

The Table of Contents to
Amandus Polanus' *Syntagma*

1609-10

Translated by
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Syntagma Theologiae Christianae

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Introduction

Have you ever desired to peer into an old, standard, Latin, Reformed systematic theology? Amandus Polanus' (1561-1610) *Syntagma*, or [System of Christian Theology](#), vol. 1, 2 (in Latin, 1609-10) is just that. Polanus was an early Reformed theologian in Germany. He had studied at Tübingen, Basel and Geneva and became the professor of Old Testament at Basel in 1596. Here is the Table of Contents to his 10 books in 2 volumes translated into English and made publicly available for the first time.

For a brief introduction to Polanus' life and work, see Andrew Myers' three paragraph blog-post '[Polanus Palooza](#)'. Robert Letham gives a fuller introduction in his academic article, '[Amandus Polanus: A Neglected Theologian?](#)'. Polanus' earlier work *The Substance of Christian Religion Soundly set forth in Two Books, by Definitions and Partitions...* (1595, 294 pp.) [Buy](#) has been translated into English. The massive *Syntagma* is currently being assessed for the possibility of translation and publication by Logos Bible Software and is currently [in the pre-order stage](#). In the meantime, for an overview of Polanus' *magnum opus*, see Max Deal's [The Meaning and Method of Systematic Theology in Amandus Polanus](#). Byung Soo Han has also published on Polanus in the pricey academic work, *Symphonia Catholica: The Merger of Patristic and Contemporary Sources in the Theological Method of Amandus Polanus* [Buy](#). For a taste of Polanus' theology, see the online paper, [Amandus Polanus' Doctrine of Reprobation: One Decree, Two Acts](#), by Michael Kornelis. Excerpts from Polanus can be found at [CalvinandCalvinism](#) and the [Heidelblog](#).

Note that this translation of the Table of Contents to Polanus' *Syntagma* is a rough translation for the purpose of peering inside the work and getting a feel for its layout, as well as knowing where to go if one is interested in a certain subject; it is not a professional translation. The one page 'Contents of the Volumes' immediately following this 'Introduction' is not original to the Latin work. The subtitles within the chapters of the Table of Contents are not original either, but have been added for easier visual

comprehension. Also note that a chapter heading does not mean that Polanus is approving of it; more often, he distinguishes within his answer. One instance is Book 10, Chapter 29, 'Love of Honor' where Polanus distinguishes that, as honor is a good thing and there is a proper regard for self-love, that there is a proper, grateful love of being honored, to be distinguished from an inordinate, selfish and immoral pride.

For those interested in digging deeper into the Latin *Syntagma*, at the beginning of volume 1 there is a Synopsis of the categorical, theological divisions of the whole work (which is significantly different from the table of contents, is much more complex to translate, and has not here been included). At the end of volume two, there are Scriptural, Question and Subject indices.

Please enjoy this Table of Contents to this old, standard, Reformed work. If you are able to get along in a bit of Latin, try dipping your hand into a section that interests you. If Latin is a dead language to you, work a bit at it for three years, and it will come alive, along with the vast treasures of the godly works from the Reformation and Puritan ages that have gone before us.

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¹ [The 'Contents of the Volumes' is not original to the original Latin work, but has been added in order to make the *Syntagma* easier to use. The links on the chapter numbers go to the appropriate place in the Table of Contents below.]

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² [The subtitles are not original to the original Latin work, but have been added for greater visual comprehension.]

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