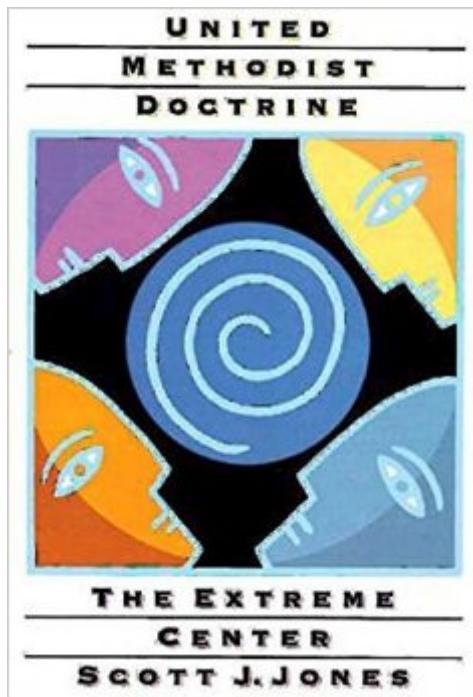


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# United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center



## **Synopsis**

Throughout this book, Scott J. Jones insists that for United Methodists the ultimate goal of doctrine is holiness. Importantly, he clarifies the nature and the specific claims of "official" United Methodist doctrine in a way that moves beyond the current tendency to assume the only alternatives are a rigid dogmatism or an unfettered theological pluralism. In classic Wesleyan form, Jones' driving concern is with recovering the vital role of forming believers in the "mind of Christ, " so that they might live more faithfully in their many settings in our world.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Abingdon Press (August 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068703485X

ISBN-13: 978-0687034857

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #205,171 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 inÂ  Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Methodist #42360 inÂ  Books > Religion & Spirituality

## **Customer Reviews**

This book is both comprehensive and concise in explaining United Methodist doctrinal issues. While we did not use it in my Wesleyan theology courses in seminary, I think it would have made a useful addition and I found myself referring to it as I drafted papers for Commissioning as a minister. Yet, I think it is an easy enough read for a layperson who already has some background in UM theology and doctrine. It certainly isn't a "quick reference" but I expect that it would be highly useful for people wanting to go beyond simple excerpts and "soundbite" theology. In sum, it is quite accessible yet with enough depth that even a seminarian or pastor would find it useful.

As a lay person I found this book to be an extremely thorough explanation of UMC Doctrine. Now, that may not sound too exciting and the book can be a difficult read at times. However, for anyone seeking an explanation of the position of the Methodist Church on specific and general issues, this book will make an excellent reference. Dr. Jones has performed the research and has the authority

to speak for the church on this topic and does so effectively in this work.

This is a wonderful book as the United Methodist based their doctrine on what John Wesley stood for and what the Bible says. Now this book had caused me to rethink some beliefs. I had a wonderful session with this book a lot of work but it was worth it.

Been waiting for a book like this, for a long time. As a lifelong United Methodist, I've always struggled to pinpoint what we believe in. Pastors would point me to the Book of Discipline, like throwing someone in the deep end of the pool without a lifeguard! If you are looking for something that encapsulates what we believe, what our doctrine is, this is a great book. Weaves together the documents of our faith. Envisions the Extreme Center, a merging or meeting of the social and personal gospel. My experience growing up in the church is that we neglected the personal gospel in favor of the social during the 1960s and 70s, then completely forgot about it. This helps us retrieve that, without it overshadowing the social gospel. Then I would highly recommend that readers take a closer look at Wesley's sermons, as Jones calls them to your attention. All are online and free to read. While this takes a while to wade through, it is well worth the effort. Very rewarding and satisfying to those who long to know more.

This is a very helpful text, particularly for anyone who is interested in the core beliefs of the United Methodist Church. While you have to work to straight out some of his analyses at times, the material is worth the effort.

HE IS HONEST ABOUT THE DENOMINATION'S DOCTRINAL SHORTCOMINGS. THAT'S A VERY GOOD THING. I'M A LIFELONG METHODIST, BUT I JUST THINK TOO MUCH IS MISSING FROM OUR DOCTRINE. I DON'T LIKE BEING THE EXTREME CENTER. ONE EXAMPLE (THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE): WE'RE WISHY-WASHY ABOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE. EVANGELISM IS MORE THAN EXPLAINING DENOMINATIONAL DOCTRINE. METHODIST DOCTRINE IS MUCH TOO INTRICATE, AND JONES, I BELIEVE, COULD HAVE MADE IT SOMEWHAT CLEARER. OF COURSE THE DIFFICULTY DOESN'T FALL COMPLETELY ON THE AUTHOR. THE SUBJECT MATTER IS EXTREMELY CHALLENGING. MAYBE MY EVALUATION WILL CHANGE BY THE TIME I FINISH READING THE BOOK.

Had to purchase and read for a Methodist Doctrine classâ | which, at first, I dreaded. Now, thanks to

Jones and another book from Bishop Will Willimon, I am enjoying learning more about the "why" behind "what" we do.

I found this book to be very helpful in gaining a deeper understanding Of Methodists beliefs. There are ample footnotes for those wishing to seek more detailed source information. The author uses quotations from other authors and spiritual leaders such as Wesley to illustrate the important points.

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