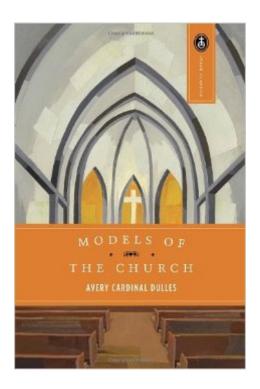
# The book was found

# Models Of The Church (Image Classics)





## **Synopsis**

There is today a dramatic reexamination of structure, authority, dogma -- indeed, every aspect of the life of the Church is held up to scrutiny. Welcoming this as a sign of vitality, Avery Dulles has carefully studied the writings of contemporary Protestant and Catholic ecclesiologists and sifted out six major approaches, or "models," through which the Church's character can be understood: as Institution, Mystical Communion, Sacrament, Herald, Servant, and, in a recent addition to the book, as Community of Disciples. A balanced theology, he concludes, must incorporate the major affirmations of each. "The method of models or types," observes Cardinal Dulles, "can have great value in helping people to get beyond the limitations of their own particular outlook and to enter into fruitful conversation with others... Such conversation is obviously essential if ecumenism is to get beyond its present impasses."This new edition includes a new Appendix and Preface by the author.

### **Book Information**

Series: Image Classics

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Image; Exp Rei edition (August 1, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385133685

ISBN-13: 978-0385133685

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #268,347 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #151 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology #5187 in Books > Christian Books &

Bibles > Theology #5821 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

#### Customer Reviews

Ecclesiology is the study and theory of what the Christian Church constitutes. Dulles presents several "models" which illustrate various aspects of the what Church is like. In one sense, it's an earthly institution, a formal organization of people with specific roles and responsibilities, lay and clergy. Complicating this picture is the reality that Christianity has fractured over the centuries into a variety of denominations, institutionally separate from each other. In another sense, the Church is a mystical communion or fellowship of people with shared beliefs. In this model, the institution takes a secondary role, being formed to provide shape and support to this body of people. According to a

third model, the Church is a sacrament, an instrument bridging the gap between earthly and divine, a conduit for divine grace to humanity. In a fourth model, the Church is a herald, charged with proclaiming the Christian message to the world, and reinforcing it among believers. In a fifth model, the Church is a servant, responsible for encouraging good works and helping those in need. Dulles says that many more models can be discussed, but he sees these as the most basic ones. Dulles does not claim to write for the lay (in the sense of non-academic, rather than non-clergy) reader, but this book actually is in clear, concise, non-technical prose that nearly anyone should grasp. While Dulles himself is a Roman Catholic, he gives the perspectives of Protestant and Orthodox Christians a full and fair hearing; this book definitely is not a defense of an "official" Roman Catholic viewpoint. In fact, he points out how Rome's "official" views became increasingly more nuanced, even in the years befor Vatican II.

Roman Catholic theologian Avery Dulles provides a helpful and easily comprehended system of models to help understand the churchâ ™s purpose and mission. Although some might argue that Dullesâ ™ work is outdated merely by virtue of its year of publication, this typology still proves stimulating toward working toward oneâ ™s own conception of what the church does and how that conception compares with others. Dulles carefully realizes the utility and the limitation of models, and within that careful limitation provides a five-point typology based on comprehensive scriptural, historical, and theological research. Dulles broadly divides the book into two sections. The first outlines each of the five models of church, and the second half compares the models to each other in relation to other theological categories. His five models are: 1) the institutional model, which equates the church directly with its leaders and governance; 2) the communal model, which sees the church primarily as a collection of persons who have experienced Godâ ™s grace; 3) the sacramental model, which sees the visible and institutional church as a human container of invisible grace (Dullesâ ™ most Roman Catholic and philosophically abstruse model); 4) the kervomatic model derived from Barth and Bultmann, which sees the church as the primary location for preaching the Word; and 5) the servant model, which sees the church as a motivating force for providing service to the world. Dulles provides Scriptural support for each model, details the history of the model throughout the church, and then explores each model by observing how that model explains 1) what unifies the Church, 2) who the beneficiaries are, and 3) the nature of those benefits.

#### Download to continue reading...

The Body Image Workbook for Teens: Activities to Help Girls Develop a Healthy Body Image in an

Image-Obsessed World Models of the Church (Image Classics) The Changing Face of Church: Emerging Models of Parish Leadership (Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership) Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again Who Runs the Church?: 4 Views on Church Government (Counterpoints: Church Life) Fashioning Models: Image, Text and Industry Art Models 7: Dynamic Figures for the Visual Arts (Art Models series) Art Models Ultra: Becca (Art Models series) Art Models 6: The Female Figure in Shadow and Light (Art Models series) Cut and Make Space Shuttles: 8 Full-Color Models that Fly (Models & Toys) Art Models 8: Practical Poses for the Working Artist (Art Models series) Sexy Seductive Lingerie & Boudoir Poses 1000 Positions Photographs: Fashion Models, Pin-Ups, Fashion Photographers, Figure Model, Artists & Art Models Five Models of Spiritual Direction in the Early Church The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius: Saint Ignatius' Profound Precepts of Mystical Theology (Image Classics) Introduction to the Devout Life (Image Classics) Contemplative Prayer (Image Classics) The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church According to the Use of the Reformed Episcopal Church in North America Together with the Paslter or Psalms of David Church Meets World: Church's Teachings for a Changing World: Volume 4 Church Refugees: Sociologists reveal why people are DONE with church but not their faith The Irresistible Church: 12 Traits of a Church Heaven Applauds

**Dmca**