CONTENTS

Photo acknowledgments	viii
Introduction: Comparative Religious Ethics and the Contemporary Search for Meaning	1
Dealing with Bias	2
Growth of Agnosticism and Secularism	5
Private Religion	7
Beyond Secularization Theory	9
Audience for This Text: Seeker-Skeptics	11
Chapter 1: Ethics and Spirituality in Religion	15
Virtue Ethics	16
Deontological, or Rule-Based, Ethics	17
Teleological, or Consequentialist, Ethics	24
Contemporary Rethinking of Traditionally Accepted Moral Rules	29
Asking the Virtue Question	31
Consequentialism in Social Ethics	32
Shorthand Rules in Religion	35
Choosing an Ethical Method	37

vi CONTENTS

Chapter 2: Religions on Food, Fasting, and Feasting	41
Framing the Issues	41
Religious Treatment Concerning Food, Fasting, and Feasting	43
New Ethical Questions on Food, Fasting, and Feasting	54
Case Study: Food	61
Discussion Questions	63
For Further Reading	63
Films	64
Chapter 3: Religions on Making Work Human	67
Framing the Issues	67
Religious Treatment Concerning Human Work	73
New Ethical Questions on Human Work	87
Case Study: Work	92
Discussion Questions	94
For Further Reading	94
Films	95
Chapter 4: Religions on Body Covering, Appearance, and Identity	97
•	
Framing the Issues	98
Religious Treatment Concerning Body Covering, Appearance, and Identity	102
New Ethical Questions on Body Covering, Appearance, and Identity	109 114
Case Study: Body Coverings and Decoration Discussion Questions	115
For Further Reading	115
Websites on Ethical Buying	116
Charten E. Dalisiana and Canadita and Manufaca	110
Chapter 5: Religions on Sexuality and Marriage	119
Framing the Issues	119
Religious Treatment Concerning Sexuality and Marriage	127
New Ethical Questions on Sexuality and Marriage	136
Case Study: Arranged Marriage	146
Discussion Questions	149
For Further Reading	150
Films	150

CONTENTS vii

Chapter 6: Religions on Making and Keeping Families	155
Framing the Issues	156
Religious Treatment Concerning Making and Keeping Family	163
New Ethical Questions on Making and Keeping Family	168
Case Study: Family and Friends	179
Discussion Questions	180
For Further Reading	181
Films	181
Chapter 7: Religions on Anger and Violence	185
Framing the Issues	185
Religious Treatment Concerning Anger and Violence	187
New Ethical Questions on Anger and Violence	198
Case Study: Anger and Violence	205
Discussion Questions	205
For Further Reading	208
Films	208
Chapter 8: Religions on Charity and Beggars	211
Framing the Issues	212
Religious Treatment of Charity and Beggars	213
New Ethical Questions on Charity and Beggars	219
Case Study: Charity and Beggars	227
Discussion Questions	228
For Further Reading	229
Films	229
Glossary	231
Index	245