

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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Landslide changes in the Catholic Church and in global Christianity

Guest lecture in a Reformed flagship seminary

(Bonn, 07.04.2016) In a guest lecture at Westminster Theological Seminary, a Reformed flagship seminary in Philadelphia, Thomas Schirmmacher, the Chair of the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, described and discussed landslide changes in the Catholic Church and in global Christianity.

While dogmatic differences are decreasing, moral differences are increasing, Schirmmacher said. While using the ordination of homosexual clergy as an example for growing division, Schirmmacher used the full acceptance of wrongly so called 'monophysite' churches, such as the Coptic, Syriac-Orthodox or the Armenian-Orthodox Churches, as example of doctrinal convergence. In the light of modern research and intra-church discussions, the Monophysitist and Chalcedonian positions appear to differ mainly in their usage of the key term 'nature', not in what they actually confess about Jesus or see as a summary of Biblical doctrine.



Thomas Schirmmacher during his lecture at Westminster Theological Seminary

Schirmmacher was invited by Peter Lillback last year in Sao Paulo. Rev. Dr. Peter Lillback (PhD, Westminster Theological Seminary) is president and professor of historical theology and church history at Westminster Theological Seminary.

Schirmmacher is seen by some as one of the most experienced and knowledgeable experts on the different Christian churches and confessions worldwide. Having met virtually all the heads of churches or global church networks and having lectured on comparative theology for three decades, he has been involved in several highest level commissions between the Vatican, the World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance.

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance

www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.

www.vkwonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity

www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity

www.hilfe-weltweit.de

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies

www.bucer.de/ilfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance

www.islaminststitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance

www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary

www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V.

www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of "Hope for Europe" (European Evangelical Alliance)

www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance

www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

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Schirmmacher gave a second guest lecture on the same topic at John Jay Institute in Philadelphia. The institute prepares future civil leaders through half a year of



Thomas Schirmmacher with some fellows of the John Jay Institute and the president Alan R. Crippen II (left)

community and intense academic training. Alan R. Crippen II, President of the John Jay Institute, welcomed the networking of Schirmmacher between different churches and confessions worldwide, as it also would fulfill the vision of John Jay Institute.

Beside this Schirmmacher visited the Providence Forum in Philadelphia, over which Dr. Lillback presides, to discuss closer cooperation between the forum and the International Institute for Religious Freedom.

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www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwoonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity
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Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.de

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/ilfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminststitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of "Hope for Europe" (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/tc/

Downloads and Links:

- Peter A. Lillback: <http://faculty.wts.edu/faculty/lillback/>
- John Jay Institute: <http://www.johnjayfellows.com>
- [Photo 1](#): Thomas Schirmmacher during his lecture at Westminster Theological Seminary
- [Photo 2](#): Thomas Schirmmacher under the portrait of Cornelius van Til in the entrance hall of Westminster Theological Seminary
- [Photo 3](#): van-Til-Hall of Westminster Theological Seminary
- [Photo 4](#): Thomas Schirmmacher with some fellows of the John Jay Institute and the president Alan R. Crippen II (left)

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