



A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology

By Kelly M. Kopic

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Whenever we read, think, hear or say anything about God, we are doing theology. Yet theology isn't just a matter of what we think. It affects who we are. In the tradition of Helmut Thielicke's *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*, Kelly Kopic offers a concise introduction to the study of theology for newcomers to the field. He highlights the value and importance of theological study and explains its unique nature as a serious discipline. Not only concerned with content and method, Kopic explores the skills, attitudes and spiritual practices needed by those who take up the discipline. This brief, clear and lively primer draws out the relevance of theology for Christian life, worship, mission, witness and more. "Theology is about life," writes Kopic. "It is not a conversation our souls can afford to avoid."

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Editorial Review

Review

"[O]ne can hope that professors will assign this book to first-year seminary students. It is the perfect sort of book for the spiritual formation class that many of the SBC seminaries require, and yet even seasoned theologians will be refreshed by it. I am confident that it will be successful in awakening many from their spiritual dogmatic slumbers." (A. Blake White, *Southwestern Journal of Theology*, 56.2)

"*A Little Book for New Theologians* would make an outstanding text for introductory level undergraduate courses in theology, or for the continuing education of any adult desirous of a high quality inlet into this most excellent and exciting of disciplines. More seasoned students of theology will also discover much to be commended. . . . An able and earnest invitation to advance with increasing skill and integrity toward the end for which we were made?namely, knowing, worshiping and enjoying god." (John C. Clark, *Trinity Journal*, December 2013)

"In his latest book, Kelly Kopic's contagious passion for embracing the life-transforming potential for the discipline of theology captivated my attention, even in the first few pages. He inspires a renewed value and fresh perspective, arguing that the committed Christian cannot afford to discount theological study. . . . *A Little Book for New Theologians* is a 'must read' for the new or seasoned theologian. It provides a solid anchor for the nature of theological study." (Ava Oleson, *Encounter: Journal for Pentecostal Ministry*, Fall 2013, Vol. 10)

"This book delivers on its promise to explain why and how to study theology. . . . Kopic offers much wisdom in a small package. This book could be given as a gift to someone embarking on the study of theology, used as a guide for small group study or mentoring relationships, or even chosen as a required text for an introductory theology class." (Mary L. VandenBerg, *Calvin Theological Journal*, April 2013)

"New theologians can learn a lot from it, and if it challenges them in some places, then so much the better." (Gerald Bray, *Themelios*, November 2012)

"This concise guide, perfect for college and seminary students, offers gentle wisdom for beginners in the field." (*ByFaith Magazine*, Quarter 3, 2012)

"In a very short book [Kopic] draws on sources as diverse as the church fathers (Anselm, Origen of Alexandria, Augustine, Gregory Nazianzus), the writers on contemporary religion books (C.S. Lewis and Miroslav Volf), and the Book of Common Prayer used in the Episcopal Church. Worship is a central theme of the book because it is central to those who would be leaders in a church. His chapters on prayer and good knowledge of the Bible are central to teaching others how to live in and lead a church. . . . This book has appeal to anyone interested in a foundation in theology." (*Publishers Weekly*, August 13, 2012)

"For many Christians the word *theology* is synonymous with abstruse, irrelevant and boring. In this jewel of a book, Kelly Kopic shows that theology is really, as the Puritan William Ames said, 'the science of living in the presence of God.' This is a great primer both for new students of theology and for those well practiced in the discipline." (Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University and general editor of the *Reformation Commentary on Scripture*)

"To study with Kelly Kapic must be serious fun. His joy in teaching theology is infectious; at the same time he is in blood earnest in believing how essential good theology is to shape minds and transform lives for the glory of God. With delightful signposts from the great theologians of the past, *A Little Book for New Theologians* guides us to a mountain of unending discovery. Here is an ideal starter kit for the beginning theology student and an affection-refresher for those who have been longer on the way." (Sinclair B. Ferguson, professor of systematic theology, Westminster Seminary, Dallas)

"Kelly Kapic concisely states major characteristics of thinking theologically in this little book. For readers who wish a brief explanation of how the study of God functions with reason, prayer, study, humility and repentance, this is a very good beginning. Utilizing salient insights from Augustine, Calvin, Kierkegaard and major reform theologians, he maps out the territory for understanding that theology is naturally a part of living." (Thomas C. Oden, Emeritus Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology, Drew University)

"This 'little book' is about a topic that is bigger than life, namely how to begin to think after God. Indeed, this useful manual is based on the conviction that all Christians are already engaged in a theological task as they continue wrestling with the questions of faith. Deceitfully easy and highly accessible, this guide is based on the best of theological wisdom and tested classroom experience. Highly recommended." (Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, professor of systematic theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, and docent of ecumenics, University of Helsinki, Finland)

About the Author

Kelly M. Kapic (PhD, King's College London) is professor of theological studies at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. He is the author or editor of numerous books including *A Little Book for New Theologians*, *God So Loved He Gave*, *Communion with God*, *Mapping Modern Theology*, *Sanctification*, and *Pocket Dictionary of the Reformed Tradition*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tom Seaman:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for us. The book *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology* ended up being making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The e-book *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology* is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship together with the book *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology*. You never truly feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

Amelia Page:

A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *A Little Book for New Theologians: Why and How to Study Theology* nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one

of it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

Faye Bolin:

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Dawn Brown:

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