but not the most interesting book. The font also makes it slightly difficult, but not prohibitively so. Overall, I would recommend.

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