



Introducing Early Christianity: A Topical Survey of Its Life, Beliefs & Practices

By Laurie Guy

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Laurie Guy provides an illuminating, broad-brush survey of the early church in its first four centuries. Her highly readable account is a welcome supplement to chronological histories of the early church, providing something of an aerial view that lets us see patterns in the historical terrain. From the apostolic fathers to the great ecumenical councils, we see the church undergoing persecution and martyrdom and then rising to favor under Constantine, shaping its ministry and order while worshiping and developing its understanding of doctrine. Baptism and Eucharist, asceticism and monasticism, and the developing roles of women unfold in this thematic account of the rise of Great Tradition Christianity. Richly illustrated and filled out with maps, charts and close-up windows on related topics, *Introducing Early Christianity* will inform the curious and enliven courses in early church history.

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Editorial Review

Review

Introducing Early Christianity has been helpful in my mental effort to sort out the various names, writings, and events that took place in the times of the church fathers. I find his writing eminently readable. I'd call this a good introduction to early church history for students of high school age and up. (Virginia Jones on eclectichomeschool.org, May 2008)

"Presenting an accessible, well-organized and crisply written summary of life and thought in the early patristic period, Laurie Guy's *Introducing Early Christianity* has done what should have been done a long time ago. The discussion is easy to understand without being simplistic, scholarly without being obscure. If there's a book to put into the hands of those entering this fascinating era for the first time, this is the one." (Nicholas Perrin, Wheaton College)

"Laurie Guy has written an informative, accessible and interesting introduction to the world of the early Christian community. The blossoming evangelical hunger for deeper grounding in the history, beliefs, traditions and practices of the ancient church will find much needed nourishment here." (Christopher Hall, Eastern University)

About the Author

Laurie Guy is lecturer in church history and New Testament at Carey Baptist College, Auckland, New Zealand.

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