

gentiles" in Rom 15 as a form of sacrificial worship in his own priestly service.

Originally published in 2008 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck), this nice paperback reprint makes Downs's significant study more accessible and affordable. Together with a new foreword by Beverly Gaventa, this book helps bridge the separation between Paul's theological discourse and his pragmatic efforts to care for those in need. Downs's separation of the phrase "remember the poor" in Gal 2:10 from the collection is a singular achievement that has received additional support from further studies. Downs bypasses the more traditional view that the collection was merely a gesture of political expediency between two warring factions of the early church—the maverick Paul and the conservative Jerusalem church. The grain of truth in that view needs to be balanced by the much larger theological canvas that is at stake for Paul, and one that Downs successfully articulates.

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Walking in Love: Moral Progress and Spiritual Growth with the Apostle Paul

by J. Paul Sampley

Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016. 444 pp. \$25.00.
ISBN 978-1-5064-1076-0.

WALKING IN LOVE serves as a capstone to Paul Sampley's half-century of research and study on the apostle Paul, particularly in the area of Pauline ethics. This book is less a monograph and more like a textbook that outlines key themes and conceptual platforms for Paul's understanding of maturity. An important foundation for Paul's ethics is what Sampley calls his "Big Story," the theological narrative that guides the apostle's moral vision (ch. 2) and includes Adam, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, the exodus, David, Christ, and the final judgment. Sampley also addresses in separate chapters theological subjects such as new creation, spiritual growth, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Sampley spends considerable time on Paul's theology of judgment (a topic often neglected), urging that a future emphasis on recompense has the effect of giving "perspective and guidance for how we conduct ourselves here and now" (p. 221). In the last main chapter (ch. 9), Sampley steps back to summarize his understanding of Paul's conception of moral discernment. He offers a series of diagnostic questions in decision-making that he extrapolates from Paul's thought: What is your measure of faith and what do you know? Are you fully convinced/persuaded? Do you have any doubts/waverings? Are you under compulsion to do the deed in question or to act in a certain fashion? Will your action harm or cause a brother/sister in the faith to stumble or fall? (pp. 275–82).

The book concludes with an epilogue that reflects on Paul's theological ethics for the twenty-first century (ch. 10). Sampley promotes a form of modern moral reasoning that recognizes that we live today with some different questions and concerns than Paul and his contemporaries. He covers five topics: government, law, doubt and moral reflection, the heart and its function, and Paul's imminent eschatology. Towards the end of the epilogue, Sampley examines three timeless aspects of Paul's teaching on ethics. First, Paul's key questions related to moral discernment are relevant today. Second, we can learn from Paul's concern for maturity and growth, from spiritual infancy to adulthood. Third, Sampley underscores the ongoing value of baptism and the Lord's Supper for moral progress.

Sampley's book has the writing style of a public lecture or even sometimes a conversation. He weaves into each chapter historical, exegetical, and ethical insights. He is not shy about synthesizing material in Paul's letters, but he does so with care and clear intention. There is no better scholar to read on the subject of moral discernment and growth in Paul, and now there is no better book.

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