

Reformation  
& Revival



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A Quarterly Journal for Church Leadership

Volume 5, Number 4 • Fall 1996

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*The study of ethics includes a number of other disciplines and divisions which should be considered to make up an exhaustive bibliography. I have chosen to highlight only works that deal more generally and broadly with the field.*

\*Atkinson, David J. and Field, David F., Arthur Holmes, Oliver O'Donovan; editors. *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995. This massive 918-page dictionary is an invaluable current resource for any Christian leader interested in the subjects covered. Highly recommended!

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Bahnsen, Greg L. *Theonomy in Christian Ethics, Expanded Edition*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1977. The late Greg Bahnsen was probably the foremost thinker and apologist for Christian Reconstruction or Theonomy. All who want to interact critically with this distinct view of the covenants and the law must come to grips with this well-written volume.

Barclay, William. *Ethics in a Permissive Society*. New York: Harper & Row, 1971. Barclay, known for his New Testament commentary series used by so many, is sometimes theologically muddled but always an excellent popularizer who writes with clarity.

\*Barth, Karl. *Ethics*. New York: The Seabury Press, 1981. Barth, who became the best known theologian of the century, wrote this originally as lectures given in his early days as a professor. He relates moral issues to piety and the Gospel with a pastor's concern. Recommended for the discerning and the scholar.

\*Bloesch, Donald G. *Freedom for Obedience: Evangelical Ethics for Contemporary Times*. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. An extremely important book in that it grounds the Christian approach to ethics in the Gospel of God's grace following the classical approach that is missed by many today, especially in the Reformed community, where ethics is not always linked to the obedience that is genuinely produced by the Cross.

Clark, David K. and Rakestraw, Robert V. *Readings in Christian Ethics: Volume One—Theory and Method*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. Carefully chosen selections from sources as diverse as Packer, Thielicke, Frame and Smedes. Covers foundational matters well and offers the reader diversity. A second volume to follow.

Davis, John Jefferson. *Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1993 reprint. A valuable work recently reprinted. This work deals with several important contemporary matters; e.g., abortion, contraception, divorce and remarriage, euthanasia, capital punishment, etc.

\*Elert, Werner. *The Christian Ethos*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1957. An out-of-print volume that is essential for those who want to understand how the Reformation faith, especially with an emphasis on the Lutheran law-grace distinction, comes to this subject. Highly recommended if you can find a copy.

Feinberg, John S. and Feinberg, Paul D. *Ethics for a Brave New World*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 1993. The Feinberg brothers, professors at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, have tackled the most important ethical issues facing the modern evangelical Christian.

Harrison, R. K., General Editor. *Encyclopedia of Biblical and Christian Ethics*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1987. Covers 540 topics with valuable indices. Over fifty evangelical scholars contributed to make this a valuable source book.

Hauerwas, Stanley. *The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics*. South Bend, Indiana: Notre Dame Press, 1983. Hauerwas, a controversial figure in this field, is a writer serious philosophers and ethicists must wrestle with through his important works.

Hauerwas, Stanley. *Naming the Silences: God, Medicine and the Problem of Suffering*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. Argues that attempts to develop theodicies to explain pain and suffering are mistakes. Not convincing theologically.

Hauerwas, Stanley. *After Christendom?* Nashville: Abingdon, 1991. Focuses upon the congregation as set apart from the resident culture. A provocative, important and interesting book.

Henry, Carl F. H. *Aspects of Christian Social Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1964. The dean of evangelical theologians in the last half of this century made a major contribution to the field of ethics.

Henry, Carl F. H. *Christian Personal Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957. It is fascinating to note that Henry devotes 615 pages to this subject and only 190 to social ethics.

Holmes, Arthur F. *Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions*. The retired chairman of the philosophy department at Wheaton College provides a solid introduction in only 132 pages.

\*Hughes, Philip E. *Christian Ethics in Secular Society*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983. The late Hughes shows that Christian ethics is theological, and theology is essentially ethical in its application. A highly commended work.

\*Jones, David Clyde. *Biblical Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994. Takes as his starting point Romans 12:1-2 and calls believers to live as living sacrifices unto the glory of God. Jones is professor of systematic theology at Covenant Seminary.

Kreeft, Peter. *Making Choices*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Servant Books, 1990. Kreeft is professor of philosophy at Boston College and writes very cogently. He is an important conservative Catholic ethicist.

Kreeft, Peter. *Back to Virtue*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1992. A wonderfully clearheaded treatment of the truth that virtue is not reducible to simply "being nice."

Macquarrie, John, Editor. *Dictionary of Christian Ethics*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1967. Eighty Christian and Jewish scholars contribute to a wide-ranging volume that utilizes historical and philosophical sources well.

\*McQuilkin, Robertson. *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale, 1989. An evangelical modern treatment that pays a lot of attention to hermeneutical matters that affect ethics. A useful overview.

\*Murray, John. *Principles of Conduct: Studies in Biblical Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957. A classic from the confessionally Reformed approach in the twentieth century. Murray always seeks to root his approach in the text and generally succeeds.

Smedes, Lewis. *Mere Morality: What God Expects From Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983. Smedes is always provocative but often more philosophical than biblical.

Smedes, Lewis. *Choices*. New York: Harper & Row, 1986. The Fuller Seminary professor is an important writer in the modern scene but should be used with discretion and concern for hermeneutical issues that demand better treatment.

Stob, Henry. *Ethical Reflections: Essays on Moral Themes*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. An excellent modern survey of the field by the former teacher of ethics at Calvin Theological Seminary.

White, R. E. O. *Biblical Ethics*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1979. Surveys the entire New Testament field with little bias. Helpful as an overview.

White, R. E. O. *Christian Ethics*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981. Surveys the field thoroughly with a special emphasis upon historical concerns including the moral philosophy of Augustine, the ethical psychology of Abelard and the moral theology of Aquinas.