

**AN
INTRODUCTION
TO
THEOLOGY**

Young Oon Kim

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**Holy Spirit Association
for the Unification of World Christianity**

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First edition

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by

The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity
4 W. 43rd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10036

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Printed in the United States of America
Library of Congress Cataloging number 82-84722
ISBN 0-910621-25-X

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PREFACE

Within the Unification Church, there is a need for more advanced literature to supplement the usual lectures given at Divine Principle workshops. Follow-up material has become necessary to raise our members spiritually and intellectually, and to educate them as more effective witnesses.

Unificationists need to understand more fully what historic Christianity has taught and how the message of Divine Principle is deeply rooted in the Old and New Testament scriptures. Christian theology has been continually redefined and restructured in the past; Unificationism should be seen as part of this long process of clarification and improvement. Divine Principle throws new light on traditional Christian teachings, clarifying many obscurities, and answering important theological questions in a more satisfying way—but in order to understand this, one must be familiar with the traditional Christian doctrines.

To be a Christian spiritual leader or teacher, one needs an adequate knowledge of basic Christian beliefs, as well as of contemporary reformulations of their fundamental truths. One must also know how the authority of the Bible has been substantially transformed by historical and literary criticism. Furthermore, one must appreciate how the modern scientific world-view has altered and stimulated a variety of current philosophies of religion. Finally, it is important to recognize the

historic differences among the separate Christian churches—Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox—as well as the current doctrinal variety even within a specific denomination, such as Presbyterianism or Methodism. As many scholars point out, theology is now challenged to respond to the most colorful period in Christian history.

My motive in preparing this brief handbook can be succinctly stated. Many others have published far more detailed and scholarly treatments of Christian doctrines. However, these are often too long and complicated for the average reader. Hence I have been requested to provide a readable introduction to the mainstream of theological development in the modern age, highlighting the chief contributions of the major thinkers, and supplementing their work with an indication of their resemblances to or divergences from Unificationist teachings. It is my hope to inspire and enrich the reader with greater understanding of divine wisdom and love. Throughout this book, I have tried to be ecumenical in my approach to the theologians treated, emphasizing the worthy aspects of their thought.

Young Oon Kim
Barrytown-on-the-Hudson