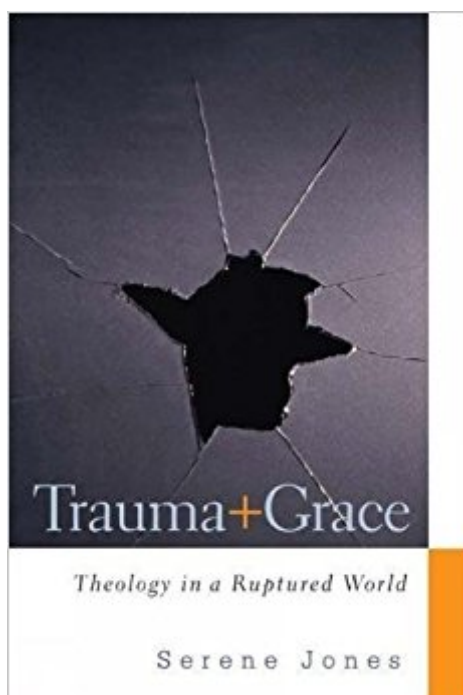


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# Trauma And Grace: Theology In A Ruptured World



## Synopsis

This substantive collection of essays by Serene Jones explores recent works in the field of trauma studies. Central to its overall theme is an investigation of the myriad ways both individual and collective violence affect one's capacity to remember, to act, and to love; how violence can challenge theological understandings of grace; and even how the traumatic experience of Jesus' death is remembered. Of particular interest is Jones's focus on the long-term effects of collective violence on abuse survivors, war veterans, and marginalized populations, and the discrete ways in which grace and redemption might be exhibited in each context. At the heart of each essay are two deeply interrelated faith-claims that are central to Jones's understanding of Christian theology: first, we live in a world profoundly broken by violence; second, God loves this world and desires that suffering be met by words of hope, of love, and of grace. This truly cutting-edge book is the first trauma study to directly take into account theological issues.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Serene Jones is President of Union Theological Seminary in New York. Prior to joining Union, she served as Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School for seventeen years. She is the author of several books, including *Calvin and Rhetoric: Christian Doctrine and the Art of Eloquence* and *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*, both published by WJK.

First of all, if you have ever heard Serene Jones speak, it is a treat. She has the ability to write well and speak well, and.... when I read this book, I heard it in her voice... it is very consistent with who

she is. I loved her use of Calvin's use of the Psalms. Space did not permit her to give the back story on all of the traumatized refugees -- many of whom, most of whom -- were children that had been uprooted on account of religious persecution. Such knowledge might better explain some of Calvin's barbs. I would recommend this book for all lovers of Calvin, and all those who look for ways forward when horrific things have happened to someone you care for.

There is the actual trauma... it is the stuff of PTSD and then there is the betrayal of trust that may have led up to the trauma and the betrayal of trust in how others respond or fail to respond to the trauma... This is called Moral Injury... Moral injury is the betrayal of trust by those who are responsible for my safety and care. It is the parent who knows.. but does nothing. The administrator who minimizes and dismisses. The hospital who sends someone away or has them waiting for months. It is the police officer who hardens his heart and draws his own conclusions. It is the community who will make a show of burying the dead.... and then turn their backs on the survivors a couple of months later. Trauma and Grace is really a companion text that draws us into the mystery of Our Lord's Cross and Resurrection... into the passionate prayers of the Anawim we sit beside on the bus. I paired it with the topic of Military Sexual Trauma... You will find your own companion text that describes for you the place of the wounding. Perhaps a drug overdose or a prison sentence that is destroying a family or car accident that left survivors who can not heal. Both books are fiercely difficult to read! So allow lots of breathing room. Leave them out where you can pick them up... read a little more and then let it rest again. Don't rush the reading. Healing moral wounding takes time and reflection to heal and to learn how to guard your heart from having the wound reopened. Peace and all good...

Very theological and "heady" but I loved it. I'm hoping it will help me to view people in my world differently - especially my husband who deals with PTSD. Thank you, Serene, for taking time to invest in traumatized people and then explore what that all looks like theologically.

This is such a wonderful and meaningful book- it is one that should be read by any person going into ministry.

Serene's style of writing is very intellectual and from a feminist theologian's perspective. I enjoyed thinking through her points on caring for those in the church who have lived through traumatic events.

being a survivor of abuse I highly recommend this book! It takes you deep into your own story to help you be able to look at things and deal with them in a healthy way.

This is a wonder book. Anyone interested in a closer walk with God and who has suffered trauma in their lives need to read this book.

Deep thoughts, thick read, but really intriguing and has some gold to it.

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