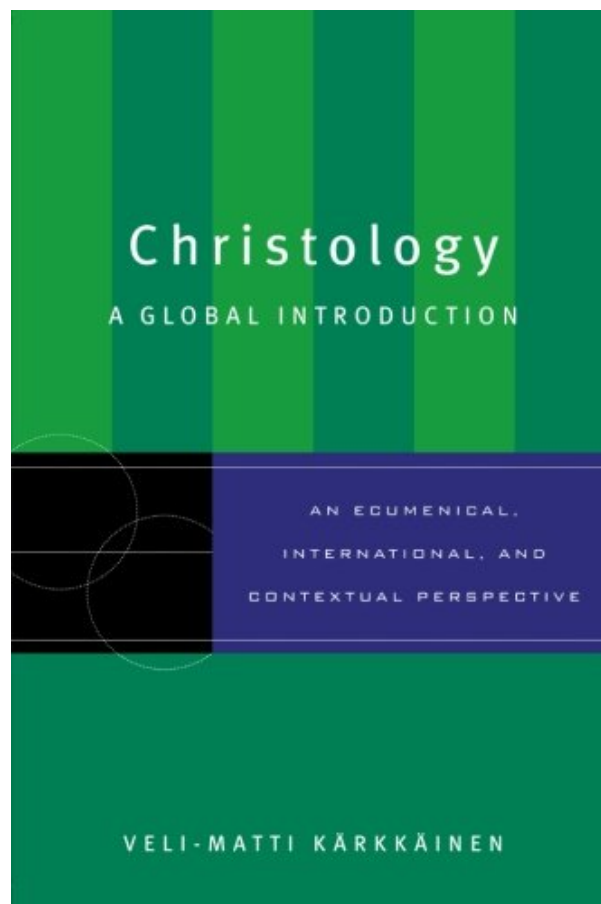
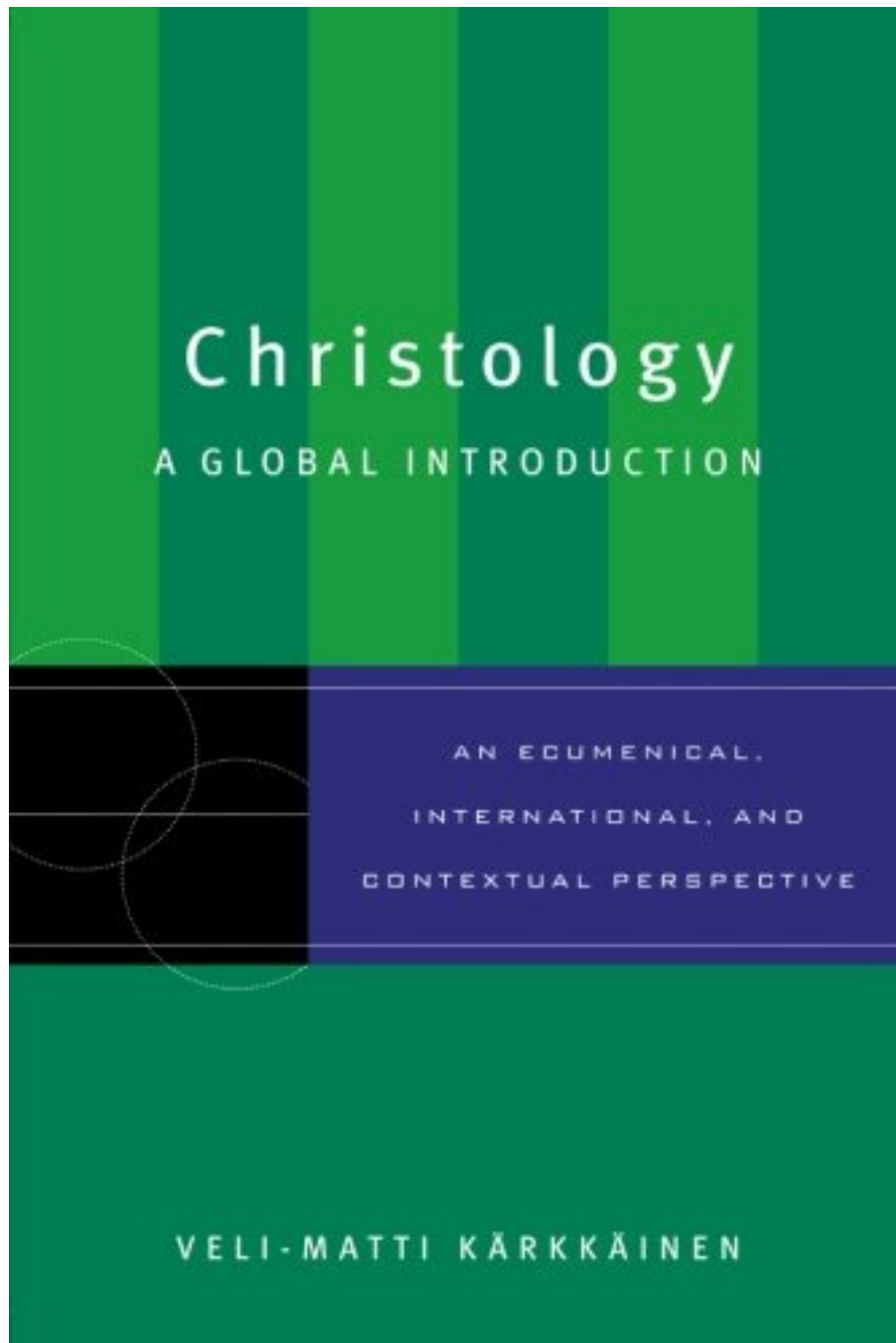


**CHRISTOLOGY: A GLOBAL
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KARKKAINEN**



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With Christology, VeliMatti Kärkkäinen provides an up to date, comprehensive introduction to the topic in which voices from around the globe are heard. He offers three main perspectives on Christology (biblical, historical, and contemporary) and attempts to combine classical and contextual work done in Christology over the course of church history. Kärkkäinen compares and contrasts how the Gospel writers and the apostle Paul understood the person and work of Jesus Christ. He then focuses on the christological discussions that took place in the early church and the ways in which scholars have attempted to understand Jesus. The heart of Christology is an extended discussion of ten major Western Christologies from well known theologians such as Karl Barth, Stanley Grenz, and John Hick. The final part of the book delves into contextualized interpretations about Christ in various parts of the world. Feminist, process, black, and post modern Christologies extant in North America and Europe are discussed and evaluated. Asian (Christ as universal Savior), African (Christ as Ancestor), and Latin American (Christ as Liberator) Christologies round out the discussion. Christology is ideal for readers who desire to know how the global Christian community understands the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Good overview

By G. Gilbert

Karkkainen's book has very pertinent material in it, but this book is clearly not for everyone...I really wouldn't recommend this book as an introduction to Christianity - it would be far too confusing. However, for someone who's interested in discovering how Jesus/the Christ is viewed around the world, this book is perfect.

The title is clear enough: this book contains ideas from around the world and across the theological spectrum

looking at that ever important question: what was Christ's purpose? This book is designed as a survey, and therefore does not cover every little detail of every little belief about who and what Christ was. However, it does serve as an excellent introduction to these issues.

The book is broken into four different sections: Christ in the Bible, Christ in History, Christ in Contemporary World: Western Christologies, and Christ in the Contemporary World: Contextual Christologies. Some of the theologians/theologies that are looked at include but are not limited to: Karl Barth - Dialectical Christology; Rudolf Bultmann - Mythological Christology; Paul Tillich - Existentialist Christology; Jurgen Moltmann - Messianic Christology; John Hick - Universalist Christology; Jon Sobrino - Christ as Liberator; and Benezet Bujo - Christ as Ancestor.

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Lucid summary text - recommended for the discerning

By R. Cannata

Karkkainen is Finnish, teaching occasionally at Fuller Seminary, I gather. Don't let the Fuller connection (or the blurb from Roger Olson - uptight postevangelical) scare you off. Karkkainen's own view point may seem less orthodox than many would like (including this reader),

but this is a WONDERFUL survey of all the streams of thought throughout

Church history and across the globe. I really wish I had this when I was in

the intro. courses at seminary. It is INCREDIBLY ACCESSIBLE and lucid. He

will summarize the unique contribution and distinctiveness of say Locke or

Pannenberg in one sentence, without oversimplifying. Its stunning how

good this guy is at summarizing ideas and contrasting them with others. It

is very irenic too.

Karkkainen is comfortable in his own skin and just unapologetically revels in his ecumenical neo-orthodoxy.

A great read for those secure and mature in their own theology and not looking to adopt Karkkainen's views, but to use him to understand other positions.

See the review preceding this one for a list of topics covered.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Ecumenical Comparative Christology

By Didaskalex

"it seems that Kärkkäinen's real subject matter is not Christology so much as the whole of Christian theology, viewed from a Christological vantage point. ... Kärkkäinen observes that dividing Christology into considerations of Christ's 'person' and 'work' is to some extent artificial. " Ch. Hefling

Christology is defined by the Webster Dictionary as "the study of the work and person of Jesus Christ." The Chalcedonian definition failed to resolve the disagreements between Alexandria and Antioch in their approach and theological treatment. Its criticism arose from within the church since the Enlightenment and peaked during early twentieth century. The council of Chalcedon declared that Christ's humanity was 'consubstantial' with ours, but this boundary definition, was short of a concrete understanding of Christ's

human nature. Such speculative interpretation, was approached and expounded differently by various theologians.

Kärkkäinen whose ecumenical Christology, was summarized in salvation as union, exposed in his more recent book, "One with God." The author provides a comprehensive review of the topic in which he articulated three basic scopes on Christology. His compressed overview of biblical and historical narratives summarizes studies in Christology over the church history. Inevitably his treatment is selective, causing a gap between the third council and the Reformation. The heart of his ecumenical Christology is his compelling discussion of ten Western Christologies from eminent contemporary theologians including Barth, Grenz, Moltmann, Rahner, Tillich and Zizioulas.

I agree with the informed reviewer that the book is, "A great read for those secure and mature in their own theology." I understand why "Karkkainen's views," seem alien, though not different from ecumenical Orthodoxy, well conceived and not disputed by Barth.

One with God: Salvation As Deification and Justification (Unitas Books)

See all 15 customer reviews...

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