

# Curriculum Vitae for J. Todd Billings

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*Associate Professor of Reformed Theology*  
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## EDUCATION

<b>Harvard Divinity School</b> Th.D., Theology	Cambridge, MA 2005
<b>Fuller Theological Seminary</b> M.Div.	Pasadena, CA 1999
<b>Wheaton College</b> B.A., <i>cum laude</i> Majors: Philosophy, English	Wheaton, IL 1995

## DISSERTATION

“Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: the Activity of Believers in Union with Christ”  
Advisor: Professor Sarah Coakley, Harvard Divinity School

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Participating in Christ: The Eucharistic Doorway to a Catholic-Reformed Vision of Salvation* (working title), under contract with Eerdmans press (2011).

*The Word of God for the People of God: An Entryway to the Theological Interpretation of Scripture* (Eerdmans, January 2010).

*Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: The Activity of Believers in Union with Christ*, in “Changing Paradigms in Historical and Systematic Theology” Series with Oxford University Press (2007). Winner of John Templeton Award for Theological Promise (see “Academic Honors and Grants” below).

### Edited Book

*Calvin’s Theology and Its Reception: Disputes, Developments, and New Possibilities*, co-edited with I. John Hesselink (Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).

## Peer Reviewed Articles

“John Calvin and the Sacraments: A Contemporary Appraisal,” *Calvin and His Living Theology*, a peer-reviewed collection of essays forthcoming from Brill.

“The Lord’s Supper and the Church’s Public Witness: Bringing Together Heaven and Earth, Living Between Gift and Promise,” *Theology Today* (forthcoming, 2010).

“John Calvin’s Soteriology: Key Issues in Interpretation and Retrieval,” *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (October 2009).

“United to God through Christ: Calvin on the Question of Deification,” *Harvard Theological Review* 98:3 (July 2005): 315-34.

“Milbank’s Theology of the Gift and Calvin’s Theology of Grace: A Critical Comparison,” *Modern Theology* 21:1 (January 2005): 87-105.

“‘Incarnational Ministry’: A Christological Evaluation and Proposal,” *Missiology: An International Review* 32:2 (April 2004):187-201.

“John Updike as Theologian of Culture: *Roger’s Version* and the Possibility of Embodied Redemption,” *Christianity and Literature* 52:2 (Winter 2003): 203-213.

“Theodicy as a ‘Lived Question’: A Postmodern Approach to the Theodicy Question,” *Journal for Christian Theological Research* 5:2, 2000.

## Chapters and Entries in Books

“Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period,” *The Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology*, ed. Richard Cross, Sarah Coakley, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Radical Orthodoxy” and “John Milbank” entries, *New Dictionary of Theology*, Second edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, forthcoming.

“John Calvin’s Theology of Union with Christ, and Its Early Retrieval,” in *Calvin’s Theology and Its Reception: Disputes, Developments, and New Possibilities*, ed. Billings, and Hesselink, 2010.

“John Calvin: United to God through Christ,” in *Partakers of the Divine Nature: The History and Development of Deification in the Christian Traditions*, ed. M. Christensen, J. Wittung. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007, 200-218. Reprinted by Baker Academic in 2008.

## Articles in Periodicals

“Being Missional in the Reformed Tradition,” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, May 2009, 3-5.

“Incarnational Ministry and the Unique, Incarnate Christ,” *Modern Reformation*, March/April 2009, 19-22.

“Terms of Endearment: The Missional Buzz,” *The Church Herald*, February 2009, 15-19.

“What Makes a Church *Missional*? Freedom from cultural captivity does not mean freedom from tradition,” *Christianity Today*, March 2008, 56-59.

“On Giving and Receiving: How can Christians live out the commands of Matthew 25 – without the pity,” *Sojourners Magazine*, April 2007, 48-51.

“Emergent Church: New Links, Old Traditions,” *The Church Herald*, April 2007, 5-7.

“The Problem with Mere Christianity: We Jettison ‘Nonessential’ Theology at Our Own Peril,” *Christianity Today*, February 2007, 46-47. Reprinted as “Featured Article” on *ChristianBibleStudies.com* website (July 2007).

“The Promise of Catholic Calvinism,” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 21:4 (April 2006) 12-15.

“More Than an Empty Bed” (on Gregory of Nyssa’s “On Virginity”), *Regeneration Quarterly* 8:2 (2003) 12-13.

“John K. Roth, the Psalms of Lament, and the Place of Theological Reflection on the Problem of Suffering,” *The Other Journal*, [www.theotherjournal.com](http://www.theotherjournal.com), Issue 2, 2003.

“Theodicy as a ‘Lived Question’: A Postmodern Approach to the Theodicy Question,” reprinted from *Journal for Christian Theological Research in Constellation*, Fall 2002.

## Book Reviews

*Participatory Biblical Exegesis*, by Matthew Levering, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, forthcoming.

*Covenant and Salvation: Union with Christ* by Michael S. Horton, *Journal of Reformed Theology*, forthcoming.

*The Promise of Baptism*, by James V. Brownson, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, 23:10 (December 2008).

*Signs and Wonders: A Reformed Look at the Spirit's Ongoing Work* by John A. Algera, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, 23:9 (November 2008) 19-20, 23.

*The Promise of Baptism*, by James V. Brownson, *Reformed Review*, (Winter 2007/08, vol. 61, no. 1) 34.

*Reading the Bible with the Dead*, by John L. Thompson, *The Christian Century* (September 18, 2007), 43-45.

*John Calvin's Ideas*, by Paul Helm, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 58:1 (January 2007) 149-150.

*Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology*, by Michael S. Horton, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, 9:1 (January 2007) 109-112.

*Introducing Radical Orthodoxy* by James K. A. Smith, *Interpretation* 61:1 (January 2007) 104-105.

*Violence, Hospitality and the Cross*, by Hans Boersma, *Interpretation* 60:3 (July 2006) 352.

*Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity* by Kathryn Tanner, in *Christian Scholars Review* 32:1 (Fall 2002) 141-143.

*An Ethics of Remembering* by Edith Wyschogrod, *Koinonia* 7:2 (Fall 2000) 261-263.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

“United to the Living Christ: The Dynamic Reality of Salvation in the Reformed Tradition,” Invited Osterhaven Lectureship, Three Lectures at Hope College and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI (March 16-17, 2010).

“‘To Unite Us to Our God:’ The Lord’s Supper, the Law of Love, and Justice,” Invited Lecture at University of West Cape, South Africa (August 18, 2009) and Stellenbosch University, South Africa (August 20, 2009).

“Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period.” Conference for the *Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology* (Berlin, Germany): August, 2009.

“John Calvin and the Sacraments,” Invited Keynote Lecture, International Reformed Theological Institute Conference, (Aix-en-Provence, France): July 11, 2009.

“The Lord's Supper and Salvation: The Eucharist as an Entryway to a Renewed Theology of Salvation in the Reformed Tradition,” Invited lecture for Templeton Scholars Colloquy (Heidelberg, Germany): May 23, 2009.

“Rediscovering the Lord's Supper: Growing Deeper into the Gospel,” Invited Lecture, Calvin Symposium on Worship (Grand Rapids, MI): January 29-31, 2009.

Chair, Reformed Theology and History Group session of the American Academy of Religion on “Spiritual Practices in the Reformed Tradition,” (Chicago, IL): November 3, 2008.

“What is a Theological Hermeneutic of Scripture?” Invited lecture at Hope College and Western Theological Seminary Theology Conference (Holland, MI): October 2008.

Invited speaker, ATS Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty, Association of Theological Schools (Chicago, IL): October, 2008.

Invited speaker, Documentary on John Calvin in Commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Birth, Witherspoon Publications (a publishing house of the Presbyterian Church USA): filmed June, 2008.

“The Lord's Supper and Dissent,” Invited Lecture for the 20th Anniversary celebration of First Church Shelter (Cambridge, MA): October, 2007.

“Preliminary Reflections: Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period.” Conference for the *Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology* (Oxford University, United Kingdom): August, 2007.

“United to God through Christ: Assessing Calvin on the Question of Deification.” Paper presented at *Partakers of the Divine Nature: The History and Development of Theosis/Deification in the Christian Traditions* (Madison, NJ): April, 2004.

“Milbank on Gift-Giving and the Theology of Grace in Calvin.” Paper presented at the *Engaging Radical Orthodoxy* conference (Grand Rapids, MI): September, 2003.

“Holding Together Confession and Practice: an Evangelical Reframing of the Problem of Suffering.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting (Nashville, TN) for the Evangelical Theology Group (ETG): November, 2000.

“After Tilley: The Sustaining Relevance of the Problem of Suffering as a Concrete Question.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting (Nashville, TN) for the Christian Theological Research Fellowship (CTRF): November, 2000.

“Salubrious Remembering? Nietzsche and Wyschogrod on the Function of History for Life.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Meeting (Azusa, CA): April, 2000.

“Terrence Tilley and the Problem of Suffering.” Paper presented at the Society of Christian Philosophers Pacific Regional Conference (Pasadena, CA): March, 2000.

“Wyschogrod’s Ethical Remembering Encounters Nietzsche: Negotiating the Ontology of Violence.” Paper presented at the Southern California Society of Philosophy annual conference (Irvine, CA): October, 1999.

“Beyond Belittlement: Nietzsche’s Critique of Gift-Giving and the Rejuvenation of Christian Compassion.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Meeting (San Francisco, CA): April, 1999.

#### **MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER:**

*Harvard Theological Review*

*International Journal of Systematic Theology*

#### **TEACHING, PROFESSIONAL, AND ECCLESIASTICAL POSITIONS**

<b>Associate Professor of Reformed Theology Western Theological Seminary</b>	2009-Present Holland, MI
<b>Reformed Theology and History Group Steering Committee American Academy of Religion</b>	2007-Present
<b>Theology Commission (elected member) Reformed Church in America</b>	2007-Present
<b>Assistant Professor of Reformed Theology Western Theological Seminary</b>	2005-2009 Holland, MI
<b>Teaching Fellow Harvard Divinity School</b>	2003-2005 Cambridge, MA
<b>Church Elder First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)</b>	2002-2005 Cambridge, MA
<b>NECTT Advisory Counsel Northeast Colloquium on Teaching Theology</b>	2002-2004

<b>Homeless Shelter Staff</b> <b>First Church Shelter (UCC)</b>	2000-2005 Cambridge, MA
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <b>Fuller Theological Seminary</b>	1998 Pasadena, CA
<b>Instructor</b> <b>Kale Hewet Ministry Training Center</b>	1995-1996 (9 months) Dilla, Ethiopia
<b>Community Development Worker</b> <b>HIL (in cooperation with Anglican church in Uganda)</b>	1994 (6 months) Aringa, Uganda
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <b>Wheaton College</b>	1993-1994 Wheaton, IL

## **ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS**

John Templeton Award for Theological Promise in 2009, for *Calvin, Participation, and the Gift*.  
Awarded for the most outstanding first books by junior scholars in biblical, theological, and religious studies internationally.

Wabash Center Summer Research Fellowship, “Introducing Theological Interpretation: Scripture, Revelation, and Interpretation,” Summer 2008.

Theological Scholars Grant (Lilly), “Participating in Christ: The Eucharistic Doorway to a Catholic-Reformed Vision of Salvation,” The Association of Theological Schools, 2007-2008.

Wabash Fellow, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 2007-2008.

Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, 2004-2005.

Harvard Divinity School Grant and Stipend, Harvard Divinity School, 2000-2003.

Dean’s Scholar Award, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996-1999.

## **ORDINATION**

Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America (2007)

Ordained as Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA (2002)