

Thriving in Babylon: Essays in Honor of A. J. Conyers (Princeton Theological Monograph)



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Description: This delightfully multifaceted volume, comprised of thoughtful essays by an esteemed array of cultural critics, probes the intersection of Christian faith and culture to honor the memory of A. J. ""Chip"" Convers, a remarkably ecumenical Christian scholar and cultural ""warrior"" whose premature death in 2004 cut short a remarkable career in teaching and writing. As those who knew him can attest, Conyers lived his life at the intersection of Christian theology and cultural concern with a singular blend of astuteness, gracefulness, and Christian conviction. This festschrift, as esteemed theologian and Convers's mentor Jürgen Moltmann indicates in the foreword, is intended to mirror Convers's own commitment to incisive cultural criticism and theological faithfulness in the mold of the ""great tradition."" This is no small achievement even for so venerable a cast of scholars as the contributors to this volume, as Convers crossed interdisciplinary boundaries--in a day of escalating hyper-specialization--with the greatest of ease. He was comfortable discussing contemporary church life or the christological controversy of the patristic era, Heideggerian hermeneutics or human dignity and the imago Dei, faith and the Enlightenment or the fatherhood of God, Catholic ""substance"" or Protestant reform. Yet Convers always did this through the lens of historic Christian orthodoxy. Though he was a most incisive student of culture, in a most refreshing way he steered clear of being co-opted by the currents of culture. Neither retreating into pious devotionalism nor opting for the theologically unreflective activism that has become so chic in our post-consensus climate, he embodied a theological perspective that blends responsible cultural engagement with eschatological hope. The reader is sure to encounter the same blend in this festschrift, and to come away both challenged and edified toward fulfilling the message and hope of Conyers' life and work: to faithfully thrive in Babylon. Endorsements: ""Chip Conyers was a remarkable Christian scholar, one who combined an intense desire for God with an unbounded love of learning. Like a meteor against the night, he illuminated the world around him and showed the church a more faithful way to follow Christ. The essays presented here give a sense of Conyers' breadth and wisdom and his courage to engage the culture for Christ's sake. This is a worthy tribute to one of the most generous, insightful, and humane theologians I have known."""" -- Timothy George Dean, Beeson Divinity School General Editor of the Reformation Commentary on Scripture About the Contributor(s): David B. Capes is Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the School of Theology at Houston Baptist University. He has authored a number of books including Old Testament Yahweh Texts in Paul's Christology (1992) and Rediscovering Paul (2007). J. Daryl Charles is Director and Senior Fellow of the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought & Practice at Bryan College. Among the number of books he has authored are Retrieving the Natural Law: A Return to Moral First Things (2008) and The Unformed Conscience of Evangelicalism: Recovering the Church's Moral Vision (2002).

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Arlie Carrillo:

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