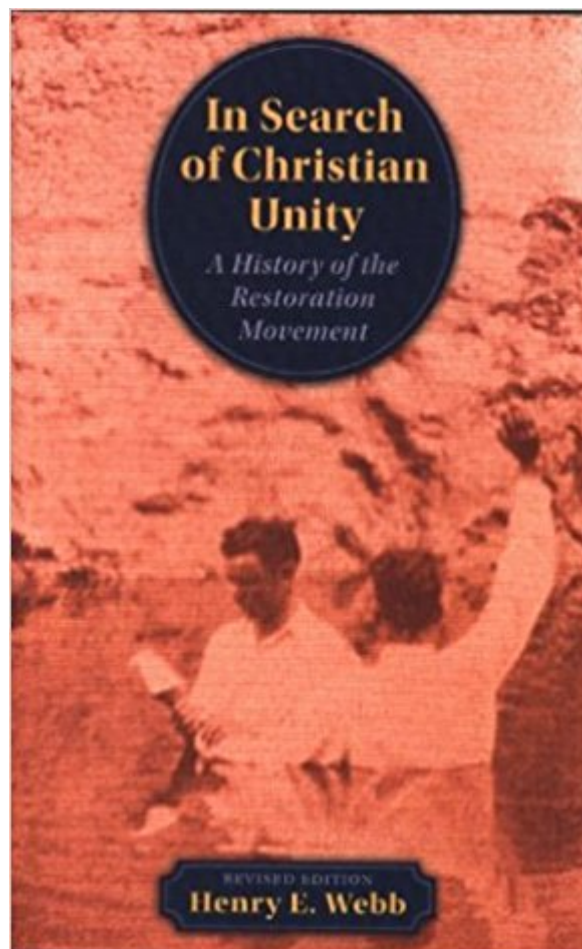




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In Search Of Christian Unity: A History Of The Restoration Movement



Synopsis

The decision to publish a revised and updated edition of *In Search of Christian Unity* was reached because the earlier edition was found to be a useful text and resource in numbers of college and seminary classrooms. All texts concerning historical movements and institutions that are of continuing significance and relevance need frequent updating, and it is hoped that the present work will fulfill this need for the Stone/Campbell movement, currently entering its third century. The author has been pleased by the positive reception accorded the earlier edition by historians and students in each of the three branches of the Stone-Campbell heritage.

Book Information

Paperback: 574 pages

Publisher: Abilene Christian University Press (July 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0891120726

ISBN-13: 978-0891120728

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #429,154 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Baptist](#) #88783 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality](#)

Customer Reviews

Henry Webb's scholarship and knowledge of the Stone-Campbell Movement is thorough... careful and judicious. -- Douglas Foster, Director of the Center for Restoration Studies, Abilene Christian University

Henry E. Webb is Professor of Church History Emeritus at Milligan College in Tennessee. He is a graduate of Cincinnati Christian College (AB), Xavier University (PhD) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (BD and PhD). He has engaged in post-doctoral studies at Union Theological Seminary and Oxford University. Dr. Webb began teaching at Milligan College, a liberal arts college associated with Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, in 1950, and was named chair of the Department of Biblical Studies in 1963 and Dean E. Walker Professor of Church History in 1978. In addition to his teaching at Milligan College, Dr. Webb has also served on the faculty of Emmanuel

School of Religion in Tennessee and The Institute for Biblical Studies in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Webb has held membership in the American Society of Church History, The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, and Theta Phi. He has served on the Theological Study Commission of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, The Consultation on Internal Unity, Unity Forums with the Disciples of Christ and Churches of Christ, and the Continuation Committee of the North American Christian Convention.

It would be very difficult to write a book about 200 years of Restoration Movement history, not only because of the length of time involved but also the very divergent patterns of its three major streams. The first half of the book deals mostly with Alexander Campbell and is generally well written. The reader generally gets to see into Campbell's mindset as to why the movement went in directions that it did. Much of the late 19th century is ignored except for a solid chapter on some of the issues that led to the first division, such as open membership, missionary societies, and instrumental music. The second half of the book, however, is not very well-written at all. Most of it bogs down into a very detailed history of the various workings of the increasingly liberal Disciples polity, and how the Christian Standard eventually led others to break off into what is now the 'Independent' Christian Churches. Mr. Webb gives list after list of various individuals who were part of different conventions or congresses; perhaps books like this are why many students find history to be so boring! It almost feels as if he was writing this in order to not leave any names or dates out. Yet in doing all this he essentially ignores non-instrumental churches of Christ in the 20th century.

Dr. Henry Webb paints a wonderful picture of the rich history of the Restoration Movement. This frontier religious movement in American History produced the Christian Churches, the churches of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. Dr. Webb treats minor characters very well and also the major ones such as Barton W. Stone or Alexander Campbell. I have personally studied under Dr. Webb at Milligan College and feel his knowledge of this movement is unmatched. He was a great lecturer and this book preserves his diligence toward the history of this movement. I would recommend it for all students of American Religious History.

This book is an outstanding summary of the history of the restoration movement, including fair treatment of all 3 branches. It is very readable, and I highly recommend it.

This book is really good. Lots to learn from the author, Webb, on the Restoration Movement. I would

recommend it for sure to anyone wanting to really dig into knowing the movement. Great book.

Thanks

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