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Posted on 23 November 2019 By George M. Marsden

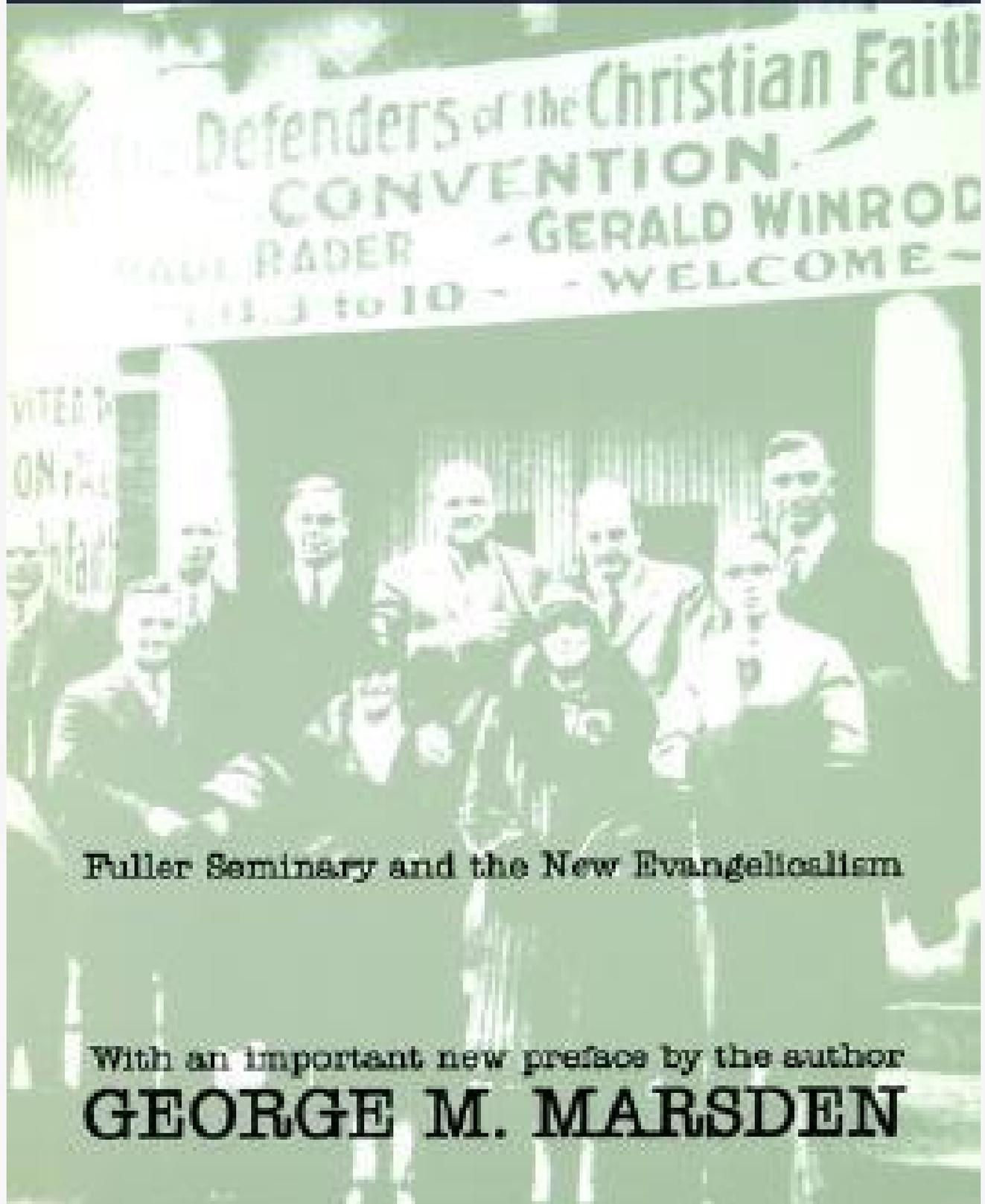
**\*Free ? Reforming Fundamentalism:  
Fuller Seminary and the New**

# Evangelicalism ? Ebook or Kindle ePUB free

You can't really rival George Marsden when it comes to understanding the makings of modern conservative Christianity. Thoughtful, engaging, and erudite, this book obviously bears the marks of the great historian. While history books can have a reputation for being dry, *Reforming Fundamentalism* is none of that. In fact, it reads like a novel. Marsden shows his skill as a master story teller. *Reforming Fundamentalism* is the story of the founding of Evangelicalism, centering around the movement's main institution Fuller Seminary and the crew of brilliant minds teaching there during its first several years of operation. The seminary and its followers attempted to achieve acceptance in the academy and maintain orthodox convictions, but they felt they could only accomplish this through distancing themselves from the strident forms of Fundamentalism and infiltrating liberal denominations with their graduates. To attain acceptance in the academy, Fuller struggled, and at times, refused, to anchor itself with a firm statement of beliefs. Unfortunately for the institution, that lack of anchor drifted it into rocky waters such as the inerrancy, thus creating a rift in Evangelicalism. One weakness this book shows is using only Fuller to understand the larger Evangelicalism. Fuller has strong Reformed Princeton roots, as Marsden points out. However, at several places Marsden seems to read these institutional roots into the larger Evangelicalism. This reductionism simply does not explain all the facts. If a Reformed heritage was the only background of Evangelicalism, why was Leslie R. Marston, a Free Methodist bishop, an early NAE leader? Why were Mennonites and First Wave Pentecostals among the original members of the NAE? While a Reformed background is a strong probably the strongest motif in early Evangelicalism, it is too simplistic to read that into the whole movement. Here is the telling history of not only Fuller Seminary, but also the evolution of the neo-evangelicalism in early to mid 20th century America. Marsden spells out the history in dramatic prose, making the read an adventurous one. The narrative flows out of a post WWII history of Fuller Seminary struggling to find its evangelical identity as an institution that desires to separate from the Christian fundamentalist ethos. How can a higher academic institution affirm strict positions on issues like biblical inerrancy while pursuing respect from the wider academic community? The characters in this history attempted to do just that. Such a good read almost like a novel. And such a sad, sad story of the leftward slide of an evangelical institution that has little resemblance left of biblical Christianity. There are lessons on faithfulness and fidelity to learn from if we have eyes to see them. Explains why evangelicalism cannot exist in contact with critical thought or academic excellence. I'm probably interested in institutional histories than most readers, but this is really an interesting account of the clash of personalities, politics, and theology during the early days of Fuller Seminary. Marsden does a good job of being as objective as possible between the

conservatives and the moderates.

# REFORMING FUNDAMENTALISM



**Fuller Seminary and the New Evangelicalism**

With an important new preface by the author

**GEORGE M. MARSDEN**

This work by Marsden examines the establishment and fragmentation of the new evangelicalism through the lens of Fuller Seminary. The work explains the origins of Fuller as well as its challenges and eventual doctrinal drift over the years. Although the work was interesting and a helpful example of how evangelicalism evolved, the precise example of Fuller does not feel as relevant for explaining the movement's development as a straight-up history of it would have been. Interesting and helpful, but not incredible. Excellent book covering the history of Fuller Theological Seminary from about the 1940s through the 1970s, focusing primarily on Fuller's role in the broader issues of separatism, inerrancy, scholarship facing Fundamentalism and later New Evangelicalism. This is one of the first books I've read for a while that I literally couldn't put down. George Marsden is a great writer of history. Fuller was founded to be an evangelical seminary, theologically Reformed, in the tradition of the old Princeton Seminary. The early founders were all out of the Fundamentalist movement, but they were frustrated by some of the anti-intellectualism that they saw in the movement. They desired to create a seminary that would be a center of Christian thought, bringing evangelical scholarship back into the mainstream. Particularly saddening is the story of the career setbacks and psychological struggles of Fuller's second president, Edward John Carnell. The last part of this book covers the criticism of Fuller Seminary's view on inerrancy in the 70s by its former professor Harold Lindsell in his book *The Battle for the Bible*. Some of the key players in this book include the following: Founders: Charles E. Fuller, Harold John Ockenga (the first president of Fuller), Founding faculty at Fuller: Harold Lindsell, Carl F. H. Henry, Everett F. Harrison, Wilbur M. Smith. Later presidents of Fuller: Edward John Carnell, David Allan Hubbard. Later faculty at Fuller: Charles J. Woodbridge, Bela Vassady, Daniel P. Fuller, Paul King Jewett, George Eldon Ladd, Gleason L. Archer Jr., William Sanford Lasor, Geoffrey William Bromiley. Fundamentalists critical of the new school and the New Evangelicalism: John R. Rice, Carl McIntire. Early supporter of the school: Billy Graham. As a side note, for those interested in the ministry of John Piper, though he is not mentioned in this book, he was greatly influenced by the men in this book. Piper was called to the ministry through hearing a radio sermon by Harold J. Ockenga, and he attended Fuller Theological Seminary from 1968-71. Piper has said that some of the books that have most influenced his theology/preaching were written by Daniel P. Fuller and George Eldon Ladd. \*Free ?

*Reforming Fundamentalism: Fuller Seminary and the New Evangelicalism ? A Sequel And Companion To The Author S Widely Acclaimed Fundamentalism And American Culture, This Book Uses The History Of Fuller Theological Seminary As A Lens Through Which To Focus An Examination Of The Broader Story Of Evangelicalism And Fundamentalism Since The S Fantastic book A must read for any seminarian or student of the history of evangelicalism in the West.* Marsden, in a scholarly and balanced fashion, chronicles the founding and first decades of Fuller Seminary. The intra-church struggles, interpersonal struggles, and the vision and pushback of the leaders was absolutely fascinating. The debate over inerrancy, the flirtation with higher criticism, and the desire to be respected by the Academy, all serve

as a warning for seminaries that care about the truth Fuller found itself on a slippery slope, sliding downward The result is that the professors who initially pushed for change would be horrified by where the seminary is now. There are many people and facts to keep track of here At times the details bog the narrative down a bit But, overall, this is an enthralling account of the inception of Fuller Seminary and an evenengrossing account of the lives and personalities of its early faculty I have a new found appreciation for the goals and ideas of the new evangelicalism and the perils they faced to try to accomplish them Harold Ockenga may be one of my new favorite people of the 20th century What a time they lived it and what a story that came of their lives

## New Post

Scones and Sensibility

Harmonic Feedback

The Iron Thorn

Crescendo

Everlasting

Anna and the French Kiss

The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin

Birthmarked

Last Sacrifice

Kat, Incurable

The Lost Saint

Bloodlines

The Cinderella Society

Under the Mesquite

The Daykeeper's Grimoire

## Recent Post

Hush, Hush

The Dark Divine  
The Body Finder  
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Sea  
Brightly Woven  
Fallen  
Shadow Hills  
The Secret Year  
The Mark  
Bleeding Violet  
Clockwork Angel  
Paranormalcy  
The Iron King  
A Match Made in High School  
All Unquiet Things  
The Line  
Guardian of the Dead  
Nightshade  
Magic Under Glass  
The Naughty List  
Other  
The Reckoning  
Dirty Little Secrets  
Forget-Her-Nots  
Whisper  
Scones and Sensibility