

The Paradox of Authenticity. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck. 2015. By Eric E. Hall. Pp. xiv + 224. €64.

This book offers an intriguing theological-philosophical investigation into the notion of authenticity. Hall begins by examining Charles Taylor's ethical notion of authenticity and concludes that it fails because it appears to rely too much on other members of society. H. then explores Martin Heidegger's ontological conception of authenticity. Much of the book is devoted to the related notions of "thrownness" and death, and H. decides that while Heidegger's conception is free from Taylor's ethical constraints, it also is deficient. That is because it seems focused on the language of "Being" rather than on a notion of authenticity. H. next examines the conception of authenticity found in the works by the theologian Eberhard Jüngel. H. finds Jüngel's approach more promising than those of Taylor and Heidegger, but it still does not encompass what H. believes authenticity to be. While Jüngel properly emphasizes the Trinity, he seems too indebted to Heidegger's notion of language. H. contends that all three thinkers maintain that being authentic is to be faithful to one's inner core; but he believes that it is something given to us by God. H. suggests that instead of cultivating the self, one should ignore it and authenticity will come to the individual—thus "the paradox of authenticity."

The book has some problems involving philosophical and theological issues: H. misunderstands Socrates's search for definitions misinterprets Descartes's "evil genius," and misrepresents Kant's epistemological project. H. dismisses Calvin's notion of double election, sidesteps the conception of the "wrathful" God, and ignores the problem of theodicy. These problems are likely the results of a cursory understanding of the history of philosophy and of an obvious preference for the Lutheran conception of the "fatherly" God. However, H.'s understanding of Heidegger is rather impressive and his argument for Luther is almost compelling. H. may not have proven that authenticity is being true to one's core and that it is instead conferred by God; however, he has provided a much-needed examination of the standard notion and has replaced it with a thoughtful account of the paradox of authenticity.

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There Is No Rose: The Mariology of the Catholic Church. By Aidan Nichols. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. Pp. x + 187. \$24.

If one wanted to revisit a past when there were plenty of arguments pro and con about who Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was and is, they couldn't have a better tool to conduct such conversations today than this book. Nichols, who has written a number of theological tomes, brings Mary and the vast subject matter about her to the fore and up to date in ways that are fair-minded and thought-provoking. He is not an apologist, however. He is not arguing for the truth of the multiple beliefs that Catholicism has promulgated about her.