

## Theologies of Failure

by Roberto Sirvent

### DESCRIPTION:

What does failure mean for theology? In the Bible, we find some unsettling answers to this question. We find lastness usurping firstness, and foolishness undoing wisdom. We discover, too, a weakness more potent than strength, and a loss of life that is essential to finding life. Jesus himself offers an array of paradoxes and puzzles through his life and teachings. He even submits himself to humiliation and death to show the cosmos the true meaning of victory. As David Bentley Hart observes, "most of us would find Christians truly cast in the New Testament mold fairly obnoxious: civically reprobate, ideologically unsound, economically destructive, politically irresponsible, socially discreditable, and really just a bit indecent."

By incorporating the work of scholars working with a range of frameworks within the Christian tradition, *Theologies of Failure* aims to offer a unique and important contribution on understanding and embracing failure as a pivotal theological category. As the various contributors highlight, it is a category with a powerful capacity for illuminating our theological concerns and perspectives. It is a category that frees us to see old ideas in a brand-new light, and helps to foster an awareness of ideas that certain modes of analysis may have obscured from our vision. In short, this book invites readers to consider how both theology and failure can help us ask new questions, discover new possibilities, and refuse the ways of the world.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Acknowledgements

Contributors

1. Theologies of Failure: An Inadequate Introduction 1  
Duncan B. Reyburn and Roberto Sirvent

PART 1: FAILING WELL

PART 2: FAILING BETTER

PART 3: FAILURE AS RESISTANCE

PART 4: FAILURE AND LIBERATION

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