



# An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives

By Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen

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What is the church? What makes the church *church*? In this volume, theologian Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen provides an up-to-date survey and analysis of the major ecclesiological traditions, the most important theologians, and a number of contextual approaches that attempt to answer these essential questions. Drawing on his international experience, global research and ecumenical awareness, Kärkkäinen presents an overview of both traditional and contemporary expressions of the Christian church. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology* will richly reward the student, pastor or layperson who is looking for a comprehensive and insightful overview of the unity and diversity of understandings and practices within the one church of Jesus Christ.

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**An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives** By Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #251397 in Books
- Published on: 2002-11-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .70" w x 6.00" l, .75 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 238 pages

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#### Review

"Kärkkäinen's critical survey of Christian views of the church comes at a time when interest in ecclesiology is rising. It provides a helpful map through the terrain of diverse interpretations of the nature of the church for those interested in an introduction and a refresher course in doctrines of the church for those who studied it long ago but have forgotten much of what they learned. Above all it contributes to our ecumenical understanding of different Christian traditions. It is a gift to the body of Christ to be enjoyed by Christians who want to understand that body's unity in diversity." (Roger E. Olson, professor of theology, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University)

#### About the Author

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen is professor of systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He has published numerous articles in international journals of theology. His books include *Pneumatology* (Baker), *Christology* (Baker), *Toward a Pneumatological Theology* (UPA), *An Introduction to Ecclesiology* (InterVarsity Press), *Trinity and Religious Pluralism* (Ashgate), *The Doctrine of God* (Baker) and *One with God* (Liturgical Press).

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