



*The Ethical Vision of the Bible:
Learning Good from Knowing
God*

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Biblical Ethics with New Emphases

In *The Ethical Vision of the Bible*, Peter Gosnell equips students and others with an interest in deepening their understanding of biblical ethics to listen carefully to the variety of ethical emphases found within the Bible itself. Gosnell, associate professor of religion at Muskingum University, takes a descriptive rather than prescriptive approach to the subject, focusing especially on Torah, Proverbs, the Prophets, the Gospels and Paul.

In this way the book enables the reader to trace key ethical distinctives as well as shared patterns as they develop from the flow of thought of these biblical texts in their own contexts.

“I teach a class on ‘biblical ethics,’ covering aspects from both testaments,” said Gosnell. “I needed a book that students could understand, that was in touch with relevant, current scholarship and that presented descriptive biblical ethics. . . . I needed a book that would walk students through entire biblical books in their final form, showing how ethical patterns emerge within them so that they could learn an alternative to proof-texting moral statements.”

Gosnell’s text is therefore ideal for classroom use since it includes summary overviews, suggestions for further reading, and reflection questions at the end of every chapter. Additionally, *The Ethical Vision of the Bible*:

- offers unique, sustained ethical readings of a range of biblical writings in their final form, supported by mainstream scholarly research
- introduces the concept of “micro-ethics” into the discussion of biblical ethics

“What Gosnell offers is to guide our feet and our brains on a wonderfully illuminating journey through the Bible,” says Christopher J. H. Wright, international ministries director of Langham Partnership. “All along the way he points out how different major sections of the Old and New Testaments address the question of what it means to live well in this broken world—to advance what is good and resist what is evil and harmful—and why we should do so. As you follow his lead through the rich panorama of texts he surveys, you will undoubtedly begin to ‘get answers’ to that difficult ethical issue you are concerned about, not because you found one verse that solved it but rather because you have thought it through in the light of the whole biblical witness to God and the purposes of God in creation, redemption and new creation. The book is delightfully easy to read, but its simplicity floats on reassuringly deep waters of thorough biblical scholarship. It is reliable, readable, well resourced and relevant.”

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