Confirmation Presbyterian Practices in Ecumenical Perspective

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Confirmation: Presbyterian Practices in Ecumenical Perspective

Richard Robert Osmer's Confirmation provides a comprehensive discussion of the particularities of the Protestant experience of confirmation by examining Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Methodist practices. Osmer explains the need for a renewed understanding of confirmation in the Presbyterian Church and proposes a two-step process of confirmation that addresses concerns unique to this particular tradition.

While confirmation is often viewed as an ordinance that marks the beginning of the Christian life, Osmer argues that the Protestant tradition has struggled to define the purpose and meaning of confirmation in a way that resonates with contemporary Christian identity. He contends that confirmation is not merely a rite of passage, but a means of affirming one's faith and commitment to Christ.

Osmer's study draws on a wide range of sources, including historical documents, interviews with church leaders, and theological reflection. He offers a nuanced and well-researched account of the development of confirmation in the Presbyterian Church, highlighting both its strengths and weaknesses.

In his book, Osmer argues that the current practice of confirmation in the Presbyterian Church has become a source of confusion and disunity. He calls for a more intentional and meaningful approach to the ordinance, one that is rooted in the rich history and theology of the church.

Osmer's work is not only a valuable contribution to the field of Presbyterian studies, but also a call to action for those who seek to renew their faith and deepen their understanding of the traditions and practices of the church.