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Moral faithfulness follows discipleship.

What realization prompted you to write *Pursuing Moral Faithfulness*?

Gary Tyra: Having taught Christian ethics at a Christian, liberal arts university since 1999, it has become increasingly clear that many Christian university students are actually making everyday moral choices in precisely the same way their non-Christian peers do: either “from the gut,” based on raw, fallen, culturally determined, ultimately untrustworthy ethical instincts, or on the basis of how they want to be perceived by their peers. Moreover, just about a year-and-a-half ago, I had a young-adult ministry student in his mid-twenties acknowledge in a final paper that prior to taking the course he’d just completed (Foundations of Christian Ethics), he had given virtually no thought at all as to how he as a follower of Christ should make ethical decisions! These troubling realities (corroborated by the ongoing National Study of Youth and Religion conducted by sociologist Christian Smith and his research team) began to speak to me of the need for a Christian ethics primer that strives to do more than inform with respect to ethical theory.

What is needed is an ethics text that seeks to inspire the reader toward a lifestyle of moral faithfulness before God. Having written previously on the theme of a missional faithfulness, and recognizing the vital connection that exists between a missional and a moral faithfulness, it became increasingly clear to me that I needed to write this book.

What is the goal of *Pursuing Moral Faithfulness*?

Tyra: The grand goal of this book is to enable its readers to come to terms with three things:

- (1) The notion of a moral faithfulness – the idea that Christians can and should strive to honor the heart of God in their everyday ethical choices
- (2) The fact that such a moral faithfulness requires a lifestyle of surrender to the Holy Spirit’s endeavors to help Christ’s followers discern and do the will of the Father
- (3) The realization that such a moral faithfulness lies at the heart of a genuine Christian discipleship

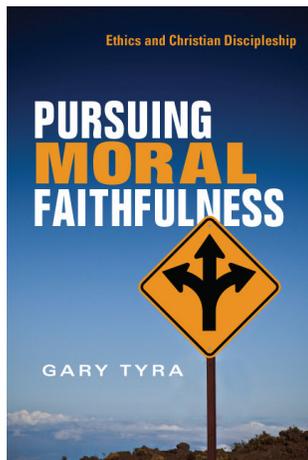
What makes this book unique to the study of ethics?

Tyra: Some distinctive themes woven into this work include: the possibility of a theological realism, the possibility of a moral realism, the possibility of Spirit-enabled moral guidance, the crucial need for balance in the believer’s moral life and how important it is for the moral life of believers to be grounded in an understanding of Christian discipleship that is informed by the Trinitarian nature of God.

Some other distinctive features of this book include the way in which it focuses on both the character of the moral agent and the decision-making process, belying the notion that an

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Pursuing Moral Faithfulness:
Ethics and Christian Discipleship
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As a biblical and practical theologian with three decades of pastoral experience who has also spent years teaching ethics to undergraduates, Gary Tyra approaches ethics with the practical goal of facilitating moral formation and encouraging an “everyday” moral faithfulness. Tyra argues that Christians can have confidence in their Christ-centered, Spirit-enabled ability to discern and do the will of God in any moral situation.

ethical model must do one or the other, and the way in which the moral model it proffers, while very much Christ-centered, seeks to be informed by the Bible Jesus read (i.e., the Old Testament).

Finally, my approach might be considered distinctive in its ambitious attempt to inspire as well as inform—to combine the practical with the theoretical, and to do so in a way that’s both thoughtful and reader friendly.

What in particular does *Pursuing Moral Faithfulness* contribute to ethics and discipleship?

Tyra : I’d like to think that *Pursuing Moral Faithfulness* makes a contribution in the way it

- contends that the proper context for understanding Christian ethics is Christian discipleship;
- argues the need for a theological and pneumatologically-real approach to ethical decision making; and
- advocates for a moral deliberation process that seeks to be not only responsible before God but responsive as well.