

In *Community Building in the Shepherd of Hermas*, Mark Grundeken investigates key aspects of Christian community life as reflected upon in the early Christian writing the *Shepherd of Hermas* (2<sup>nd</sup> century CE). Grundeken's thematic study deals with various topics: the community's identity, including its (alleged) 'Jewish Christianness', (lack of) resurrection belief, sectarian tendencies and its relation to the authorities and to the emperor cult; social features, encompassing gender roles and charity; and rituals such as baptism, *metanoia*, Eucharistic meals, the Sunday collection, dancing (and singing), the 'holy kiss' and reading of Scripture. The many fruitful entries prove *Hermas* to be one of the main texts for studying the development of community building in the early church.

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