

## A CRITICAL STUDY OF CARL F. H. HENRY'S PORTRAYAL OF THE HUMAN ROLE IN REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

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This dissertation concerns Carl F. H. Henry's portrayal of the human role in his doctrines of revelation and inspiration. The study examines the consistency of Henry's portrayal of the role of man within his own exposition of those doctrines.

The investigation is divided into 7 chapters. Henry's apologetical presentation of the doctrines leads to the initiation of the study with a survey of the different theories of revelation and inspiration (chapter 1). The survey increases the intelligibility of Henry's own reaction to the different theories of revelation and inspiration, and man's role in them.

Chapters 2 and 3 provide an in-depth understanding of Henry's doctrines of revelation and inspiration, thus ensuring an adequate grasp and appreciation of the significance of his exposition of these doctrines and the human role therein. Chapter 4 deals with Henry's doctrine of man. The treatment serves as an additional basis and explanation for his depiction of the human role in revelation and inspiration. Chapter 5 carries out an analysis of Henry's depiction of the human role in revelation and inspiration. The analysis is approached from three vantage points: man and the origin of revelation-inspiration; man as receiver of revelation-inspiration; and man as carrier (conveyor/communicator) of revelation-inspiration.

Chapter 6 evaluates Henry's portrayal of man in revelation and inspiration. First, the chapter points to four reasons why consistency is expected in Henry's own depiction of the human role in revelation and inspiration. By using nature and function as criteria of the evaluation, the chapter correlates these criteria in relation to revelation and man as well as inspiration and man. Moreover, the human function or role in these doctrines is highlighted and carefully compared. In the process, it has been observed that whereas Henry assumes man's ability to receive (understand) and convey revelation unerringly and independent of divine help, yet when it comes to his role in conveying/communicating inspiration, such a competency is denied to him. This consequently leads Henry to portray man in inspiration as limited, erring, and constantly in need of divine help at every level, including the use of words during the writing of revelation or inscripturation. In view of his insistence upon revelation's lucidity to man, its propositional form, man's linguistic capacity, the content identity between revelation and inspiration, as well as the identicalness of the human agent between the two events, Henry's divergent portrayal of man's role within these events betrays inconsistency.

Chapter 7 summarizes the research and submits some recommendations that hope to broaden the depiction of the human role consonant with Scripture's own portrayal of that role, and bring about a consistency to Henry's portrayal of the human role within his doctrines of revelation and inspiration.