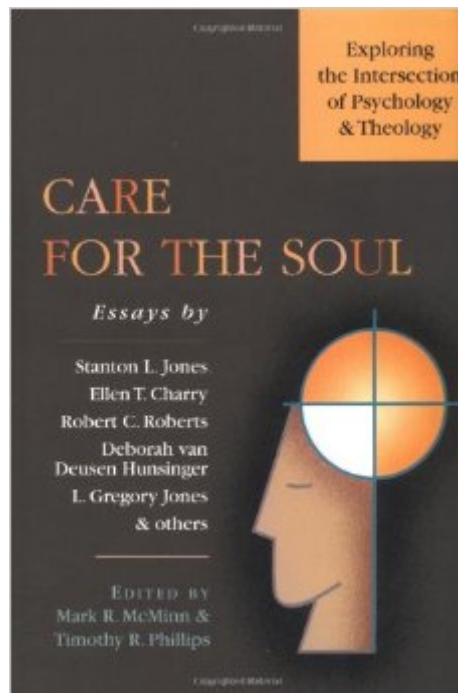


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Care For The Soul: Exploring The Intersection Of Psychology & Theology



Synopsis

"This volume explores the intersection of psychology and theology, but it is not a simple intersection. It is an intersection affected by rich theological and ecclesiological traditions, by the ravages and wonders of modern psychology, and by the character and qualities of today's ministers and communities of faith." (from the introduction) For two millennia Christians have been caring for souls. Since the Enlightenment, though, the Christian concept of the soul has been usurped by modern and postmodern notions of the self. "Somehow we misplaced the soul even as we developed a thriving science of the psyche," lament the editors of this volume. Thus there is a clash between Western therapeutic culture and the church's understanding of the soul's nature and its care. As a result, some Christians deride psychology as dangerous. Others believe that it has much to offer Christians interested in caring for the soul. What is the proper relationship between psychology and theology? Is soul care the shared task of these two fields? This collection of essays is a multidisciplinary dialogue on the interface between psychology and theology that takes seriously the long, rich tradition of soul care in the church. In this volume you'll find incisive discussions of the current state of theology and psychology overcoming the acquiescence to secularism theological resources for developing Christian psychology taking theology to heart in psychology taking psychology to heart in theology and Christian life Contributors include Jeffrey H. Boyd, Ellen T. Charry, Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, L. Gregory Jones, Stanton L. Jones, Cynthia Neal Kimball, Bryan N. Maier, Michael Mangis, Philip G. Monroe, Stephen K. Moroney, Dennis L. Okholm, David Powlison, Robert C. Roberts, Richard L. Schultz, Myrla Seibold, Brett Webb-Mitchell and David Alan Williams. Providing insight and analysis from nineteen psychologists and theologians, *Care for the Soul* is essential reading for psychologists and counselors, pastors and theologians, and students or professors of psychology and theology.

Book Information

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AbstractThe following document concerns essays within the text *Care for the Soul*, edited by Mark McMinn and Timothy Philips. Two essays from the text are addressed in depth, in regards to exploring the intersection of psychology and theology: *An Apologetic Apologia for the Integration of Psychology and Theology*, by Stanton L. Jones, and *An Interdisciplinary Map for Christian Counselors: Theology and Psychology in Pastoral Counseling*, by Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger.

Essay OneThough the essay *An Apologetic Apologia for the Integration of Psychology and Theology*, by Stanton L. Jones, is a defense for including psychology within the realm of the church, the essay begins by stating it is very possible--up until now--psychology has done more harm to Christianity, than benefit. According to Jones, the general actions of the church in regards to many pastoral matters, such as the pastoral counseling of an adulterer, are agreeable with psychotherapeutic process and include, "compassionate human listening; confrontation over sin; consolation, comfort and companionship in despair; receiving of confession, assurance of pardon, and reconstruction of that man's life in accord with proper virtues of self control, fidelity, respect for life..." Jones then goes to point out a scenario of childhood autism, where the church would be unequipped to provide care (or referral) without the benefit of psychological knowledge (which in such a case could provide a considerable cure for the symptoms of autism in 50% of cases).

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