

Contents

Preface to the Second Edition	ix
Introduction	1
1 The Canonical Principle	9
The Canon	9
The Authority of Scripture	11
Tradition and Interpretation	17
The Uses of Scripture	23
The Bible in Contemporary Theology	25
<i>Sola Scriptura</i>	30
2 The Confessional Principle	35
The Confessional Factor in Christian Faith	35
The Problem of Confessional Identity	37
The Self-Understanding of the Confessions	40
The Hermeneutical Function of the Confessions	42
Challenges to Our Confessional Principle	45
3 The Ecumenical Principle	53
Defining the Church	53
The Significance of the Ecumenical Movement	57
The Apostolicity of the Church	61
The Catholicity of the Church	64
The Holiness of the Church	67
The Unity of the Church	68
4 The Trinitarian Principle	73
The Nicene Commitment	73
Today's Approaches to the Question of God	75
The Place and Limits of Natural Theology	81
Renewing the Doctrine of the Trinity	84
Contemporary Challenges to the Trinity	86

5	The Christocentric Principle	93
	The Logic of Salvation	93
	The Contemporary Shape of the Soteriological Question	97
	The Spectrum of Salvation	99
	Permanent Elements in a Theology of Salvation	104
	Justification and Liberation	105
	The Universal Meaning of Jesus Christ	108
6	The Sacramental Principle	115
	The Protestant Captivity of the Sacraments	115
	The Controversy over the Lord's Supper	117
	The Christological Foundation of the Lord's Supper	121
	The Contemporary Crisis in Christology	125
	A Sacramental Vision of the Creation	127
	Implications for Life Today	130
7	The Law/Gospel Principle	135
	What Is the Gospel?	135
	Law and Gospel	139
	The <i>Ordo Salutis</i>	142
	<i>Sola Gratia</i> as a Critique of Religion	144
	The Ladders to Heaven	146
8	The Two-Kingdoms Principle	151
	The Theological Problem of Human Rights	151
	The Ecumenical Triangle	154
	The Nature of Law	155
	The Function of the Law	159
	The Two-Kingdoms Perspective	161
	The Eschatological Horizon	163
	Notes	167
	Index of Names	175
	Index of Subjects	178