The Adorable Trinity

Standing for Orthodoxy in Nineteenth-Century America

Mantle Nance

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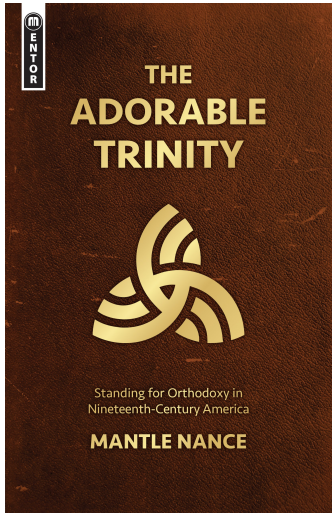

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DESCRIPTION

Mantle Nance investigates the little–known yet fascinating conflict between Trinitarianism and Unitarianism in the nineteenth century American South. It explores the lives, ministries, and theological contributions of three Southern Presbyterian pastor–scholars associated with Columbia Theological Seminary and their winsome, fruitful stands for the Trinitarian faith in response to a burgeoning Southern Unitarian movement. In a readable and engaging way, the author provides readers with intriguing history that illumines the mind and warm theology that moves the heart to adore and serve the Triune God of love.

MARKETING POINTS

Conflict between Trinitarianism and Unitarianism

Focus on 3 Presbyterian pastor–scholars

AUTHOR

Mantle Nance (BA, Furman University; MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary; PhD, University of Aberdeen) is senior minister at Ballantyne Presbyterian Church and a visiting lecturer at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is married to Sally, and they have two sons, Jackson and Aaron.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

5690

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ENDORSEMENTS

Mantle Nance's study of the controversy in the Old South between Trinitarians and Unitarians is historically and theologically marked by careful scholarship and, although committed to the supernaturalism of Trinitarian belief, seeks to be fair and judicious throughout. Far from being a good, but dusty, relic of past concerns, it touches on many of the most crucial issues facing human thought and destiny today (or at any time). It is very much alive; a penetrating word for our times…

Douglas F. Kelly
Professor of Theology Emeritus, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina

With interest in the Trinity blossoming today broadly in both academia and practical ministry, Mantle Nance's contribution to the field is most welcome. He introduces us to the labors of a forgotten portion of Christendom on this provocative subject — the nineteenth–century theologians of Old Columbia Seminary—James Henley Thornwell, Thomas Smyth, and Benjamin Morgan Palmer. Tossed out with the bathwater of sectionalism, slavery, and Civil War, their almost disremembered struggles against the Unitarian rationalism of their day make the Columbians a fascinating read on so many levels. Nance does not spare them where they fall short of their own Trinitarian belief. But neither does he fail to grasp the creative core of their insight: that the Trinity is not an abstract doctrinal loci but rather an immense dynamus for both faith and life.

W. Duncan Rankin
Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, Houston, Texas

If you love church history and desire to know our Triune God in a more glorious fashion, then *The Adorable Trinity* is a must read. I highly recommend it solely for the benefit of worshipping our majestic God, who has existed forever – Father, Son and Spirit – in constant love, communion, and glorious unity of essence and purpose.

Rod A. Culbertson
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina