



# Reformed Catholicity: The Promise of Retrieval for Theology and Biblical Interpretation

*Michael Allen, Scott R. Swain*

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**"A bracing manifesto that sets out a clear pathway for the future of Protestantism"**

"Intellectually alert and edifying Christian theology will be attentive to divine instruction in Holy Scripture and to its reception, transmission, and explanation in the writings of the apostolic church in time. This fine book explains why, with clarity, grace, and dedication."

--**John Webster**, St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews

"Allen and Swain here blaze an old trail in helpful new ways, correcting misinterpretations of what it means to be Reformed and in the process indicating a vital way forward for biblical interpretation and theology. I particularly appreciate the way they appeal to properly Protestant principles, like *sola Scriptura*, even as they urge us to thoughtfully retrieve and appropriate catholic tradition."

--**Kevin J. Vanhoozer**, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

"The notion of Scripture alone has come to be used in recent decades as a means of cutting off Protestantism from its own theological and ecclesiological history. The result is a faith that has too often proved fatally vulnerable to critique from Roman Catholics or degenerated into a theologically thin and ahistorical biblicism. In this densely argued but fascinating book, Scott Swain and Michael Allen demonstrate that classic Reformed Protestantism has an understanding of Scripture, of tradition, and of ecclesiology that anchors the Christian faith in biblical exegesis and at the same time provides the framework and the classical categories for avoiding both the Roman and biblicist options. Drawing on recent historical scholarship and engaging with contemporary Christian thought across the confessional spectrum, this is a bracing manifesto that sets out a clear pathway for the future of Protestantism."

--**Carl R. Trueman**, Westminster Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania

"This manifesto embodies the Reformed catholicity for which it calls and for which many of us hope. Allen and Swain engage the catholic variety of today's efforts at theological retrieval *by* recovering key aspects of the Reformed tradition that biblically support and helpfully shape this pursuit."

--**Daniel J. Treier**, Wheaton College

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