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By T.Richard Snyder

William B Eerdmans Publishing Co, United States, 2000. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This bold work confronts the spirit of punishment that permeates our culture and its deleterious effects on today s penal system and society at large. Rooted in experiences of prison reality, the book sets forth an original theory about the theological roots of our current punitive ethos and offers a creative antidote informed by a commitment to restorative justice. Snyder shows that the spirit of punishment in our culture is rooted in and reinforced by popular Christian misunderstandings of human nature and God s grace. These misunderstandings include two consequential errors: the absence of any notion of creation grace and an understanding of redemption grace couched exclusively in individualistic, internalized, and nonhistorical terms. In both cases the social-historical dimensions of grace necessary for holistic redemption are ignored. These theological distortions, coupled with a prevailing cultural context that divides people between them and us -the most virulent form of which is racism-make a spirit of punishment inevitable. Snyder finds clues for a different understanding of humanity and God in responses to crime categorized as restorative justice . These alternative perspectives...



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