

## Contents

Foreword to the Third German Edition .....	15
Preface to the First German Edition .....	18
Forewords to the First German Edition .....	22
Preface to the American Edition.....	30
Edmund Schlink's <i>Ecumenical Dogmatics</i> .....	37
Abbreviations and Symbols .....	61

### INTRODUCTORY PART The Gospel as the Presupposition of Church Doctrine

Chapter I: The Knowledge of God.....	69
1. Beginning with the Gospel of Jesus Christ .....	69
2. The Hiddenness of God in the Gospel .....	73
3. The Revelation of the Divine Mystery .....	74
4. The Knowledge of God by Faith .....	77
5. The Knowledge of God as Being Known by the Triune God .....	79

Chapter II: The Knowledge of the World.....	83
1. The Self-Knowledge of the Human Being .....	83
2. The Knowledge of Other Human Beings.....	88
3. The Knowledge of the History of Humanity .....	90
4. The Knowledge of the Universe .....	94
5. Believing and Knowing .....	96

Chapter III: The Knowledge of God and the Doctrine of God.....	115
1. The Basic Forms of the Theological Statement .....	115
2. Structural Issues Regarding the Dogmatic Statement.....	126
<i>Excursus: The Relationship between the Theological and Philosophical Analysis of Language .....</i>	134
3. The Task of an Ecumenical Dogmatics .....	139
4. The Doctrine of the Acts of God .....	150

5. Theology as Doxology .....	155
6. Anthropology as Repentance .....	157
7. The Organization of Dogmatics.....	160

## FIRST PART The Doctrine of Creation

Chapter IV: The Creation of the World .....	173
Introduction: The Starting Point for the Doctrine of Creation .....	173
1. The Freedom of God the Creator .....	178
2. The Act of Creation in the Beginning .....	181
3. The Universe.....	188
4. The Purpose of Creation .....	192
5. The Originally Good Creation.....	194
6. The Order of Creation .....	196
7. God's Continuous Creative Action.....	199
Chapter V: The Purpose of the Human Being .....	213
Introduction to Chapters V–VII The Starting Point for the Doctrine about Human Beings .....	213
1. The Response That Is the Image of God .....	225
2. The Community That Is the Image of God .....	226
3. The Dominion That Is the Image of God .....	227
4. The Life That Is the Image of God .....	229
5. Origin and Purpose .....	233
Chapter VI: The Failure of the Human Being .....	243
1. Turning Away from God .....	243
2. Imprisonment in Guilt .....	245
3. The Urge to Sin .....	248
4. The Dominion of Sin .....	250
5. The Judgment into which Human Beings Have Fallen: Death .....	259
6. Origin and Failure .....	264
Chapter VII: The Preservation of the Human Being.....	275
1. The Preservation of the Sinner in the Midst of Having Fallen into Judgment .....	275
2. The Witness of God through the Works of Creation .....	276
3. The Commandment of the Preserver .....	284
4. The Establishing of Just Authority.....	293
5. The Conservation of the Distorted Image of God .....	305

Chapter VIII: The Preservation of the World.....	315
1. The Corruption within the Creation.....	315
2. The Service of the Angels .....	317
3. The Dominion of the Powers of Corruption .....	322
4. The Judgment into which the World Has Fallen: The End .....	326
5. The Time of Divine Patience .....	330
Chapter IX: The Governance of the World .....	335
1. God's Dominion over World History .....	335
2. The Hiddenness of God in World History .....	338
3. The Mystery of World History: Jesus Christ and the New Creation .....	341
4. The Revealed Action of God through the Gospel .....	342
5. The Humiliation of God in His Governance of the World .....	345
6. Theodicy .....	347
7. Providence .....	348
Chapter X: The Confession of God the Creator .....	355
1. God the Father, the Creator .....	355
2. God the Eternal Father .....	358

## **SECOND PART The Doctrine of Redemption**

Chapter XI: The Old Testament Law.....	363
Introduction: The Old Covenant .....	363
A. The Promise.....	371
1. God's Leadership.....	371
2. God's Action through the King .....	373
3. God's Action in the Cultus.....	375
4. God's Speaking through the Prophets.....	379
5. The Broken Covenant and the New Promise .....	382
6. The Promise of the Coming Ruler.....	385
7. The Promise of the New Covenant.....	388
8. The Promise of Yahweh's Adoration by the Nations .....	388
B. The Law .....	390
1. The Prohibition against Worshiping Other Gods .....	390
2. The Prohibition against Harming the Neighbor .....	392
3. God's Commanding and God's Law .....	395
4. The Announcement of Blessing and Curse.....	398
5. Israel's Disobedience to the Law .....	400

6. God's Judgment of Israel .....	401
7. The Detachment of the Law .....	404
8. The People of Expectation .....	406
Introduction to Chapters XII and XIII: The Exaltation of Jesus as the Presupposition for the Doctrine of the Humiliation of the Son of God .....	413
1. The Honorific Titles of Jesus .....	413
2. The History of Jesus as the Basis for His Honorific Titles .....	417
3. The Reversed Sequence of the History and the Recognition of Jesus Christ .....	421
4. Historical Investigation into the Earthly Jesus .....	423
5. The Apostolic Message as the Basis of Faith .....	431
6. The History of Jesus and Christological Dogma .....	435
7. The Organization of Christology .....	441
Chapter XII: The Humiliation of the Son of God .....	449
A. The Incarnation.....	449
1. The Sending of the Son .....	449
2. Becoming Flesh .....	452
3. Subjection to the Law .....	454
4. Free from the Law of Sin .....	455
5. The Mystery of Becoming Human .....	458
B. The Message .....	464
1. The Public Appearance of Jesus .....	464
2. The Coming of the Kingdom of God .....	469
3. The Coming Son of Man .....	481
4. The Call to Repentance .....	490
5. The Servant Ministry of the Son .....	501
C. The Death on the Cross .....	511
1. The Condemnation by the People .....	511
2. The Self-Sacrifice of the Son .....	520
3. The Sacrificial Offering by God .....	524
4. The Death for the World .....	527
5. The Victory of the Cross over the World.....	537
Chapter XIII: The Exaltation of Jesus.....	547
A. The Resurrection .....	547
1. The Appearances of the Risen One .....	547
2. The Revelation of the Son of God .....	561
3. The Revelation of the New Human Being .....	567

4. The Unveiling of the Old Testament Scriptures .....	569
5. The Beginning of the New Creation .....	581
B. The Reign of Christ.....	583
1. The Present Lord .....	583
2. His Reign as a Call .....	586
3. His Reign as a Community .....	588
4. His Reign as a Governing of the World .....	590
5. The Time of Grace .....	599
C. The Return .....	603
1. The Coming of Jesus in Glory .....	603
2. The End of World History and the Problem of Language in Statements about the Acts of the Coming One .....	605
3. The Judgment of the Living and the Dead .....	609
4. Redemption .....	611
5. The Establishment of God's Reign .....	614
Summary of Chapters XII and XIII: The Doctrine of the Threefold Office of Jesus Christ .....	621

**In Volume II:**

Chapter XIV: The New Testament Gospel.....	639
Introduction: The New Covenant .....	639
A. The Gospel .....	645
1. The Message of Jesus Christ .....	645
2. The Assurance of the Act of Salvation through the Gospel .....	646
3. God's Salvific Action through the Gospel .....	649
4. Salvation .....	652
5. Justification .....	654
6. Vivification .....	660
7. Sanctification .....	662
8. The Transformation into God's Image .....	664
9. The Call to Faith .....	668
B. Exhortation .....	672
1. The New Commandment .....	672
2. The Comforting Exhortation .....	674
3. The Commandment to Love .....	677
4. Prayer .....	681
5. Witness.....	683

6. The Commandment of the Redeemer and the Commandment of the Preserver: The Obedience That Is the Image of God .....	686
7. The Law of the Spirit .....	691
8. The Boundary of Death .....	692
9. The Call to Repentance .....	695
Summary of Parts A and B: God's Action of Grace and Human Action .....	709
Chapter XV: Baptism .....	721
1. The Foundation of Baptism.....	721
2. Baptism into Christ .....	726
3. Baptism through the Holy Spirit.....	728
4. Reception into the Church.....	729
5. The Presuppositions for Infant Baptism .....	730
Chapter XVI: The Lord's Supper .....	737
1. The Foundation of the Lord's Supper.....	737
2. The Gift of Jesus' Body and the Blood of the Covenant .....	742
3. The Promise of the Meal in the Kingdom of God .....	746
4. The Eucharistic-Anamnetic Recognition of the Present Christ .....	748
5. The Edification of the Church .....	762
Conclusion to Chapters XIV–XVI: The Richness of God's Action of Grace and the Number of Sacraments .....	771
Summary of Chapters XI–XVI: The Distinction between Law and Gospel... 779	
1. The Issue of Distinguishing between Law and Gospel .....	780
2. The Gospel in the Old Testament Law .....	781
3. The Law in the New Testament Gospel .....	781
4. The Unity of Law and Gospel .....	782
5. The Distinction between Law and Gospel .....	783
6. The Gospel as God's Proper Word.....	784
7. Being Tested in <i>Anfechtung</i> .....	785
Chapter XVII: The Confession of God the Redeemer .....	789
1. Jesus the Redeemer.....	789
2. The Eternal Son .....	792
3. “Truly God and Truly a Human Being” .....	798

### THIRD PART The Doctrine of the New Creation

Chapter XVIII: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit .....	809
1. The Event of Pentecost .....	809
2. The New Creation through the Holy Spirit .....	814
3. The Holy Spirit as Power .....	818
4. The Holy Spirit as Lord .....	821
5. The Recognition of the Spirit's Action .....	825
 Chapter XIX: The Church.....	831
Introduction to Chapters XIX–XXII: The Starting Point for the Doctrine of the Church .....	831
1. The Origin of the Church .....	840
2. The People of God Called Out from the World .....	846
3. The Prophetic, Priestly, and Royal People of God Sent into the World .....	849
4. The Worship Assembly .....	853
5. The <i>Ekklesia</i> of God, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit: the Growing New Creation .....	862
6. The Unity, Holiness, Catholicity, and Apostolicity of the Church .....	870
7. The Communion of Saints .....	875
 Chapter XX: Spiritual Gift and Ministerial Office .....	881
1. The Apostles .....	881
2. The Community of the Charismata .....	889
3. The Sending into Servant Ministry .....	892
4. The Church's Ministerial Office .....	897
5. The Pastoral Office and the Church .....	907
6. Apostolic Succession .....	911
7. The Secular Office and the Church's Ministerial Office .....	921
 Chapter XXI: The Preservation of the Church.....	929
Introduction: The Indestructibility of the Church .....	929
A. Holy Scripture.....	935
1. Holy Scripture as a Collection of Church Writings .....	935
2. The Authority of Holy Scripture .....	939
3. Basic Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics .....	943
B. Confession .....	954
1. Confession as a Response of the Church .....	954
2. The Basis for the Authority of Dogma .....	962
3. Basic Principles of Dogmatic Hermeneutics.....	964

C. Church Order .....	971
1. Church Law as the Regulation of the Church .....	971
2. The Authority of Church Law .....	977
3. Concerning the Hermeneutics of Church Law .....	982
 Chapter XXII: The Unity of the Church and the Disunity of Christendom .....	991
1. The Dangers of Ecclesial Self-Preservation .....	991
2. The Scandal of a Disunited Christendom .....	997
3. The Question Concerning the One Church in a Disunited Christendom .....	1003
4. Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Traditions of Christendom .....	1005
5. Apostolic Tradition and the Traditions of Christendom .....	1008
6. Recognizing the One Church in a Disunited Christendom .....	1017
7. Representing the One Church in the Unification of the Separated Churches .....	1025
 Chapter XXIII: The Consummation of the New Creation.....	1039
1. The End Time of World History .....	1039
2. The First Creation and the New Creation .....	1042
3. The Resurrection to Eternal Life .....	1044
4. The Creation of the New Heaven and the New Earth.....	1049
5. God Is All in All .....	1050
 Chapter XXIV: The Confession of God the New Creator .....	1053
1. The Holy Spirit, the New Creator .....	1053
2. The Eternal Spirit of God.....	1056
 <b>FOURTH PART The Doctrine of God</b>	
 Chapter XXV: The Adoration of God .....	1061
1. Thanksgiving for God's Acts .....	1061
2. Doxology .....	1061
3. The Adoration of God as a Sacrifice of Praise .....	1064
4. Adoration of the Divine Name .....	1067
5. Adoration from the Depths .....	1070
<i>Excursus: On the Issue of Theological Analogy</i> .....	1071
6. Dogma and the Doctrine of God .....	1073
7. The Starting Point and Organization of the Doctrine of God .....	1079

Chapter XXVI: The Triune God .....	1087
1. God the Father, the Eternal Origin of the Son and the Holy Spirit .....	1087
2. The Unity of God in the Distinctiveness of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit .....	1090
3. The Distinctiveness of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in the Unity of God .....	1090
4. The Trinitarian Dogma .....	1093
5. The Mystery of the Divine Fullness of Life .....	1098
6. The Trinitarian Dogma as the First and Last Statement .....	1101
7. The Ecumenical Significance of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed .....	1103
 Introduction to Chapters XXVII–XXIX The Holy God and the Doctrine of the Divine Attributes .....	1115
 Chapter XXVII: The Lord .....	1119
1. God's Omnipotence .....	1119
2. God's Omnipresence .....	1121
3. God's Eternity .....	1125
4. God's Glory .....	1127
 Chapter XXVIII: The All-Consuming God .....	1131
1. The Inescapable God .....	1131
2. The Wrathful God .....	1132
 Chapter XXIX: The Self-Giving God .....	1135
1. The Love of God .....	1135
2. The Righteousness of God .....	1138
3. The Wisdom of God .....	1142
4. The Steadfastness of God .....	1146
 Summary of Chapters XXVII–XXIX .....	1151
1. The All-Consuming and Self-Giving God .....	1151
2. The Adoration of the Triune God in the Glory of His Love .....	1154
  <b>CONCLUDING PART</b>	
 Chapter XXX: God's Decree of Love .....	1159
1. Solely by Grace .....	1159

2. The Eternal Decree of the Triune God .....	1159
3. The Issue of Double Predestination .....	1161
4. Election .....	1162
5. Rejection .....	1164
6. The Incommensurability between God's Electing and Rejecting .....	1165
<i>Excursus: On the Issue of the Theological Syllogism</i> .....	1169
7. The Warning to the Church and the Invitation to the World .....	1170
 Afterword: The Gospel—The Basis of an Ecumenical Dogmatics.	
Remarks on the Influence of Edmund Schlink's <i>Ecumenical Dogmatics: Basic Features</i> .....	1175
 Bibliography .....	1191
 Index of Scripture References .....	1227
 Index of Persons.....	1253
 Index of Subjects.....	1265
 Editor and Translators.....	1277