



Inhabiting the Cruciform God: Kenosis, Justification, and Theosis in Paul's Narrative Soteriology

By Michael J. Gorman



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In this groundbreaking study of Paul's soteriology, Michael Gorman builds on his influential *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross* to argue that cruciformity is, at its heart, *theoformity* -- what the Christian tradition has called theosis or participation in the life of God.

"A richly synthetic reading of Paul. . . . Gorman deftly integrates the results of recent debates about Pauline theology into a powerful constructive account that overcomes unfruitful dichotomies and transcends recent controversies between the 'New Perspective on Paul' and its traditionalist critics. Gorman's important book points the way forward for understanding the nonviolent, world-transforming character of Paul's gospel."

-- **Richard B. Hays**, Duke Divinity School

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Editorial Review

Review

Richard B. Hays-- Duke Divinity School "This richly synthetic reading of Paul offers a compelling argument that the heart of Paul's soteriology lies in theosis -- the incorporation of God's people into the life and character of the God revealed in the cross. Michael Gorman deftly integrates the results of recent debates about Pauline theology into a powerful constructive account that overcomes unfruitful dichotomies and transcends recent controversies between the 'New Perspective on Paul' and its traditionalist critics. Gorman's important book points the way forward for understanding the nonviolent, world-transforming character of Paul's gospel." Stephen Finlan-- Fordham University "Provides an important corrective to segmentalized approaches to Paul. Michael Gorman lucidly connects justification to spiritual transformation. Faith, love, and action come together as theosis -- the taking on of the character of Christ and, so, of God. Though constantly in conversation with other scholars, Gorman has a refreshingly original approach, illuminating the lively theology of Paul. "Inhabiting the Cruciform God" clearly advances the field of Pauline studies." Frank J. Matera-- Catholic University of America "In this pioneering work Michael Gorman offers a fresh way to view Paul's understanding of justification and holiness. Cutting a new path through old territory, Gorman leads us to a vision of holiness and justification rooted in the transforming power of nonviolence and the cross. His work will provide pastors with new insights for preaching and scholars with new ways to address old questions."

About the Author

Michael J. Gorman holds the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Maryland. A highly regarded New Testament scholar, he has also written *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness* and *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*.

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