



*God and Soul Care: The
Therapeutic Resources of the
Christian Faith*

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“A Bold and Courageous Book”

“Eric L. Johnson is one of the most thoughtful and thorough Christian scholars of our day. In *God and Soul Care*, Dr. Johnson once again demonstrates the profound continuity between Christian doctrine and Christian approaches to counseling, pastoral care, and psychotherapy. Each chapter of this text explores both the complex nuances of the Christian faith and why these nuances matter for those who care for souls. This volume will have both immediate value for the training of Christian counselors and longstanding value as a reference source as those counselors move through their careers.”

—Mark R. McMinn, professor of psychology, George Fox University, author of *The Science of Virtue*

“Augustine’s *Soliloquies* includes a dialogue between himself and his Reason, who asks him what he wants to know: “I want to know God and the soul.” “Nothing more?” “Nothing at all.” Eric Johnson wants to know how God heals the soul. This book is his answer. It’s a work of radical Christian scholarship that lets theology into the driver’s seat of psychology from the start. The result is a salutary theology that features the psychological health-giving implications of various Christian doctrines, united by a common trinitarian framework. This is the main course for which Johnson’s *Foundations for Soul Care* was the appetizer. Christianity as theo-therapy: Augustine would no doubt be pleased.”

—Kevin J. Vanhoozer, research professor of systematic theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

“Eric L. Johnson takes on the task of reimagining what we often think of as modern psychopathologies in the context of his larger thesis of a truly Christian psychology. Agree or disagree with his thesis, you will want to engage this work.”

—Mark A. Yarhouse, Rosemarie S. Hughes Endowed Chair of Psychology, Regent University, coauthor of *Modern Psychopathologies*

“We live in an age of academic overspecialization that too easily undercuts attempts at disciplinary integration. Thankfully, Eric Johnson resists that trend and seeks to bring his background in psychology into meaningful dialogue with theology and pastoral care. While not everyone in the different disciplines will agree with every move he makes, each can appreciate and learn from his noble attempt at a holistic approach. There is much to beneficially ponder in these packed pages.”

—Kelly M. Kapic, professor of theological studies, Covenant College

“*God and Soul Care* is a bold and courageous book. In it, Eric Johnson argues that Christian faith is fundamentally ‘therapeutic’ and that it provides tools that contribute to healing that secular counselors cannot make use of. Those tools require a deep and powerful

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ENDORSEMENTS



Eric L. Johnson (PhD, Michigan State University) trained as an academic psychologist and is Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover Professor of Pastoral Care at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of *Foundations for Soul Care* and the coeditor of *God Under Fire* and *Christianity and Psychology: Four Views*. Johnson is the associate editor of the *Journal of Psychology and Theology* as well as the director of the Society for Christian Psychology and the Institute for Christian Psychology.

understanding of Christian faith itself, rooted in the trinitarian understanding of God that God's revelation in Christ makes possible. . . . This is a book that will benefit both psychologists and theologians."

–**C. Stephen Evans, university professor of philosophy and humanities, Baylor University**

"As a biblical counselor and licensed practitioner who daily enters in with those suffering from the complexities associated with severe psychological disturbance, enslaving sin, and spiritual confusion, I will consult this insightful volume often and for many years to come."

–**Jeremy Lelek, president, Association of Biblical Counselors**

"*God and Soul Care* is a gift, and if it is received as it should be, it will go a long way toward helping shape counseling and counselors so that when we need them they are well-equipped to work alongside God in pointing us down the road of deep healing, to the glory of God and our personal well-being."

–**Craig G. Bartholomew, Professor of Philosophy and Religion & Theology, H. Evan Runner Chair, Redeemer University College**

"Deftly building on his *Foundations for Soul Care*, Johnson erects a framework of systematic theology for those who counsel as Christians. He draws from a dazzling diversity of sources to help the reader think through the theological dimensions and implications of counseling, and this is vital in an age when many who counsel even in the name of Christ have little training in the deeply biblical worldview needed to counsel well. Johnson knows both the psychological and biblical sides of the story and weaves them together in a wonderfully coherent book. A must-read for Christians who counsel professionally or in pastoral and ministry contexts!"

–**Timothy A. Sisemore, director of research, professor, Richmond Graduate University**

"*God and Soul Care* by Eric Johnson is another deep and substantial contribution to the further development of a truly Christian psychology and to Christian counseling and soul care. He describes the therapeutic resources of the Christian faith by clearly explicating the implications of fundamental biblical truths for Christian psychotherapy and counseling. I highly recommend this book as essential reading!"

–**Siang-Yang Tan, professor of psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary, author of *Counseling and Psychotherapy***