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# MATT JENSON

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

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**2006—Present**      **Biola University, La Mirada, CA**  
Associate Professor of Theology, Torrey Honors Institute

## EDUCATION

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**2006**            **University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland**  
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Divinity  
Supervisors: Trevor Hart and Mark Elliott  
Dissertation: *Homo incurvatus in se: A relational understanding of sin and its systematic implications in Augustine, Luther and Barth*

**1998**            **Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL**  
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Literature and Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude*

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

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- American Academy of Religion
- Evangelical Theological Society

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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**Spring 2011**    *Chair*, Morgan House, Torrey Honors Institute

**2009-2011**    *Chair*, Torrey Faculty Hiring Committee

**Spring 2009**    *Member*, Theological Imperatives on Diversity Task Force

**2008-2009**    *Member*, Coalition of the Willing (regarding biblical and theological integration)

**Fall 2008**      *Co-Chair*, School of Arts and Sciences Steering Committee

**2007-2008**    *Member*, Coalition of the Intercultural Willing

**2006-**            *Faculty Advisor*, Torrey Honors Institute's Urban Plunge

## AWARDS, GRANTS & HONORS

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**1998**            William F. (Billy) Graham Award

**1994**            National Merit Finalist

## EXPERIENCE

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**2011-Present** Associate Professor, Torrey Honors Institute, Biola University, La Mirada, CA

**2006–2011** Assistant Professor, Torrey Honors Institute, Biola University, La Mirada, CA

- Ecclesiology
- Art and the Bible
- Christian Biography
- Creation and Creativity

**June 2007** Visiting Professor, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, KS  
Co-taught (with Ron Benefiel) course on *Readings in Emerging Church Theology*

**2006** Interim Pastor, Trinity Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City, KS

## PUBLICATIONS

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(with David Wilhite) *The Church: A Guide for the Perplexed* (New York: T&T Clark, 2010)

*The Gravity of Sin: Augustine, Luther and Barth on 'homo incurvatus in se'* (New York: T&T Clark, 2007)

"The Church," in *Living Witness: Explorations in Missional Ethics*, ed. Andy Draycott and Jonathan Rowe (IVP, forthcoming)

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," *Books & Culture* (forthcoming) [Review essay: George Hunsinger, *The Eucharist and Ecumenism: Let Us Keep the Feast*]

(with Oliver D. Crisp) "Sin," in the revised edition of *The New Dictionary of Theology*, ed. Stephen R. Holmes, John C. McDowell and Steve Carter (IVP, forthcoming)

"Barth," in *A Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, ed. Karla Pollmann and Willemien Otten (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

"Evangelical and Ecumenical?," *Ecclesiology* 7 (2011): 375-89 [Article review: Brad Harper and Paul Louis Metzger, *Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction*]

"Suffering the Promise of God: Engaging Oswald Bayer," *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 13:2 (2011): 134-153

"A Response to David Congdon," *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture* 6:2 (Summer 2010): 69-71

"Beyond Tolerance and Difference: An Interview with Kristen Deede Johnson," in *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture* 4:2 (Summer 2008): 61-65

"Sin Happens," *Books & Culture* (July/August 2008): 36 [Review essay: Alan Jacobs, *Original Sin: A Cultural History*]

“The Shape of Our Sin,” *The Other Journal* 10 (November 2007),  
www.theotherjournal.com/article.php?id=279

“An Apology for Staying,” *The Other Journal* 8 (November 2006),  
www.theotherjournal.com/article.php?id=210

“Real Presence: Contemporaneity in Bonhoeffer’s *Christology*,” *Scottish Journal of Theology* 58:2 (2005):  
143-160

Biographies and summaries of the following: W. R. Inge (*The Philosophy of Plotinus*), Werner Jaeger (*The  
Theology of the Early Greek Philosophers*), Henry Chadwick (*Authority in the Early Church and Authority in  
Christian Theology*), www.giffordlectures.org.uk

(with Ron Jenson), *Fathers and Sons: 10 Life Principles to Make Your Relationship Stronger* (Nashville, TN:  
Broadman & Holman, 1998); translation into Indonesian (2003)

## PAPERS PRESENTED

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### **“The Church”**

*Presented at Conference on Missional Ethics, June 2011*  
La Mirada, California

### **“A Response to Peter Jones”**

*Presented at the Far West Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, April 2011*  
Escondido, California

### **“Theological Imperatives for Diversity”**

*Co-presented with Joanne Jung and Benjamin Shin at  
the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 2009*  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### **“Response to *Exploring Ecclesiology: An Evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction*”**

*Presented at the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 2009*  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### **“Sin and the City: Augustine, sin and life together”**

*Presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2005*  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **“*Homo incurvatus in se*: Luther’s Relational Account of Sin”**

*Presented at the Evangelical Theological Society National Meeting, November 2005*  
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

### **“The Manner of the Mercenary: Luther on Humanity Curved in on Itself”**

*Presented at the Scottish Universities’ Staff/ Student Church History Conference, February 2005*  
Perth, Scotland

### **“Rethinking *Soli Deo Gloria*: How the City of God Trumps the Earthly City”**

*Presented at the Evangelical Theological Society National Meeting, November 2004*  
San Antonio, Texas

**“Sin’s Irony: Missing the Point on Missing the Mark”**

*Presented at the Systematic Theology Research Seminar, March 2004*  
University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland

**“Looking for God in All the Wrong Places? Augustine’s Ambiguous Introspection”**

*Presented at the Research Seminar for the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts, December 2003*  
University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

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“The Gravity of Sin”

Talk given at St. Alban’s Anglican Church (Ottawa, Canada), October 14, 2009

“A Brief Theology of Images of Jesus”

Presented as part of *Educating for Unity: The Convergence of Art, Theology, and Race at Biola University*  
Biola University, April 21, 2009

“Humanity” and “Sin”

Lectures given at Mars Hill Graduate School (Seattle, WA), October 18, 2008

“Finding Theology in Plato’s *Phaedrus*”

Lecture given at Wheatstone Academy, July 2008

“Anxious for Nothing: Writing for a Younger Generation”

Plenary talk given to the San Diego Christian Writers’ Guild, September 2007

BOOK REVIEWS

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- Review of Gary D. Badcock, *The House Where God Lives: Renewing the Doctrine of the Church for Today* in *Pro Ecclesia* (forthcoming)
- Review of Julie Canlis, *Calvin’s Ladder: A Spiritual Theology of Ascent and Ascension* in *The Other Journal* 18 (February 2011), <http://theotherjournal.com/wp/2011/02/14/reviving-stairway-a-review-of-calvin%E2%80%99s-ladder/>
- Review of Robert Spaemann, *Persons: The Difference Between ‘Someone’ and ‘Something’* in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 11:1 (2009): 95-97.
- Review of Amy E. Black, *Beyond Left and Right: Helping Christians Make Sense of American Politics* in *The Other Journal* 13 (November 2008), [www.theotherjournal.com/article.php?id=474](http://www.theotherjournal.com/article.php?id=474)
- Review of Paul Louis Metzger, ed., *Trinitarian Soundings in Systematic Theology* in *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture* 4:2 (Summer 2008): 99-102.
- Review of Alan Spence, *Incarnation and Inspiration: John Owen and the Coherence of Christology* in *Journal of Reformed Theology* 2:3 (2008): 297-298.
- Review of Craig J. Slane, *Bonhoeffer as Martyr: Social Responsibility and Modern Christian*

- Commitment in Scottish Journal of Theology* 61:1 (2008): 113-115.
- Review of James K. A. Smith, *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism? Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church* in *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture* 3:2 (Summer 2007): 125-128.
  - Review of Roger Lundin, *From Nature to Experience: The American Search for Cultural Authority* in *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture* 3:1 (Winter 2006): 79-81.
  - Review of *Augustine's Commentary on Galatians: Introduction, Text, Translation, and Notes*, trans. Eric Antone Plumer, in *European Journal of Theology* 15:1 (2006): 82-84.
  - Review of Kimlyn J. Bender, *Karl Barth's Christological Ecclesiology* in *Zeitschrift für Dialektische Theologie* 21:3 (2005): 295.
  - Review of Tuomo Mannermaa, *Christ Present in Faith: Luther's View of Justification* in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 7:4 (2005): 482-485.
  - Review of Marguerite Shuster, *The Fall and Sin: What We Have Become as Sinners* in *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* 23:1 (2005): 98-99.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Steering Committee, Ecclesiology Consultation, Evangelical Theological Society (2009- )

Contributing Editor, *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture* (2006- )