

How were gender, ethnicity, and identity constructed in the New Testament world?

New Testament scholars have usually discussed ethnicity and gender in the Roman environment as separate topics, without reference to the contemporary critical study of race theory. In *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings*, leading scholars examine the intersection of three worlds: the construction of gender and race under the Roman Empire; the crucible of nineteenth-century thinking about race and empire in which New Testament and classical studies were given definitive form; and the contemporary theoretical frameworks and methods that hold greatest promise for a renewed understanding of the New Testament and early Christian history. Highly attuned to questions of social location and interpretive method, these essays push against the marginalization of race and ethnicity studies and put the received wisdom of New Testament studies squarely in the foreground. *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings* sets the agenda for a new methodology in New Testament studies.