

## Institution of a Christian Man

by Gerald Bray

### DESCRIPTION:

Compiled during the early years of the Reformation, *Institution of a Christian Man* lays out the principles of the nascent Church of England. In his definitive new edition, Gerald Bray charts the development of this text from the first version introduced by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and his cohort of bishops, to the extensive edits made by Henry VIII himself, and finally to the version written by Bishop Edmund Bonner under the radically different circumstances of Mary I's reign.

By combining the *Bishops' Book* and the *King's Book* into a single text - rather than in sequence - Bray shows which sections were added, deleted, and retained throughout the revisions. This process allows the Reader to reconstruct the texts and, at the same time, follow the process by which one was transformed into the other. Bishop Bonner's *Book*, which appears separately, illustrates additional changes and elaborations from the previous two books. Such a comparative study in a user-friendly and accessible style has never been published before.

Although written nearly 500 years ago, much of what these books pronounce is still valid and can be addressed to contemporary use. A thorough analysis of content also sheds light on a neglected phase of the Reformation, and provides a unique insight into the theological development that characterised the earliest stages of the Church of England.

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