

General editor's foreword

The writings of Andrew Fuller (1754–1815) are increasingly recognized as key documents in both the Baptist story and the wider history of Evangelical Christianity. “Fullerism” brought about a lasting revolution in Baptist circles that enabled British Baptists to be vitally involved in the globalization of Christianity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The impact of Fuller’s thought stretched far beyond his own denominational circles, for he became one of the main purveyors of the theological legacy of Jonathan Edwards in the British Isles.

Currently Fuller’s writings exist in three states: those published during his lifetime, those issued posthumously, and those still in manuscript form, which include his vast correspondence, a few sermons, an incomplete commentary on Isaiah, and a diary. Until now, scholars and students of Fuller’s thought have had to rely on a number of inadequate mid-nineteenth-century editions, which lack critical annotation, adequate indices, and substantial historical introductions to help orient the reader to Fuller’s historical context and the shape of his theological reasoning and biblical exegesis. Moreover, without his massive correspondence, which reveals the enormous influence Fuller had in both Baptist circles and other realms of eighteenth-century Evangelicalism, an adequate evaluation of Fuller’s achievement in his own day and his enduring legacy is impossible.

The Complete Works of Andrew Fuller is a modern critical edition of the entire corpus of Andrew Fuller’s published and unpublished works. It seeks to advance the current understanding of the life and thinking of this highly influential pastor-theologian as well as providing a comprehensive foundation for investigating the impact of his life and work in the two centuries since his death. The volumes in this series reproduce Fuller’s texts as he wrote them in manuscript form or as they were printed in the final edition to which he would have had access during his lifetime. The annotations that accompany each text present textual problems and variant readings. In the introductory essays, annotations, and headnotes, the editors will delineate Fuller’s historical context and intellectual influences. The publication of these volumes coincides with a significant renaissance in Fuller studies over the last few decades, demonstrated by a growing body of monographs and dissertations as well as scholarly conferences focusing on this important English thinker.

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