

In this number

ROBERT H. NELSON

Is Max Weber Newly Relevant? The Protestant-Catholic Divide in Europe Today

National political and economic cultures are shaped over very long periods and inevitably reflect the historic religious character of a nation. Within Europe, nations can be divided among those that are historically Protestant, historically Roman Catholic, and historically Orthodox. This article finds that significant political and economic differences still remain among European nations that reflect their national religious histories. Not unlike the findings of Max Weber 100 years ago, the historically Protestant countries of northern Europe have tended to have more successful results in these regards. These national political and economic differences attributable in part to historic religion have today become important contributing factors to the new divisions that have arisen in Europe under the stresses following after the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009.

DAN-JOHAN EKLUND

Voluntariness of Faith in Modern Philosophical Theism

The article examines several views on the voluntariness of religious faith in modern philosophical theism. The discussion on the issue focuses mostly on analysing diverse propositional attitudes and

how they are subject to the decisions of the will. Another important aspect of the debate pertains to the commitment faith involves and the attitudes this sort of action presupposes. According to the article, philosophical theists widely agree that faith is and must be voluntary, but their views on how it is so differ remarkably. Moreover, the motives and reasons underlying these views are varied.

MIKKO POSTI

The Distinction of Divine Persons in William Ockham's Trinitarian Thought

In William Ockham's Trinitarian theology, the divine persons are constituted by opposed divine relations. This was the traditional model for understanding the Trinity in Western Christendom. It is rather surprising that Ockham favoured the relation account of personal distinction, considering that as a philosopher he was strongly opposed to the notion of ontologically real relations. Ockham rejected the competing theory of personal distinction – the emanation account – for theological reasons. According to adherents of the emanation account, the production of the Holy Spirit was based on free divine will. Ockham thought that each divine person is produced necessarily, and necessary production cannot be based on free power.

MIA MATILAINEN & ARTO KALLIONIEMI

Religious Education from the Viewpoint of Human Rights Education: Connections and Future Possibilities

This article examines human rights education (HRE) in religious education (RE) in the Finnish upper secondary school context. The aim is to find out what kind of linkages HRE and RE have and which human rights themes are linked to RE. In the present article, the data from the student interviews (28) are examined from the viewpoint of RE. RE has an important role from the perspective of HRE. Human dignity serves as a viewpoint which helps link the core values and aims of both RE and HRE. The three principal categories of human rights dimensions in RE in the interviews were: freedom of religion, human dignity and the right for life. The human rights viewpoint should be strengthened in RE. For example, women's and children's rights should be centrally featured in the content of RE.

Translation: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi