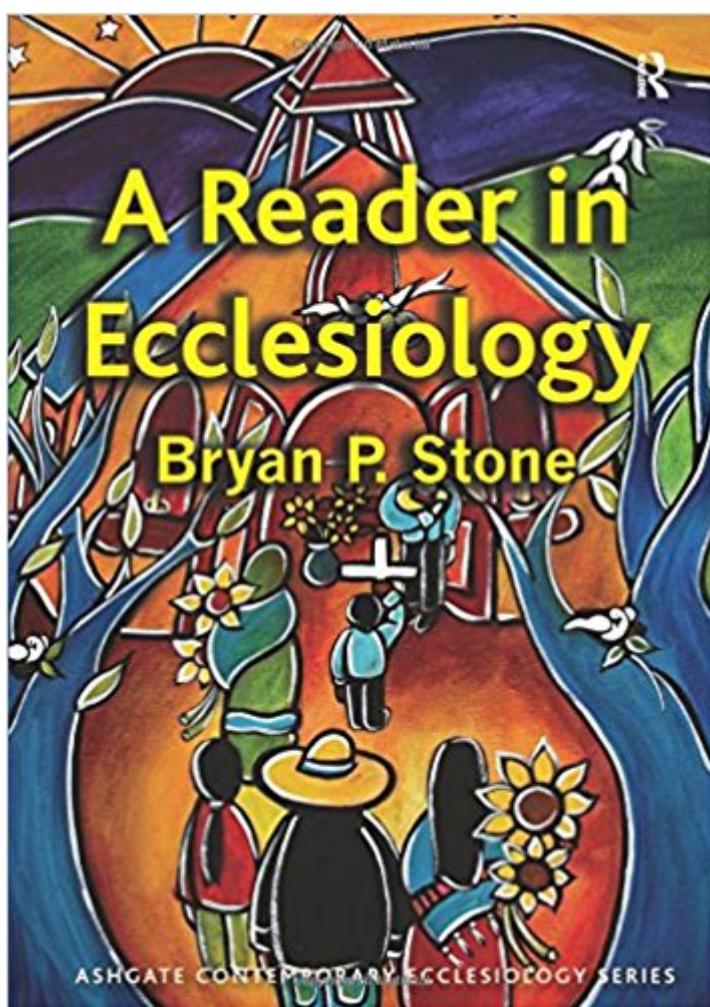


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# A Reader In Ecclesiology (Routledge Contemporary Ecclesiology)



## Synopsis

This Reader presents a diverse and ecumenical cross-section of ecclesiological statements from across the twenty centuries of the church's existence. It builds on the foundations of early Christian writings, illustrates significant medieval, reformation, and modern developments, and provides a representative look at the robust attention to ecclesiology that characterizes the contemporary period. This collection of readings offers an impressive overview of the multiple ways Christians have understood the church to be both the 'body of Christ' and, at the same time, an imperfect, social and historical institution, constantly subject to change, and reflective of the cultures in which it is found. This comprehensive survey of historical ecclesiologies is helpful in pointing readers to the remarkable number of images and metaphors that Christians have relied upon in describing the church and to the various tensions that have characterized reflection on the church as both united and diverse, community and institution, visible and invisible, triumphant and militant, global and local, one and many. Students, clergy and all interested in Christianity and the church will find this collection an invaluable resource.

## Book Information

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'This Reader is a valuable resource for all who are engaged in theological reflection on the contemporary Church. Bryan Stone has made a strategic intervention in Practical Theology by turning to the tradition as a means to inform practice in the present day. The Reader gathers

together key resources and insights that will help to both contextualise and decontextualise assumptions and habitualized patterns of thinking that shape present day conversations around the future shape of the Church.' Peter Ward, King's College London, UK 'Any serious study of theology takes some reading of original sources. When it comes to ecclesiology, those sources, however, are scattered all over and not always easily accessible. This wonderful reader comes at an opportune time. Here finally is a comprehensive, almost encyclopedic, yet highly useful and user-friendly resource. Highly recommended.' Veli-Matti Karkkainen, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA and University of Helsinki, Finland '...there is much of use here, and the book will be useful to many...' Regent's Reviews 'Ashgate's recent reader makes an appreciated contribution to this often neglected discipline.' *Modern Believing*

Bryan P. Stone has served as the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism in the School of Theology since 1998 and is Associate Dean. He is director of a Ph.D. program in practical theology. His most recent books are *Evangelism after Christendom: the Theology and Practice of Christian Witness* (which takes an ecclesiological approach to the practice of evangelism) and *Sabbath in the City: Sustaining Urban Pastoral Excellence*, co-authored with Claire Wolfteich. He has also authored or co-authored numerous other volumes including *Evangelism After Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness* (2007), *Sabbath in the City: Sustaining Urban Pastoral Excellence*, co-authored with Claire Wolfteich; *Thy Nature and Thy Name is Love: Wesleyan and Process Theologies in Dialogue*, co-edited with Thomas Jay Oord (2001); *Faith and Film: Theological Themes at the Cinema* (2000); *Compassionate Ministry: Theological Foundations* (1996); and *Effective Faith: A Critical Study of the Christology of Juan Luis Segundo* (1994).

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