

Render Unto Caesar

The Struggle Over Christ and Culture in the New Testament

By John Dominic Crossan

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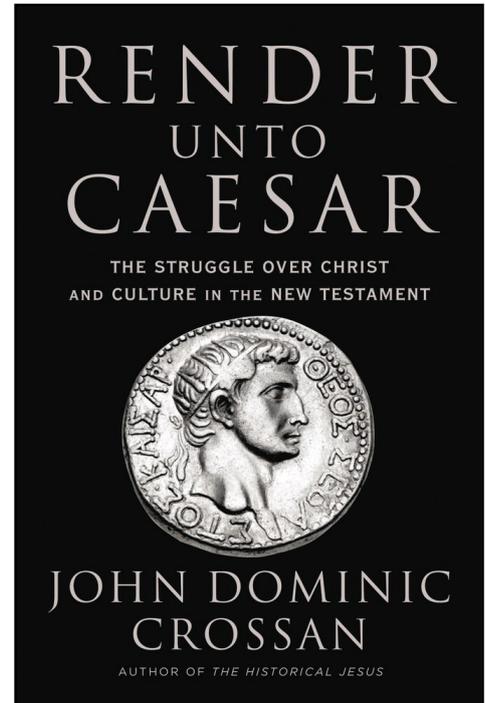
Leading Bible scholar John Dominic Crossan, the author of the pioneering work *The Historical Jesus*, provides new insight into the Christian culture wars which began in the New Testament and persist strongly today.

For decades, Americans have been divided on how Christians should relate to government and lawmakers, a dispute that has impacted every area of society and grown more rancorous over the past forty years. But as Crossan makes clear, this debate isn't new; it can be found in the New Testament itself, most notably in the tensions between Luke-Acts and Revelations.

In the texts of Luke-Acts, Rome is considered favorably. In the book of Revelations, Rome is seen as the embodiment of evil in the world. Yet there is an alternative to these two extremes, Crossan explains. The historical Jesus and Paul, the earliest Christian teachers, were both strongly opposed to Rome, yet neither demonized the Empire.

Crossan sees in Jesus and Paul's approach a model for Christians today that can be used to cut through the acrimony and polarization roiling our society and dividing us.

John Dominic Crossan, professor emeritus at DePaul University, is widely regarded as the foremost historical Jesus scholar of our time. He is the author of several bestselling books, including *How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian*, *The Historical Jesus*, *God and Empire*, *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, *The Greatest Prayer*, and *The Power of Parable*. He lives in Minneola, Florida.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Religion / Biblical Criticism & Interpretation / New Testament

Publisher: HarperOne

Hardcover: 9780062964939

UK Release Date: 28-Apr-2022

RRP: £28.99

Paperback: 9780062964977

UK Release Date: 20-Nov-2024

RRP: £18.99

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Exclusively distributed by Kuperard Publishers & Distributors

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