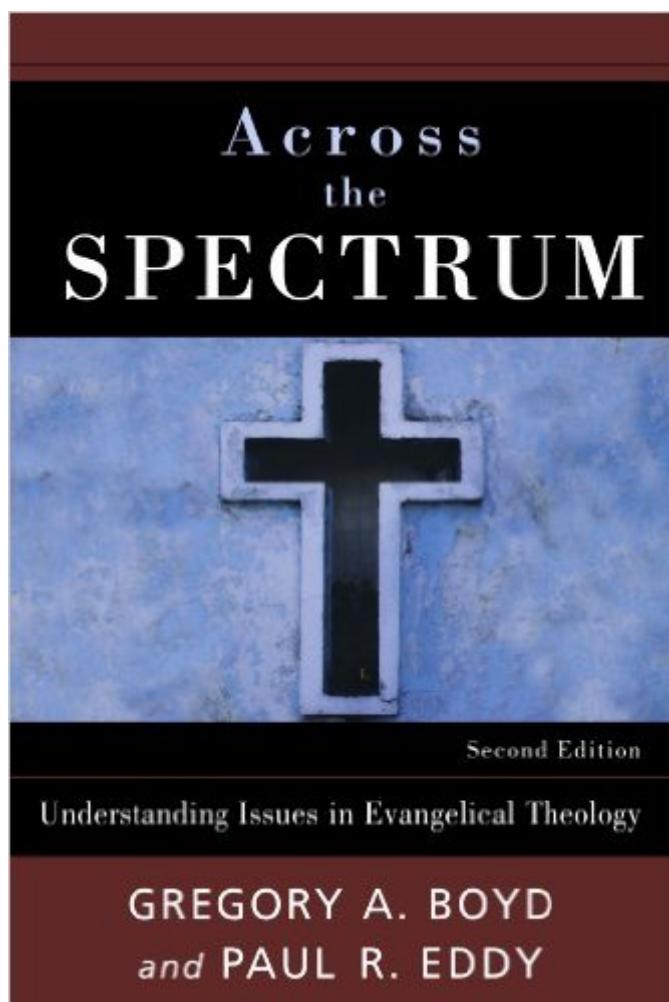


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Across The Spectrum: Understanding Issues In Evangelical Theology



Synopsis

This new edition of a popular text presents an accessible yet comprehensive primer that helps readers understand the breadth of viewpoints on major issues in evangelical theology, with chapters using the popular three- or four-views book format. The authors carefully examine positions taken by evangelical scholars on seventeen seminal issues. They lay out the biblical, theological, and philosophical arguments for each position in point-counterpoint fashion and discuss possible objections. The second edition retains the helpful features of the first edition-end-of-chapter "For Further Reading" sections and an extensive glossary-and adds an appendix that addresses thirteen peripheral issues in contemporary evangelicalism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To paraphrase a saying, "In essentials unity; in other things liberty; in all things charity." With "Across the Spectrum", Greg Boyd and Paul Eddy have put this into practice, surveying a wide variety of what I call "next-tier" Christian doctrinal questions. In this unique book, each chapter deals with a different issue in Christian doctrine, each issue the subject of considerable past and/or present interest and debate among evangelical Christians, and each one outside the common ecumenical core of Christian doctrine. Or rather, not outside that core, but at a more-detailed level of extrapolation and understanding of that core, while remaining within it. For example, Body and Eddy explain in their first chapter, all traditional and evangelical Christians affirm the divine, infallible, and unique inspiration of the Bible. This is a core (ecumenical) doctrine. But what does it mean to say the Bible is inspired of God in this way, particularly with respect to mundane and

spiritually-ancillary Biblical details such as genealogies, chronologies, observations of nature and creation, and so on? Is it to say that the Bible is without face-value error in all its statements, even these? Or is it to say that the Bible faithfully communicates what God intends it to, without pollution that would interfere with his redemptive message - a position allowing for imprecision or inaccuracy in Biblical details extraneous to faith and practice? In other words, is it verbal, plenary, inerrant inspiration? Or infallible concepts transported by human literature? This is the "next tier" to the inspiration doctrine, and most other Christian doctrines likewise have "next tiers" of their own.

It shouldn't have to be said, but since no one has REALLY said it, I will. Do you negative reviewers actually believe that the authors hold all of these views? And that it is their intent for you to just pick any of them (cafeteria-style) and that they're all equal? Do you think that they crafted all of these positions? From many of the comments, some of you are placing the blame on Boyd and Eddy for presenting views held by a good number of your fellow believers. PLEASE....before blasting away with all the negativity, understand what the intent of the book is. Several of the reviewers here "get it." I have read this book and refer to it regularly when trying to understand the basis for a position that I do not hold when I have come across someone who does hold such a view. And, by the way, you can't tell from reading this book what position the authors actually hold, anyway. Can any of you tell me which of these views are held by Paul Eddy? I don't think so. Just because you may have read some of Boyd's other books and think you have him pegged, doesn't mean that these topics aren't treated very fairly in this book. It's a great resource and it's a shame that many of us are so quick to criticize without using the wisdom that God has for us. Note to Jan from Baltimore - I read your four other reviews, too. Do you have anything edifying to say about anything? You're very verbose (are you sure you didn't go to an Ivy League school?) but really didn't say anything of value, in my humble opinion. This book has helped me to strengthen my conservative beliefs (not obtained from "liberal Yale or Princeton", Jan) via solid scripture and to better understand other evangelical beliefs (and their history) held by Christians with whom I will celebrate with in heaven.

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