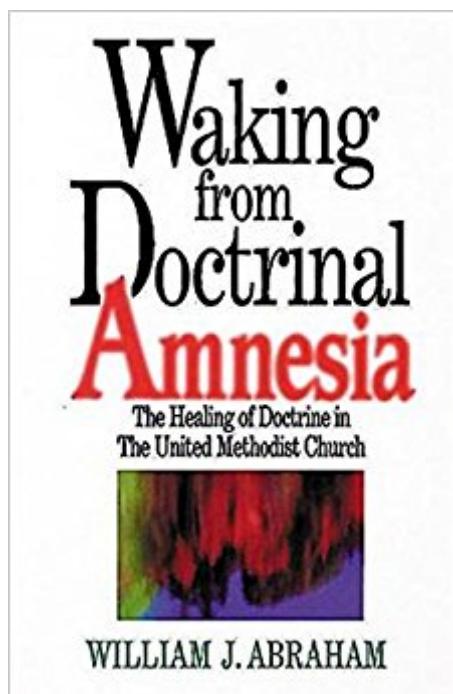


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Waking From Doctrinal Amnesia: The Healing Of Doctrine In The United Methodist Church



Synopsis

Asserting that the "return to Wesley" that is represented in the Quadrilateral is "intellectually wrongheaded," William J. Abraham argues that the Quadrilateral is not, and should not be, United Methodist doctrine. Abraham's lively treatise makes a provocative appeal for a reasoned exploration of the significance of the UMC's doctrinal identity. He reveals how churches have faced incompatible doctrinal proposals within their midst and examines the specific issues facing the United Methodist church as a whole.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William J. Abraham is the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

My sentiments, exactly. Grew up in the UM Church, serving in three now. IMHO, we have left the meat and potatoes behind (doctrine) and gone straight to dessert (quadrilateral), which is like meringue--light and fluffy and nothing to hold on to, or sustain us with. The quadrilateral is a PROCESS--it may be one way we can "do theology"--but it's not, nor should it be, a basis for our belief. The embracing of this as doctrine is the entire problem with the UM Church today, and why people have left--because we have not been able to articulate what we believe in. Worst argument I have heard from pastors who focus on the quadrilateral and fail to teach doctrine is that "Well, we just believe what other Christians believe." As a lay person, my response to them was, "So teach

us!"Highly recommend Scott Jones' book, "The Extreme Center," after reading this. He clearly articulates where our doctrine is found, and what it is, in a way that gives balance to the social and the personal gospel. Believe it or not, there is room for both in our denomination. If we understood this, perhaps we would all quit taking sides and pointing fingers, and finally come together--what some would call the unity of the Spirit, manifested in the Body.

An excellent book that accurately diagnoses the issues in our denomination.

This book is a wake up call for all Christians but especially United Methodists!

Abraham's book has already proven prophetic and continues to point toward future difficulties in UMC polity and practice. What purpose is there for a Book of Discipline, if it can generally be ignored with impunity? The underlying problem may be that very few UMC clergy and laity are familiar with Methodist Discipline. It absolutely contains doctrines and creeds, despite the naysayers. Abraham calls for a reawakening to the UMC Book of Discipline and the propagation of knowledge about it. Without fundamental Christian doctrine, the UMC begins to look like the Peace Corps or a Masonic Lodge. The UMC is so much more than a proponent of social justice and rituals. We should not lessen the significance of the Incarnation, or Scriptural teachings. As a result of the factions found in the UMC, we are seen by the public as a congregation of people who can believe anything. Abraham points us back to the Book of Discipline and shows that if we are to remain a connectional church, then we simply must afford more consideration to the rules upon which we have agreed. I like this book. It is short, easy to read, and hits home in a direct and forceful way. We have had quite enough of the much abused Outlierian quadrilateral. Let's revisit our creeds.

Excellent work!

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