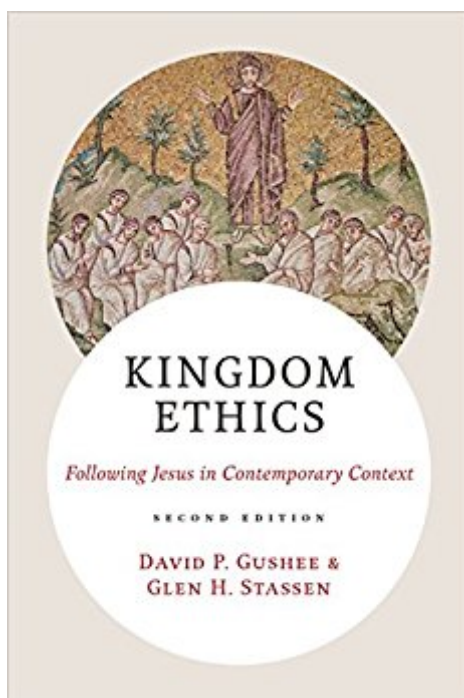


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Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus In Contemporary Context



Synopsis

Comprehensive update of the leading Christian ethics textbook of the 21st century Ever since its original publication in 2003, Glen Stassen and David Gushee's *Kingdom Ethics* has offered students, pastors, and other readers an outstanding framework for Christian ethical thought, one that is solidly rooted in Scripture, especially Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. This substantially revised edition of *Kingdom Ethics* features enhanced and updated treatments of all major contemporary ethical issues. David Gushee's revisions include updated data and examples, a more global perspective, more gender-inclusive language, a clearer focus on methodology, discussion questions added

Book Information

File Size: 3857 KB

Print Length: 550 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0802874215

Publisher: Eerdmans; 2nd ed. edition (July 6, 2016)

Publication Date: July 6, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01M6Wbfdz

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #45,492 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5

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Customer Reviews

Very solid stuff, although it's very dry and reads like a commentary. It's always hard for me to pinpoint why some writers are pure pleasure to read, why the style of particular authors draws me to their work, and why the work of others, like Stassen and Gushee, feel more like work. Here, I think

the work is worth it, but I wish it was more compelling. The discussions of the Beatitudes in general are particularly interesting, with some useful insights. For instance, regarding the third Beatitude ["Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth," Mt 5:5, NRSV], they cite another author who "says it would be better to translate the word 'tamed' rather than 'meek,' in the sense that their wills have been tamed by God's will" (40). And on the sixth Beatitude ["Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Mt. 5:8, NRSV] "So the sixth Beatitude means, in a nutshell, blessed are those who give their whole self over to God, who is the only one worthy of the heart's devotion." 45

A worthwhile commentary on the Beatitudes, the main point is that the Christian's life ought to be completely congruent with Jesus' teachings, in particular, the Sermon on the Mount: "Christian churches across the confessional and theological spectrum, and Christian ethics as an academic discipline that serves the churches, are often guilty of evading Jesus, the cornerstone and center of the Christian faith. Specifically, the teachings and practices of Jesus . . . especially the largest block of his teachings, the Sermon on the Mount . . . Jesus taught that the test of our discipleship is whether we act on his teachings, whether we "put into practice" his words. This is what it means to "buil[d our] house on rock (Mt 7:24)." 11

I also like the definition of a Christian, as the authors describe it: "A Christian is (or should be) defined as one who humbles himself or herself and chooses to enter into discipleship, to follow Jesus' path, to build his or her life upon his teachings and his practices even at great cost, to pass those teachings and practices on to others, and thus to enjoy the unspeakable privilege of participating in the advance of God's reign. Jesus inaugurates the long-promised kingdom and thus offers holistic deliverance to the sick, the poor, the guilty and the rejected; incarnates and demands justice and righteousness; practices and teaches the way of peacemaking; and both experiences and imparts joy. Meanwhile, in his ministry and then through his living Spirit, Jesus offers the very presence of God." 30

This book is very well organized and comprehensive in scope. The point of view is from the evangelical tradition of the church, and the ways it used the Bible and the Sermon on the Mount might have been more plausible with a recognition of the critical historical understanding of the New Testament, but it was written with some openness and deep conviction.

Stassen and Gushee offer a great introductory text to biblical ethics. Using the Sermon on the Mount as a model, they derive a great foundation for which to practice ethics. I found the model on

page 59 especially helpful and find myself often returning to it. They help the reader identify criteria to frame ethical thought. They discuss several contemporary issues in light of the Sermon and other biblical contexts then give a fair assessment of both sides and their conclusion. They use Scripture as a primary source and dialogue with other theologians and ethicists on each issue.

I bought this book for a Christian Ethics class and its not totally bad, it is just a hard read. It's hard to follow and could use a lot more practicality

Ethic topics presented in the light of furthering the Kingdom of God. Well balanced presentation, provides good information and statistics. Allows space for critical thinking and decision making.

Having read the first edition years ago I was anxious to read this new volume; and I wasn't disappointed! Anyone who cares about ortho-proxis should in our post-Christian context would do well to read this book.

Book arrived quickly and in perfect condition as expected. Highlights include and insightful interpretive framework for the Sermon on the Mount and modern moral issues such as just ware fare and environmental ethics.

This a very clear and concise book. I haven't finish reading it, but I am enjoying every minute of it. I would recommend this book.

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