

A NEW RESOURCE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CONGREGATIONS

Seymour, Jack L. *Teaching The Way of Jesus: Educating Christians in Faithful Living*. (Nashville, USA: Abingdon Press, 2014)

Paperback, 201 pages with extensive and very informative endnotes. \$31.00 online.

The beginner and the experienced Christian educator will benefit from studying this impressive book. Approaches to Christian Education in Parishes are clearly outlined and enhanced with research from the twenty-first century.

The author, Professor Jack Seymour, draws on theological and biblical scholarship, historical Jesus research and contemporary scholarship in Christian Education. Examples from church life are provided. Each chapter begins with an illustration from the Gospel portrayals of the ministry of Jesus. Theological reflection is emphasized. Australian research is mentioned.

Three main educational approaches to Christian Learning are presented:

* Community and Prayer: Community-of-faith Approach to Christian Education.

* Study: Instructional Approach to Christian Education.

* Service: Missional Approach to Christian Education.

The final chapter presents an agenda for Christian Education when teaching in the Way of Jesus. The essential dynamics of the Way of Jesus are present in the Jesus prayer (Mt 6:9-15; Lk11:2-4). Seymour writes “The goal of Christian religious education is following the way of Jesus into the public world. Faithful education is essential to believers. Christian learning occurs through direct teaching and instruction, through participating in the faithful ministries of congregations, and through witnessing in the wider public world.”

This new book is an essential read for those undertaking tertiary study on the vocation of teaching within the Church community; teaching for the realm of God and living in the way of Jesus within church and society.

Formidable, comprehensive, wise and practical this publication is easy to read, measured and nuanced. We are to teach the way of Jesus, teaching in the ways of Jesus the Teacher.

Jack L. Seymour,
Professor of Religious Education,
Editor, *Religious Education*,
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary,
Evanston, Illinois, USA.

John Littleton provided this information 19/5/14.
www.tjhlittleton.com.au