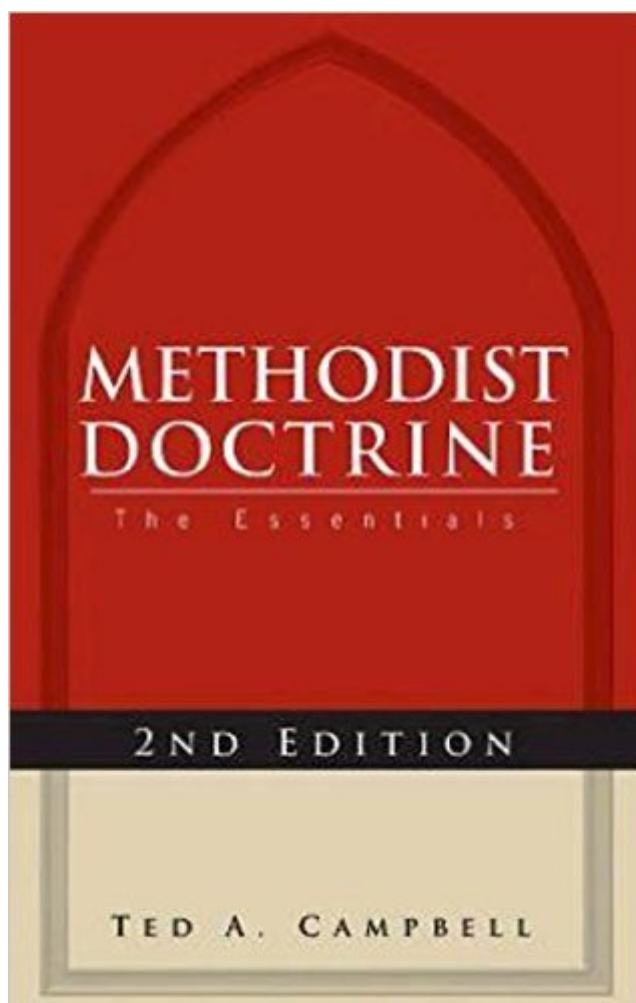


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# Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials, Revised Edition



## Synopsis

In this concise, accessible book, Dr. Ted Campbell provides a brief summary of the major doctrines shared in the Wesley family of denominations. Writing in concise and straightforward language, Campbell organizes the material into systematic categories: doctrine of revelation, doctrine of God, doctrine of Christ, doctrine of the Spirit, doctrine of humanity, doctrine of "the way of salvation" (conversion/justification/sanctification), doctrine of the church and means of grace, and doctrine of thing to come. He also supplies substantial but simplified updated references in the margins of the book that allow for easy identification of his sources. John Wesley distinguished between essential doctrines on which agreement or consensus is critical and opinions about theology or church practices on which disagreement must be allowed. Though today few people join churches based on doctrinal commitments, once a person has joined a church it becomes important to know the teachings of that church's tradition. In *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*, Ted Campbell outlines historical doctrinal consensus in American Episcopal Methodist Churches in a comparative and ecumenical dialogue with the doctrinal inheritance of other major families of Christian tradition. In this way, the book shows both what Methodist churches historically teach in common with ecumenical Christianity and what is distinctive about the Methodist tradition in its various contemporary forms. For more information, please see the author's website: <http://tedcampbell.com/methodist-doctrine/>

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am taking a very important step in my adult life, that is becoming a member of a methodist church.

I approached my pastor regarding my interest and this was the book she referred me to. I was to develop questions for her after reading this, but I have found that most of my questions have been answered by the book. Those questions were about communion, baptism, and what would be expected of me partaking of this faith. The book also reveals those parts of the Methodist churches (historic traditions), as seen through the eyes of John Wesley the founder of the Methodist movement. The margins of the book are set up so that referring back to a specific article is quick and easy. The glossary and index were also very convenient and helpful for understanding some unfamiliar terms.

It would do this fine little volume an injustice to call it "The Book of Discipline Lite" but it does do a fine job of summarizing the big volume without forcing the uninterested party to plow through material about the United Methodist Church's administrative structure and procedures. Don't expect a profound philosophical discourse on the similarities between Wesley's concept of "sanctification" and the Eastern Orthodox concept of "Theosis" in this book. But DO expect a nice, clean, concise history of the Methodist denomination, a good explanation of its ecumenicalism, a summary of Wesley's values, and all the promised essentials about what role communion, baptism, and clerical orders play in the modern UMC. The end of the book has a tidy summation of Wesley's "rules" and the general principles of the UMC. For anyone thinking of joining a Methodist church, seeking information about Methodism, and for those Methodists who want a good, concise reference and explanation, this is THE book. Go hit that "add to my shopping cart" button if you fall into one of these categories!

This is a well organized and factually based book on the Methodist doctrine. Being a Methodist for more than 35 years, I have never had a clear idea as to what Methodists really believe. This book has cleared up many misconceptions that I have had over the years and is strengthening my faith in the UMC. A good resource for both students and laypersons!

Excellent, clear, well-written, comprehensive ... I've run out of adjectives attempting to describe this book. If you're looking for an excellent foundational book on Methodist Doctrine and Theology, go no further than Dr. Ted Campbell's fantastic book, "Methodist Doctrine." I've read a lot of books on the theological standards of the United Methodist Church, but this one really goes a long way toward answering almost any question in a way that is accessible to both pastor and lay person. Buy this book!

Campbell's discussion of Methodist Doctrine is clear and well presented. He uses non-theological language to teach what could be complicated points. He gives references to support his statements. These could easily be used for further reading. This is a good introduction which would make further study much easier.

I just completed a course in the Course of Study (COS). The COS is required seminary education for people like me who become pastors as a second career or those who do not have an MDiv degree. This book was one of three used for the class, *Pastor as Interpreter of Wesleyan Theology*. This book has very good information, written in a way that is very easy to comprehend, about Methodism. I believe if read along with *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way* by Kenneth L. Carder, also very easy to read, one would know almost everything about the doctrine of today's United Methodist Church.

This is a great book to pass on to laity who are wondering just what Methodists believe. For the more adventurous I would encourage looking elsewhere for greater in depth study. This is not to negate the quality of the book nor the audience to whom Campbell writes. It's a good introduction to the subject matter.

As a person who is considering joining the UMC. I found this book very helpful in understanding the doctrine that the church believes. I recommend this book to anyone who is considering joining the church or any current Methodists that wish a deeper understanding of the doctrines of their church. The chapters are very well organized. There are ample notes to additional resources. I found the Article of Religion very helpful. The author is a very well respected leader in Methodist education and teaching.

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