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Christianity and Chinese Culture

Edited by

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PREFACE	ix
CONTRIBUTORS	xviii
I. CHRISTIANITY IN RELATION TO THE CHINESE RELIGIOUS TRADITION	
1. The Goodness of Human Nature and Original Sin: A Point of Convergence in Chinese and Western Cultures	3
<i>Zhao Dunhua</i>	
Response	12
<i>Miikka Ruokanen</i>	
2. Sin and Evil in Christian and Confucian Perspectives	22
<i>Zhang Qingxiong</i>	
Response	37
<i>Diane B. Obenchain</i>	
Response	51
<i>Svein Rise</i>	

3. The Compatibility of Christianity with the Traditional Chinese Religions in Their Theories of the Divinity	56
<i>He Guanghu</i>	
Response	70
<i>Paulos Huang</i>	
4. Reasons for an Easy Access of Christianity into Chinese Culture: Cultural Relativity between Religion and Morality on the Basis of the Method of Matteo Ricci's Missionary Work in China	85
<i>Wan Junren</i>	
5. <i>Ren</i> as a Fundamental Motif and the Promise and Problem of a Contextual Theology of an <i>Agape-Ren</i> Synthesis: A Dialogue with Anders Nygren	102
<i>Lo Ping-cheung</i>	
Response	120
<i>You Bin</i>	
6. Dialogue between Christianity and Taoism: The Case of Lin Yutang	124
<i>He Jianming</i>	
7. Reflections on the History of Buddhist-Christian Encounter in Modern China	145
<i>Lai Pan-chiu</i>	
Response	160
<i>Jorgen Skov Sorensen</i>	
Response	166
<i>Jyri Komulainen</i>	
8. The Impact of Contemporary Chinese Folk Religions on Christianity	170
<i>Gao Shining</i>	

II. CHRISTIANITY IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN CHINA	
9. Comprehensive Theology: An Attempt to Combine Christianity with Chinese Culture	185
<i>Zhuo Xinping</i>	
Response	193
<i>Notto R. Thelle</i>	
10. The Contextualization of Chinese Christian Theology and Its Main Concerns	197
<i>Yang Huilin</i>	
Response	205
<i>Thor Strandenaes</i>	
11. How Do Social and Psychological Needs Impact the Existence and Growth of Christianity in Modern China?	211
<i>Li Pingye</i>	
Response	228
<i>Vladimir Fedorov</i>	
12. Eliminating Five Misunderstandings about Christianity in Chinese Academic Circles	234
<i>Wang Xiaochao</i>	
Response	254
<i>Choong Chee Pang</i>	
13. The Faith of Chinese Urban Christians: A Case Study of Beijing	259
<i>Gao Shining</i>	
Response	273
<i>Zhang Minghui</i>	
14. The Position of Religion in Chinese Society	276
<i>Li Qiuling</i>	
Response	287
<i>Fredrik Fällman</i>	
Response	291
<i>Birger Nygaard</i>	

III. CHALLENGES TO THE CONTEMPORARY
CHINESE PROTESTANT CHURCH

15. The Basis for the Reconstruction of Chinese Theological Thinking	297
<i>Deng Fucun</i>	
Response	309
<i>Chen Xun</i>	
Response	312
<i>Gerald H. Anderson</i>	
16. Call for Dialogue and Cooperation: Reflections on the <i>Jianshe</i> or the Reconstruction of Theological Thinking	319
<i>Zhu Xiaohong</i>	
Response	336
<i>Sun Yi</i>	
17. Christ and Culture: A Reflection by a Chinese Christian	339
<i>Chen Yongtao</i>	
18. A Chinese Christian's Reading of Two Ethical Themes of <i>Zhuangzi</i>	355
<i>Lin Manhong</i>	
19. A Flourishing Discipline: Reflections on the Study of Christianity in Academic Institutions in China Today	367
<i>Wu Xiaoxin</i>	

Preface

The book at hand contains papers that were given in a very special theological conference, "Christianity and Chinese Culture: A Sino-Nordic Conference on Chinese Contextual Theology," held in Lapland, Finland, August 13-17, 2003.¹ This was the first time that a widely representative group of Chinese university scholars and theologians of the Protestant Church of China had joined around the same table to discuss how Protestant Christianity is reacting to the challenges arising from traditional Chinese culture and from the present historical and cultural situation.

The aim of the conference was to promote academic and theological reflection on the formation of Protestant Christianity in the context of traditional Chinese culture, and in the context of modern Chinese culture and society. Our purpose was also to foster theological discussion between Chinese academic specialists of Christianity and theologians from the Chinese Protestant Church, in critical discussion together with theologians from northern Europe and from other countries. All of the conference papers were given by Chinese scholars and theologians. Nordic and other scholars

1. The conference was organized by the North European NIME research organization (Nordic Institute for Missionary and Ecumenical Research) in cooperation with the Department of Systematic Theology, Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki, and the Union for Christian Culture of Finland. NIME includes members from all the Nordic theological faculties. The conference was financed by the Academy of Finland. Financial help was also received from Areopagos, the Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Mission, and the Finnish Bible Society. The Chinese version of the conference book was published under the title *Jidu zongjiao yu Zhongguo wenhua* by China Social Sciences Press, Beijing, 2004.