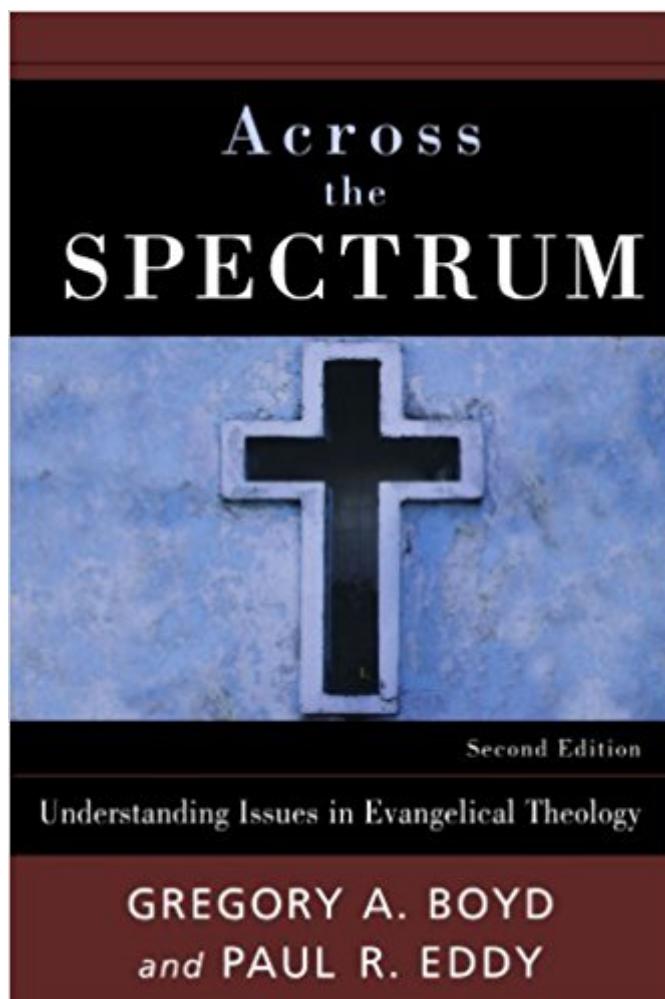


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# Across The Spectrum: Understanding Issues In Evangelical Theology



## **Synopsis**

This new edition of a popular text presents an accessible yet comprehensive primer that helps readers understand the breadth of viewpoints on major issues in evangelical theology, with chapters using the popular three- or four-views book format. The authors carefully examine positions taken by evangelical scholars on seventeen seminal issues. They lay out the biblical, theological, and philosophical arguments for each position in point-counterpoint fashion and discuss possible objections. The second edition retains the helpful features of the first edition-end-of-chapter "For Further Reading" sections and an extensive glossary-and adds an appendix that addresses thirteen peripheral issues in contemporary evangelicalism.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This accessible yet comprehensive primer explores the breadth of viewpoints on major issues in evangelical theology by examining positions taken by evangelicals on seventeen seminal issues. The second edition retains the helpful features of the first edition and adds an appendix that addresses thirteen peripheral issues in contemporary evangelicalism. Praise for the first edition "The authors do what no book on the market does: In one volume they faithfully present divergent views on the crucial issues that divide evangelicals, and they do so in an unbiased, succinct, and lively manner. This book is perfect as a supplemental text in an introductory theology course or as a manual for church study groups. It will help everyone arrive at his or her own conclusions within the parameters of the evangelical tradition."--Dennis Okholm, Azusa Pacific University "Across the Spectrum succeeds with distinction in at least two respects. First, it represents a very useful tool for

those who wish to begin grappling with different approaches to difficult theological problems. The book will be most helpful to beginning students in evangelical theology, the target audience. Second, the work presents various perspectives in fair and unbiased tones. . . . If used with care, it will repeatedly reward the reader with its fair and even treatment of different theological views."--Nathan D. Holsteen, *Bibliotheca Sacra*"I've been waiting for this book for some time. Due to its brief, nontechnical format, it can be used in a variety of ways in undergraduate theology courses. Although a concise volume, it succinctly outlines multiple arguments, both pro and con, for (incredibly!) over two dozen issues in disputed, largely non-fundamental areas of doctrine. The professor can present positions in favor of particular views or leave the issues open. It's settled--I'm requiring it!"--Gary R. Habermas, *Liberty University*"A collective sigh of relief will arise from the evangelical student body when it discovers this book! It helpfully and critically surveys the many legitimate evangelical theological options and convincingly demonstrates that there is no single authentically evangelical viewpoint on a wide range of controversial issues. It constitutes a small library between two covers."--Roger E. Olson, *George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University*

Gregory A. Boyd (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the senior pastor at Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and formerly served as professor of theology at Bethel University. Paul R. Eddy (Ph.D., Marquette University) is professor of biblical and theological studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Boyd and Eddy are coauthors of *The Jesus Legend*.

I have read through this book once and fully intend to read it again soon. The authors cover many of the main theological issues facing the church. I found the approach of the authors to be refreshingly objective. In fact, I honestly can't remember reading a book that manages to give both sides to argument in such a rational and objective way. The authors have managed to cover so many different topics that there is, of course, a limit to the depth to which each topic can be covered. If you feel passionate about a particular view point, then you may feel that the argument supporting that view wasn't sufficiently strong. I was certainly left wanting more at the end of each chapter. However, the book would have to be way longer, or only cover half the subjects, if a more in-depth approach was taken. However, it would be unfair to suggest that the book was light on content, theology or rational arguments, because it isn't. It packs a surprising amount of content into each chapter using scripture, church history, and reasoning to explain each side, or sides, of the debate. It hasn't changed any of my main views, but it has helped to open my mind. I am sure the same would

be true for those of opposing viewpoints. However, it has helped me to understand why people believe otherwise and the reasoning behind their convictions. In some cases it has strengthened what I believe, and in other cases it has helped me to understand that the opposing viewpoints should at least be given some consideration. The book has the potential to help Christians of different theological persuasions to communicate in a more reasoned manner. If you are overly dogmatic, then you will not enjoy reading this book. I personally found it very enjoyable and would recommend it to any Christian seeking a better understanding of what they believe and why.

A good unbiased review of differing perspectives relating to theological principles within evangelical denominations. Covers a wide range of "hot button" issues. Details the various viewpoints from a biblical perspective with supporting scripture. Includes objections to each position including responses to those objections. This is a very well written book that does not culminate with any specific conclusions as to a "correct" understanding of the theological principle being discussed, almost to the point that the reader doesn't really know which position the authors take, if any. They simply lay out an explanation of each position together with supporting evidence.

I've only read the first two chapters on my Kindle, but I wanted to provide some feedback now and will add more after I've finished reading the book. Over the years I have encountered terms and ideas within the faith that I really haven't understood and asking for help from pastors hasn't really resolved them for me. I've also found that pastors and church study groups have tended to avoid developing even a simple theological understanding of scripture. The books I've read so far haven't, until now, really focused on key ideas as if being succinct were a fault, and, these same books have tended to display considerable bias. I am very pleased to have in my hands a book that has not [yet] shown bias on the part of the author and the author has done such a good job of succinctly presenting all of these conflicting ideas in a manner that makes both the original ideas and their conflicts very clear. Thank you to the author for having provided this important text. I've given this book 4 stars because the footnotes are not live. You have to search the book, just as you would for a printed book, to find each book mark. By "live footnotes" I mean that you can click on a footnote and you will be taken to the footnote and with a button you can return to the point where you were reading. Live footnotes provide a better reading flow than with printed books. Given that this is a nonfiction, complex, eBook I expected live footnotes.

This is a great book which covers many of the popular perspectives on several of the major

theological debates in evangelical theology, debates such as inerrancy, eternal security, divine foreknowledge, and others. Surprisingly, the essays seemed to be quite fair in summarizing and defending the views which the authors disagree with. Not surprisingly, many theologians will likely discover that their view is not recognized or discussed at all. At least, that was my experience. Most of the chapters, for example, seemed only to present the "Calvinist" or "Arminian" views on certain topics, thereby implying that Boyd and Eddy are either ignorant of the more moderate and mediate views, or simply do not consider these alternative perspectives worth mentioning. Either way, the reader is left thinking they must choose between the views presented, which is not true. This sort of oversight is present in the chapters on the providence of God, salvation, eternal security, and hell, just to name a few. Nevertheless, if a reader wants a broad, generalized overview of some of the primary perspectives on various theological topics, this book will be a helpful introduction. The bibliography at the end of each chapter will direct the reader into deeper study, though even here, there are glaring omissions from the lists of books about the various topics.

A very useful resource for hearing and understanding a wide variety of Christian views on doctrine. There were opinions that even I, as a seminary student, was unaware of. Strengths and weaknesses are also given for each position. Practically speaking, it helps one respect views of other Christians that are different, which should reduce tension and polemical rhetoric that causes division in the body of Christ. The historical diversity of Christianity should be recognized and embraced over against strict dogmatism across the board, and this book reveals the many gray areas that all honest theologians acknowledge. I recommend this book for those with integrity and who are driven in seeking the truth of Scripture.

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