

**Brandon J. O'Brien**  
brandon@redeemercitytocity.com

**Education**

PhD, August 2013	Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL) Historical Theology
MA, May 2007	Wheaton College Graduate School (Wheaton, IL) Religion in American Life (Church History)
BA, May 2004	Ouachita Baptist University (Arkadelphia, AR) Majors: Biblical Studies and English Literature; Minor: Hebrew <i>*University of Edinburgh (Fall 2002)</i>

**Professional Experience**

2017–present	Director of Content Development and Distribution Redeemer City to City (New York, NY)
2014–2017	Director of OBU at New Life Church & Assistant Professor of Christian Theology Ouachita Baptist University (Arkadelphia, AR)
2013–2014	Acquisitions Editor—Academic, Bible and Reference Moody Publishers (Chicago, IL)
2010–2013	Part-time Instructor of Religion College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, IL)
2009–2014	Editor-at-Large, <i>Leadership Journal</i> Christianity Today International (Carol Stream, IL)
2008–2009	Associate Editor, <i>Leadership Journal</i> Christianity Today International (Carol Stream, IL)
2007–2008	Assistant Editor, PreachingToday.com Christianity Today International (Carol Stream, IL)

**Ministerial Experience/Other**

2014–2017	Teaching Pastor, New Life Church (Conway, AR)
2004–2005	Bible and English Teacher, Clark County Christian Academy (Arkadelphia, AR)
2003–2005	Teaching Pastor, Christpoint Church (Arkadelphia, AR)
2001–2002	Senior Pastor, Anchor Baptist Church (Brown Springs, AR)

## Books Authored and Co-Authored

*Writing for Life and Ministry: A Practical Guide to the Writing Process for Teachers and Preachers* (Chicago: Moody, 2020).

*Not From Around Here: What Unites Us, What Divides Us, and How We Can Move Forward* (Chicago: Moody, 2019).

*Demanding Liberty: An Untold Story of American Religious Freedom* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018).

*Paul Behaving Badly: Was the Apostle a Racist, Chauvinist Jerk?*, with E. Randolph Richards (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016).

*Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*, with E. Randolph Richards (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012).

*The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, Effective* (Grand Rapids: Bethany House, 2010).

## Chapters and Academic Papers

“Isaac Backus” in *Explorations in Baptist Political Theology*, edited by Andrew Walker, Paul D. Miller, and Thomas S. Kidd (Nashville: B&H Academic, *FORTHCOMING*).

“More Peoples, More Tongues: Emergence of the Global South,” in Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*, Fifth Edition, edited by Marshall Shelley (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, *FORTHCOMING*)

“Theologian of the Word of God? Reception of Barth’s View of Revelation and Exegesis in North America and Britain, 1945–1962.” *Trinity Journal* 32:1 (Spring 2011): 31–46.

“From Soul Liberty to Self-Reliance: John Leland and the Evangelical Origins of Radical Individualism.” *American Baptist Quarterly* 27.2 (Summer 2008): 136–150.

## Presentations

“Isaac Backus’ Myth-making: Competing Social Imaginaries in the Struggle for Religious Liberty,” presented at the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Dallas, Texas—November 2021  
[*FORTHCOMING*]

“A Phorofter for Faith: A Decade of Diagnosing America’s Christian Vision since *Misreading Scripture*,” presented at the Evangelical Theological Society’s Eastern Region Conference—April 2021

“John Locke, American Baptists, and Religious Liberty: A Reassessment,” presented at the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Atlanta, GA—November 2015.

“From Tip-toes to Toolkits: *Christianity Today*, *Leadership* journal, and American Evangelical Clergy (1956–1980),” presented at the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in San Francisco, CA—October 2011.

“Freedom of the Will and Freedom of Religion: The Edwardsean Foundations of Isaac Backus’s Appeal for Religious Liberty,” presented at the national meeting of the Conference on Faith and History in Newberg, Oregon—October 2010.

## Popular Publications (Selected)

Christian Nationalism and the Bible, Center for Hebraic Thought (FORTHCOMING)

“Trading Influence for Credibility,” *The Intersection Journal*, Issue 2, *TelosCollective.com* (April 2021)

“Isaac Backus: An 18th-Century Evangelical with 21st-Century Wisdom,” *Christianity Today* (June 2018)

“Christ, Culture, and the Generation Gap: What Younger and Older Christians Get Right and Wrong about Engaging the ‘World’,” *ChristianBibleStudies.com* (October 2012)

“Faith in Action: The Social, Economic, and Political Commitments of the Early Church,” *ChristianBibleStudies.com* (September 2011)

“Can You Imagine? Why Imagination Is Crucial to the Christian Life,” *ChristianBibleStudies.com* (July 2011)

“Graduating Christian: How to Finish College with Your Faith Intact,” *ChristianBibleStudies.com* (June 2011)

“Is Patriotism Christian?” *ChristianBibleStudies.com* (June 2011)

“An Unspoiled View: Following Jesus Means Learning to See Truth Behind the Appearances,” *Leadership Journal* (Fall 2010)

“To Kill or to Love—That Was the Question,” *Christianity Today* (July 2009): 42–44.

“Learning from Liturgy,” *Relevant* (March/April 2009): 26.

“Jesus for Real Men: What the Masculinity Movement Gets Right and Wrong,” *Christianity Today* (April 2008): 48–52.