

[Peter Lombard. Four Books of Sentences AKA Sententiarum Quatuor Libri \(12-th century\)](#)

Compiled in the 12th century, Lombard's Sentences served as the foundational textbook of systematic theology across all European universities for over four hundred years. The work is a masterfully organized topical anthology of biblical texts alongside patristic commentary (predominantly Augustine), covering the Trinity, Creation, Christology, and the Sacraments. For the evangelical historian, Lombard is indispensable for tracking the formalization of medieval Latin dogma. While his methods established the structural rigor of Western theology, this work marks the explicit, historical codification of the seven Roman Catholic sacraments and the progressive elevation of ecclesiastical tradition to a position of functional equality with the canonical Scriptures.

[Thomas Aquinas. Summa Theologica \(1265–1274\) - Translated in English](#) . Aquinas's Summa stands as the absolute zenith of medieval Scholasticism and the definitive philosophical framework for classic Roman Catholicism (Thomism). Employing a rigorous, dialectical question-and-answer format, Aquinas seeks to harmonize divine revelation with Aristotelian logic. For the conservative evangelical academic, the Summa is a mixed but profoundly brilliant treasury. Evangelicals heavily applaud his "Five Ways" (Quinque Viae) for demonstrating the existence of God, as well as his majestic, unyielding defenses of the Trinity, classical Christian theism, and the dual natures of Christ. However, the Summa simultaneously serves as the primary theological engine for doctrines the Reformation decisively rejected. These include his infusion model of justification (which conflates justification with sanctification), the dogma of transubstantiation in the Eucharist, purgatory, and the reliance on natural theology to a degree that evangelicals argue compromises the biblical portrait of human depravity and the absolute sufficiency of Sola Scriptura. It remains a mandatory primary text for any serious student of historical Western theology.

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[Sancti Thomae de Aquino. Summa Theologiae \(1265–1274\)](#) . Summa Theologica in the original Latin text

[Hunter, Sylvester Joseph. Outlines of Dogmatic Theology. 1895.](#) Written by a brilliant English Jesuit scholar at the close of the 19th century, this three-volume set provides a highly systematic, lucid overview of post-Tridentine Roman Catholic dogma. Hunter's work is deeply rooted in the neo-scholastic revival championed by Pope Leo XIII, making it heavily Thomistic in its logical structure. Volume 1 tackles the paths of revelation and church authority; Volume 2

handles God, creation, and the Incarnation; Volume 3 concludes with grace, the sacraments, and the final states. For the evangelical researcher, Hunter's text is exceptionally useful because it avoids opaque, modern ambiguities, presenting classic Roman Catholic distinctives—such as papal infallibility, the immaculate conception, and sacramental efficacy—with crisp, uncompromised clarity, making it an excellent comparative reference tool.

[Volume 1](#) , [Volume 2](#) , [Volume 3](#) (Read on-line and download as DJVU and PDF pages)

[Fiorenza, Francis Schuessler; Galvin, John P. \(Editors\). Systematic Theology. Roman Catholic Aspects \(1991\) \(Read on-line\).](#) This contemporary, multi-author textbook provides a definitive look at modern Roman Catholic systematic theology in the wake of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). Moving away from the rigid, neo-scholastic manuals of the past, the contributors engage heavily with historical-critical biblical scholarship, modern existential philosophy, and ecumenical dialogues. From a conservative evangelical viewpoint, this text demonstrates the shifting, more fluid boundaries of modern Catholic thought. While it offers valuable insights into how contemporary Catholicism frames the doctrines of grace, ecclesiology, and global missions, its frequent concessions to modern critical methodologies and its pluralistic leanings require highly discerning theological navigation from the evangelical student.