

CONFESSING THE GLORY OF GOD: AUGUSTINE'S THEOLOGY OF DIVINE ELECTION

Using the cultural-linguistic theory of religion and doctrine presented in George A. Lindbeck's *The Nature of Doctrine*, the discussion focused on Augustine's theology of divine election and operation. The paper presented focused on the appropriateness of Augustine's reading of Romans 9 and his application of principles drawn from the Pauline text to the divine operation of conversion and perseverance. An alternate set of doctrinal statements, cast as rules for speaking and action were suggested.

Discussion focused on the Augustinian doctrine itself and on the alternate formulation. The problems of internal coherence among the doctrinal rules, and the apparent arbitrariness of certain exclusions were highlighted. The difficulties of constructing a theological explanation of the proposed set of doctrinal rules was also noted.

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