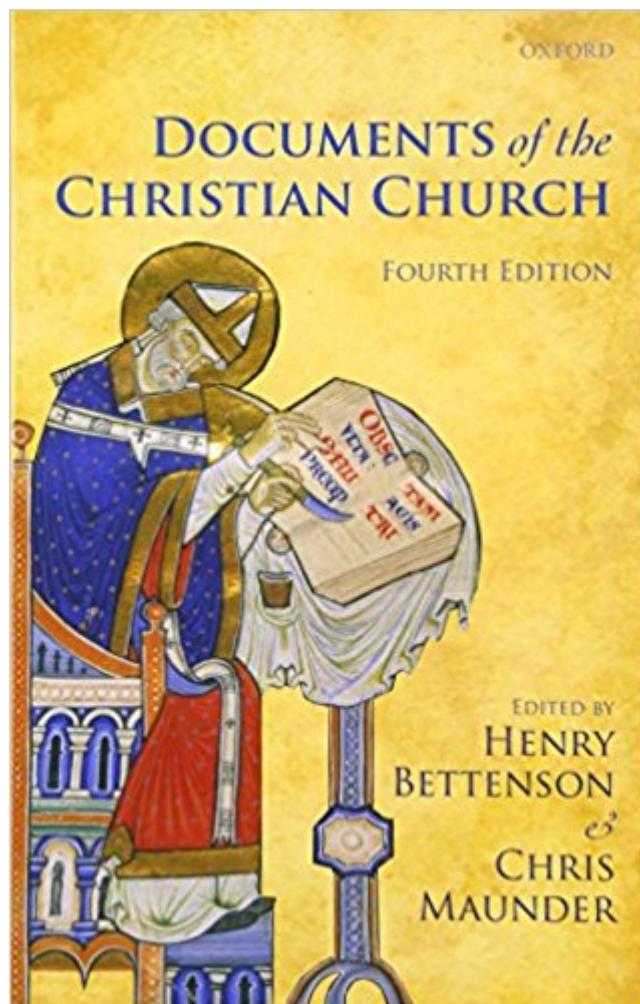


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# Documents Of The Christian Church



## **Synopsis**

This selection of writings from the most important moments in the history of Christianity has become established as a classic reference work, providing insights into 2000 years of Christian theological and political debate. While retaining the original material selected by Henry Bettenson, Chris Maunder has added a substantial section of more recent writings. These illustrate the Second Vatican Council; the theologies of liberation; Church and State from 'Thatcher's Britain' to Communist Eastern Europe; Black, feminist, and ecological theology; ecumenism; and inter-faith dialogue. The emphasis on moral debate in the contemporary churches is reflected in selections discussing questions about homosexuality, divorce, AIDS, and in-vitro fertilization, amongst other issues. This further expanded fourth edition brings the anthology up-to-date with a new section looking at issues facing the twenty-first century churches. This includes extracts exploring the churches' responses to questions of social justice, international politics, trade and debt, environmental change, and technological development. New material also covers the global growth of Christianity, the progress of Christian unity, and mission in multi-faith and postmodern societies.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 4th edition (November 15, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199568987

ISBN-13: 978-0199568987

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 1.1 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 68 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #14,072 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church History #47 in Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity #60 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > History

## **Customer Reviews**

'That invaluable Christian reference book' -- Church Times

Chris Maunder is Head of BA Theology and Religious Studies at York St. John University.

This is simply a collection of primary sources with brief explanations to provide historical context.

Some of it may be a bit tedious, but such is the nature of the sources themselves and not at all a fault of this book. When one considers the sheer volume of potential documents church history offers us to read, Bettenson has done a wonderful job of sifting out much that would be redundant or unnecessary for today's reader. What's left is a valuable glimpse into issues and discussions that have occupied writers and thinkers over many generations.

This book is wonderfully organized by historical period. You read about the early Christian apologists of the 2nd century and then immediately after that you move into the theologies of martyrdom; you learn about the disputes over the incarnation of Christ before you learn about the debates over transubstantiation, etc. Very good read. I recommend to all Christians.

Excellent resource for church history course that makes accessible portions of essential church documents discussed in a church history course. I highly recommend this work for providing the student the opportunity to engage with the primary documents on the bare essentials level.

I love to read original documents. I like to hear authors from centuries ago. In this book, you can read extracts from documents of the Christian world from classical times to not-so-long-ago. You can read descriptions of Christians being persecuted; ancient debates that still rage; some issues are deep and still unresolved; others are more like "How many angels can fit on the head of a pin?"

This book is a valuable reference and resource for early documents of the Christian Church. It contains many, many things most have never even heard about, and gives a great historical perspective on the Church. The material is often difficult to find unless you know exactly what you are looking for.

Great resource!

The documents in this collection are essential first-hand accounts, and thus essential reading for anyone interested in the early formation of the Christian Church. I purchased the item for my Kindle so I could read them in any location, but the navigation made this difficult. Also, since I was reading this book with a group, it was difficult to match up the Kindle locations with the actual printed pages. It depends what kind of convenience you need - convenience of reading, or convenience of locating things.

I agree with other reviewers that this is an indispensable volume for anyone studying the history of Christianity. Also, the use of primary sources, which is a hallmark of the classical school movement, allows you to examine the actual words of a document rather than having it filtered through someone else's point of view. I realize not every document could be included, but I was disappointed that Urban II's speech calling for the Crusades was not included as it has relevance to world politics today. Also, some longer works, such as The Rule of St. Benedict, have been ellipted so one must still look elsewhere to get the complete work. Still, this is a fabulous, reasonably priced volume to have at hand.

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