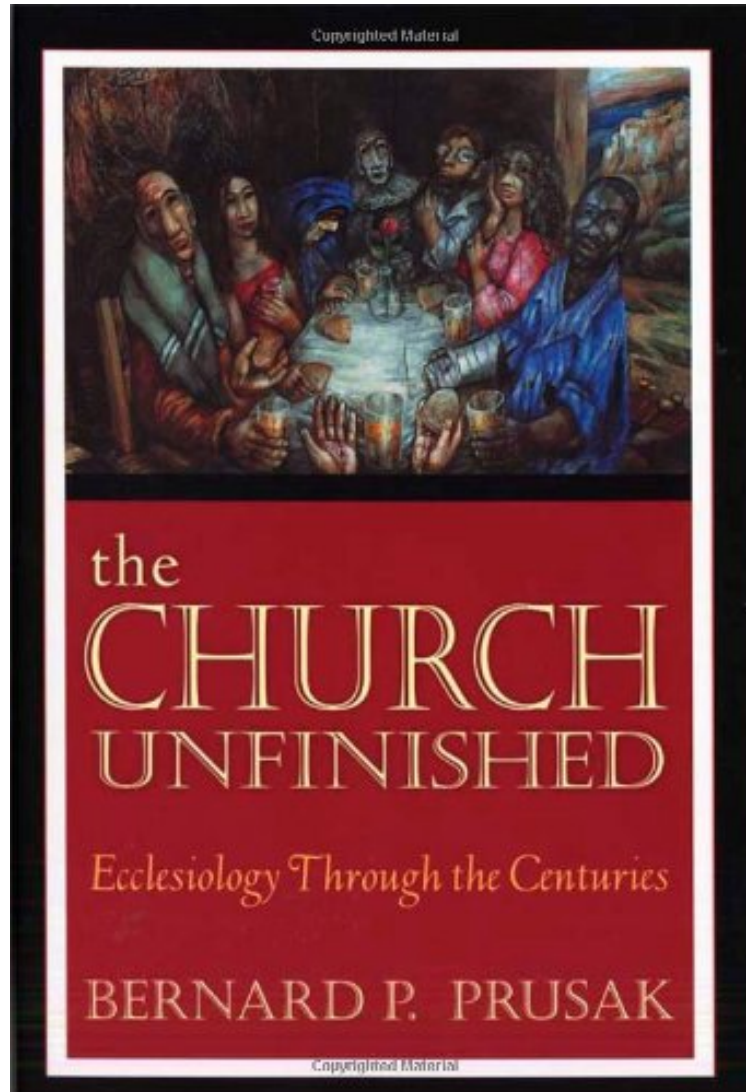


The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology Through The Centuries

Bernard P. Prusak

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Bernard P. Prusak : The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology Through The Centuries before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology Through The Centuries:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. it's a good book. I found it a little overly progressive ...By CustomerOverall, it's a good book. I found it a little overly progressive however. The author's perspective is certainly valuable. I would just recommend balancing it with a more traditional perspective on Church history such as Martha Rasmussen's "The Catholic Church, the First 2000 Years."2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Touchy-

Feely" Theology -- Not RecommendedBy MikeAs an academic myself (PhD Computer Science), I am quite open to differing perspectives and points of view; however, this book is a bit too wishy washy for me. I am a Roman Catholic and embrace fully the Teachings of the Magisterium of the Church. Theology is the science of the study of Revelation. As such, I recognize the the importance hypotheses and theoretical speculation. The author of this book weaves into his narrative lots of scripture, in order to support his ideas and conclusions, all of which are more touchy feely and quite unconvincing. His theology lacks coherence. I am sorry to say that I cannot recommend this book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Ecclesiology with clarity.By Rose A. MardenWell-written; rooted in the traditions of hospitality and the people of Israel. Good context.

Like human life, the Catholic or universal Church is lived forward but understood backward. To appreciate the Church's past, however, does not require that we simply repeat it. Using such a framework, this book puts the present period of the Church in vast historical context. It traces how the Church came from the "community of unexpected persons" whom Jesus gathered around himself and was then shaped, over the course of centuries, by human decisions made in the Spirit. The Church's catholicity is seen to involve an ever expanding memory, embracing the immense richness of past and present times, places, and cultures, and at the same time an openness to assimilating, and possibly being transformed by, a future history in which God offers new possibilities. Vatican II's Constitution on the Church in the Modern World affirmed that God has endowed humans with a certain autonomy for shaping the world. The book asks whether that has implications for traditional presumptions about the order and structure of the Church. The tendency to presume that nothing new or unexpected could develop in the unfolding future of the Church might close us to the presence of the Spirit in our midst, and fail to recognize that our time, as much as any past time, is an opportunity for God's creative activity and grace. The book thus proposes that the Church's leadership would do well to nurture a renewed eschatological attitude that embraces a genuine openness to the newness and surprise of the future, leaving room not only for continuity but also for the important elements of change and transformation. For, what the Church is, only the entirety of its history will fully reveal. Audience --undergraduate and graduate courses on the Church or on the development of Christianity --readers who want to take the time and effort to learn more about the church

A wonderfully learned, balanced and illuminating book on how the study of the Church have developed down through the ages. -- Gerald O'Collins, S.J., Gregorian UniversityFinally, there is a book on the church that can give students that is readable, but also learned and practical-pastoral. -- Francis Schssler Fiorenza, Stillman Professor of Roman Catholic Theological Studies, The Divinity School, Harvard UniversityPrusak enriches our understanding of the church's complexity and diversity from its very beginnings up to the present. --Susan A. Ross, Professor of Theology, Loyola University, ChicagoAbout the AuthorBernard Prusak, who holds S.T.B. and S.T.L. degrees from the Gregorian University in Rome, and a J.C.D., from the Lateran University, Rome, is professor for historical and systematic theology in the department of theology and religious studies at Villanova University.