

A Little Book for New Theologians

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Entering the Conversation

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We are all called theologians,

Tell me about God.

For some people the question of whether or not God exists is a painful and haunting uncertainty not easily dismissed. But for most people the question is not whether God exists, but what is God like. Not whether there is a deity, but how many, and which one(s). How do we know God? Can God be trusted? Does God care? And is God good?

Whenever we speak about God we are engaged in theology. The term "theology" means a word (logos) about God (theos), so when anyone speaks about God, whether that person dropped out of high school or completed a PhD in philosophy, he or she is engaged in theology. Theology is not reserved for those in the academy; it is an aspect of thought and conversation for all who live and breathe, who wrestle and fear, who hope and pray.

One great danger of idols is that we try to fill our souls with what cannot satisfy, and then in our loneliness, questions and despair we wonder where God is. We were created for fellowship with God, and apart from that communion we are lost. Theology is about life, and it is not a conversation our souls can afford to avoid.

To read the rest, buy [A Little Book for New Theologians](#)[Image]

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More on this topic

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The Essence of Christianity[Image] (1841; reprint, New York: Barnes & Noble, 2004). This line of thinking was also picked up and popularized, for example, by Sigmund Freud.

The Transformation of American Religion: How We Actually Live Our Faith[Image] (New York: Free Press, 2003), p. 36.