



Living Wisely with the Church Fathers

Available November 7, 2017

\$24, 276 pages, paperback

978-0-8308-5188-1

Ethical Insights from the Church Fathers – They See Clearly Where We Are Blind

What do modern Christians have to learn from the church fathers about ethical living? Christopher A. Hall, director of Renovaré Institute of Christian Spiritual Formation, takes up this question in the fourth and final book in his series on the church fathers.

To us, the first centuries of Christianity are like a far off country. But despite their foreignness, they hold a treasury of wisdom for living. Early Christians struggled and flourished in a culture that was in love with empire and military power, infatuated with sex and entertainment, tolerant of all gods but hostile to the One. And from this crucible of discipleship they extracted lessons of virtue, faithfulness, and joy in Christ.

Hall takes us to the ancient Mediterranean world, inquiring Christian leaders how to live a good life as a Christ follower. The menu of topics wends its way through wealth and poverty, war and violence, marriage and sexuality, theater and the arena, as well as the harsh realities of persecution and martyrdom.

Gathering around Basil or Chrysostom or Augustine, readers are instructed anew in the way of discipleship. And as the ancients grapple with issues surprisingly resonant with our own, this cloud of ancient witnesses both surprises and challenges us in the life of faith.

“Chris Hall brings to life the early church’s habitus in this engaging account of what it meant to be a Christian living not long after the time of Christ,” writes Joel C. Elowsky at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. “But he goes even further in bringing twenty-first-century Christians into the story so that we too can live wisely today. This is a must-read for anyone looking to follow in the footsteps of the Fathers as they lead us to authentic and praiseworthy living in honor of Christ.”