



Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation

Miroslav Volf

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation

Miroslav Volf

Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation Miroslav Volf

Life at the end of the twentieth century presents us with a disturbing reality. Otherness, the simple fact of being different in some way, has come to be defined as in and of itself evil. Miroslav Volf contends that if the healing word of the gospel is to be heard today, Christian theology must find ways of speaking that address the hatred of the other. Reaching back to the New Testament metaphor of salvation as reconciliation, Volf proposes the idea of embrace as a theological response to the problem of exclusion.

Increasingly we see that exclusion has become the primary sin, skewing our perceptions of reality and causing us to react out of fear and anger to all those who are not within our (ever-narrowing) circle. In light of this, Christians must learn that salvation comes, not only as we are reconciled to God, and not only as we "learn to live with one another," but as we take the dangerous and costly step of opening ourselves to the other, of enfolding him or her in the same embrace with which we have been enfolded by God.

Is there any hope of embracing our enemies? Of opening the door to reconciliation? Miroslav Volf, a Yale University theologian, has won the 2002 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his book, *Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation* (Abingdon, 1996). Volf argues that "exclusion" of people who are alien or different is among the most intractable problems in the world today. He writes, "It may not be too much to claim that the future of our world will depend on how we deal with identity and difference. The issue is urgent. The ghettos and battlefields throughout the world?in the living rooms, in inner cities, or on the mountain ranges?testify indisputably to its importance." A Croatian by birth, Volf takes as a starting point for his analysis the recent civil war and "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia, but he readily finds other examples of cultural, ethnic, and racial conflict to illustrate his points. And, since September 11, one can scarcely help but plug the new world players into his incisive descriptions of the dynamics of interethnic and international strife.

Exclusion happens, Volf argues, wherever impenetrable barriers are set up that prevent a creative encounter with the other. It is easy to assume that "exclusion" is the problem or practice of "barbarians" who live "over there," but Volf persuades us that exclusion is all too often our practice "here" as well. Modern western societies, including American society, typically recite their histories as "narratives of inclusion," and Volf celebrates the truth in these narratives. But he points out that these narratives conveniently omit certain groups who "disturb the integrity of their 'happy ending' plots." Therefore such narratives of inclusion invite "long and gruesome" counter-narratives of exclusion?the brutal histories of slavery and of the decimation of Native American populations come readily to mind, but more current examples could also be found.

Most proposed solutions to the problem of exclusion have focused on social arrangements?what kind of society ought we to create in order to accommodate individual or communal difference? Volf focuses, rather, on "what kind of selves we need to be in order to live in harmony with others." In addressing the topic, Volf stresses the social implications of divine self-giving. The Christian scriptures attest that God does not abandon the godless to their evil, but gives of Godself to bring them into communion. We are called to do likewise?"whoever our enemies and whoever we may be." The divine mandate to embrace as God has embraced is summarized in Paul's injunction to the Romans: "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ

has welcomed you” (Romans 15:7).

Susan R. Garrett, Coordinator of the Religion Award, said that the Grawemeyer selection committee praised Volf’s book on many counts. These included its profound interpretation of certain pivotal passages of Scripture and its brilliant engagement with contemporary theology, philosophy, critical theory, and feminist theory. “Volf’s focus is not on social strategies or programs but, rather, on showing us new ways to understand ourselves and our relation to our enemies. He helps us to imagine new possibilities for living against violence, injustice, and deception.” Garrett added that, although addressed primarily to Christians, Volf’s theological statement opens itself to religious pluralism by upholding the importance of different religious and cultural traditions for the formation of personal and group identity. The call to “embrace the other” is never a call to remake the other into one’s own image. Volf—who had just delivered a lecture on the topic of Exclusion and Embrace at a prayer breakfast for the United Nations when the first hijacked plane hit the World Trade Center—will present a lecture and receive his award in Louisville during the first week of April, 2002.

The annual Religion Award, which includes a cash prize of \$200,000, is given jointly by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville to the authors or originators of creative works that contribute significantly to an understanding of “the relationship between human beings and the divine, and ways in which this relationship may inspire or empower human beings to attain wholeness, integrity, or meaning, either individually or in community.” The Grawemeyer awards—given also by the University of Louisville in the fields of musical composition, education, psychology, and world order—honor the virtue of accessibility: works chosen for the awards must be comprehensible to thinking persons who are not specialists in the various fields.

 [Download Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration o ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation Miroslav Volf

From reader reviews:

Robin Martz:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book after they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation.

Roman Leonard:

This Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it data accurately using great coordinate word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but hard core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt which?

Avis Marguez:

Beside this particular Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation in your phone, it may give you a way to get more close to the new knowledge or details. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh from your oven so don't be worry if you feel like an previous people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation because this book offers to you readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you seldom get what it's exactly about. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable agreement here cannot be questionable, similar to treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss it? Find this book and also read it from today!

Carol Ramirez:

As a university student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library or even make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's heart or real their hobby. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and also can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on

this time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation can make you really feel more interested to read.

Download and Read Online Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation Miroslav Volf #DUTSQHB2Z3G

Read Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf for online ebook

Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf books to read online.

Online Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf ebook PDF download

Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf Doc

Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf Mobipocket

Exclusion & Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation by Miroslav Volf EPub