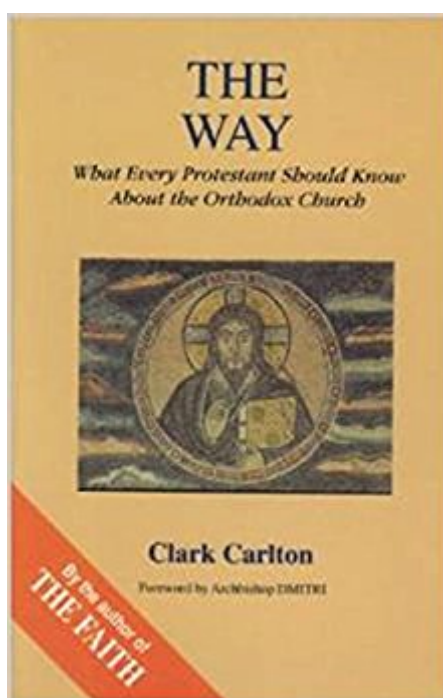


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The Way: What Every Protestant Should Know About The Orthodox Church (Faith Catechism)



Synopsis

Outlines the fundamental differences between Orthodoxy and Protestantism. Written with a broad vision of the historic church; includes instruction to help believers to embrace the fullness of the Christian faith.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fantastic book. This book helped us as catechumens of the Orthodox Church, converting from evangelical Protestantism. The story of Clark Carlton's journey to the Orthodox Church from Protestantism (Southern Baptist), and the exposition of the differences between Protestantism and Orthodoxy are made so plain and easy to understand. This book was recommended to us by other Orthodox priests to help us on our journey to Orthodoxy.

A very good read and I totally agree now that I left Protestantism for the original Church that Jesus started with His apostles. I totally see the truth in this book.

This is a good book for people already exploring Orthodox Christianity and wanting to know more. Some people may find parts of it a little too direct but it is clear regarding the Orthodox viewpoint.

Absolutely necessary for those looking for the right faith! Especially for those who were influenced by Protestant ideas.

As someone who left evangelical/fundamentalist protestantism over ten years ago, and then explored the christian tradition as far as Catholicism while still remaining unsatisfied, I found this book inspiring me to take yet another look into the christian tradition for truth and community. I regret now that at that time I didn't know enough to look at the Orthodox Church (or the Coptic Church, for that matter) before giving up on the christian tradition. And having grown up attending both baptist churches and other protestant churches with strong similarities to the baptist denominations, it seems clear to me that Carlton writes with profound and clear insider insight. The readily predictable reactions of a number of baptist reviewers here certainly don't surprise me, but they strike me as being rooted in the process of psychological denial more than in a truly candid and truth-seeking evaluation of Carlton's prophetic message to their churches. To put it simply; Carlton seems to understand protestant doctrine and practice more clearly than your average baptist.

The Way provides a concise overview of Orthodoxy along with a critique of and a comparison to Evangelical Protestant theology. The author makes it clear that his work is polemical, ending the book in a Baptist "altar call" style by asking the reader to investigate and join Eastern Orthodoxy. What isn't as clear, however, is that his critique and comparison focuses on Evangelical theology and other Protestants may not find their own traditions discussed adequately. They may even find themselves exclaiming, "Protestants believe that!" Evangelical Protestants unfamiliar with Orthodoxy will find a method, language, and structure they can understand. Others will find the succinct descriptions of Orthodoxy very useful.

Clark Carlton's "The Way" is a solid text with good analysis on the difference between Protestant denominations and Eastern Orthodoxy. Though some reviewers have criticized the text about Clark's understanding of Protestantism and the Southern Baptists Convention (SBC) in particular, they have not addressed the schisms in the Baptist faith (and Protestantism) nor have they been fair to Clark's text. The groups who have left Orthodoxy are much different in dynamics than the splits in Protestantism (for one, when one leaves Orthodoxy, they are no longer Orthodox; but a schismatic Protestant is still a Protestant and is the logical outworking of Protestant doctrine). As a former Baptist, I found nothing in error with Clark's review of the SBC. His review on other issues like 'sola scriptura' and 'tradition' are above average chapters, however, his refutation of 'sola' proof texts used by Evangelicals is average and I wish more detailed analysis on the texts were used. The chapter is only 15 pages and many texts have been dealt with more thoroughly by some of the

Catholic Apologists. I assert he goes on a red herring in saying that Paul was only asserting the Old Testament when writing about the sufficiency of scripture- yes, that is a given, but the New Testament is still inspired scripture and when he finally deals with this, his conclusion (which I agree with) is not as forceful as it should be. I wanted to give this book a higher approval rating because I essentially agree with him on almost all points, but the book is too small and many other essential tenets of Orthodoxy are either not discussed or barely touched such as Theosis. This book is probably very good for someone who is just being introduced to Orthodoxy and is him or herself at wits end with the heresies and schisms of Protestantism. For the seasoned reader looking for an apologetic to aid in articulating the faith, there is much better material elsewhere.

Perfect for introducing Protestant friends or family members to the traditional Orthodox view on Sola Scriptura. Also an excellent read for anyone hoping to become Orthodox.

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