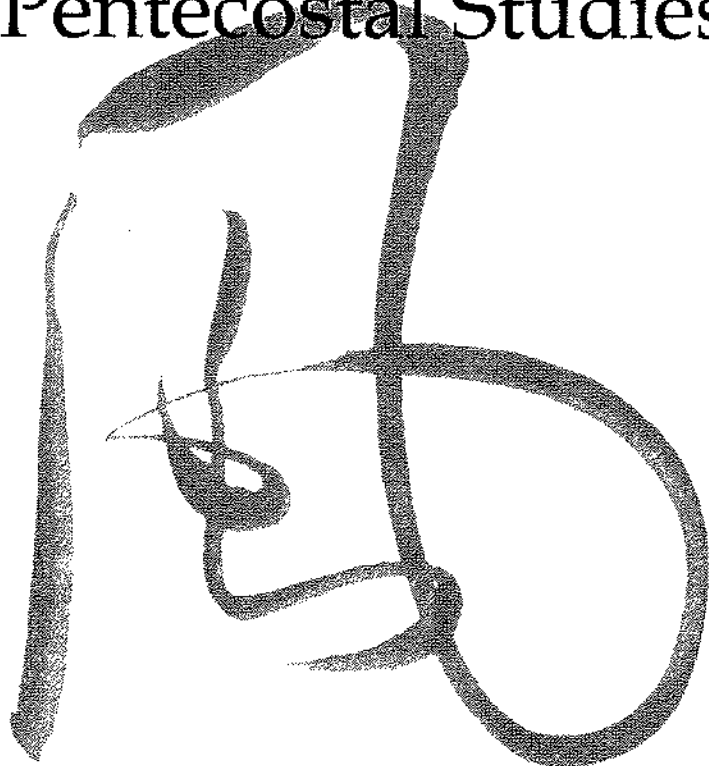


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Book Review

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, *One with God: Salvation as Deification and Justification*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2004. 144 pp.

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, a professor of systematic theology at Fuller Seminary and a docent of ecumenics at the University of Helsinki, in this work strives to find the common ground between the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and certain Lutheran and Free Church soteriologies in reference to the doctrines of Justification and Deification. The author starts his work with an introduction with the concept of 'Union with God' in various religious traditions, various denominational divisions and the potential for ecumenical unity on this topic.

The second chapter is a summary of the recent research on the concept of Justification in the New Testament. Kärkkäinen's interlocutors in this chapter included J.D.G. Dunn, E.P. Sanders, Krister Stendahl and N.T. Wright. In the third chapter, the author gives an extensive discussion of the concept of Deification and *theosis* within the Eastern Church tradition. Starting from the biblical texts, the Eastern Church fathers and Gregory Palamas, Kärkkäinen deals with the role of the incarnation, 'christification,' and *theosis* in reference to salvation and pneumatology.

In the following 4th chapter, Martin Luther's theological understanding of Justification and Deification through the lens of the Tuomo Mannermaa school of thought from the University of Helsinki was examined. It is argued from the Mannermaa school that Luther was much more conducive to an 'effective justification'; it was the later Lutherans that emphasized 'forensic justification'.

As such, this reading of Luther allows for a potential of a pneumatology and a more ecumenically inclusive doctrine of salvation. In the 5th chapter, the author describes the concept of Deification (albeit in their own terms) among the Anabaptists, John Wesley, and the Methodists (citing besides Wesley, Jürgen Moltmann, A.C. Outler, and Theodore Runyon among others), and Evangelical theology (citing notably Don Fairbairn and Clark Pinnock).

Kärkkäinen then focuses on the Lutheran-Orthodox conversations (notably being Finnish Lutheran and Russian Orthodox discussions) especially on the area of Justification and Deification. Further conversations between the Roman Catholic and Lutheran positions were delineated, including the Oct 31, 1999 *Joint Declaration on the*