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## Gushee, D. P., & Stassen, G. H.'s "Kingdom ethics: Following Jesus in contemporary context (2nd ed.)" (Book Review)

Rory Patterson

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This is unfortunate, the author points out, because Kierkegaard stylistically would write under a plethora of different pseudonyms and personas to tease out specific viewpoints for the reader to contemplate. One almost has to read all his points-of-view before one can get a sense of what the real man behind the multitude of characters actually believed.

In the timeline provided in the last portion of the book, one can see how, although maligned, mocked and vilified in his lifetime, Kierkegaard's work spread across Europe and into the United States to make an impact in not only academic life, but the spiritual lives of many readers of various and diverse backgrounds.

This book provides a good introduction to Kierkegaard as well as a section in the back with an overview of everything produced by Kierkegaard. Overall, Backhouse successfully brings to his readers an approachable, easy to read biography on one of the greatest Christian intellectuals in history.

#### **Reviewer**

Kristin A. Vargas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Gushee, D. P., & Stassen, G. H. (2016). *Kingdom ethics: Following Jesus in contemporary context* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 550 pp. \$40.00. ISBN 9780802874214

Gushee and Stassen's first edition of *Kingdom Ethics* was written for an American audience. It gained some popularity, was used as a textbook, and was translated into at least seven languages. With this wider audience and the passage of over ten years, Gushee and Stassen decided to write an updated edition to supply current and more global examples to provide contextuality of living out Christian ethics as shown by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (p. xi). They created substantial plans for the updated edition but Stassen died of cancer in April 2014 before the writing commenced. Gushee used the plan, and the help of a team of ten of their previous students, to finish the revision. While there are more authorial voices, it still blends well, and their use of the first person "we" for the authors allows the group to sound much as the first edition, and not like an edited work.

The second edition successfully aims at the novice student in Christian ethics. It has more explanations, assuming less of its readers, and bolds key terms, which are then explained in the added glossary. It has been restructured into two sections. The methodology section presents the twelve “key method elements”, and the applied section refers to them while providing examples of how they are lived out. The second edition has also added discussion questions at the end of each chapter. Gushee and Stassen have succeeded in revising a leading book into a great accessible and practical work. This work is highly recommended, with the caveat to check if it used as a textbook at your institution.

**Reviewer**

Rory Patterson, Liberty University

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Marlow, S. K. (2016). *The last ride: An Andrea Carter book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications. 175 pp. \$9.99. ISBN 9780825443695

Andrea “Andi” Carter is the youngest of six children living on a cattle ranch near Fresno, California in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the verge of turning sixteen, Andi struggles with meeting the expectations of her family to be proper and ladylike and her desire to help run the ranch with her older brothers. An unknown cousin, Daniel, from New York City with a bad reputation for creating trouble, is sent to the family to work at the ranch and be exposed to the good character and influence of Andi’s family. Andi makes a great effort to befriend her cousin, he continually creates problems for Andi and others on the ranch. Many of the problems that Daniel causes are subtle and directed specifically at Andi and go unnoticed by others. Circumstances limit her ability to share with her mother and brothers regarding these problems. The problems quickly escalate into illegal and dangerous activities. A critical incident occurs that changes Andi’s life in ways she could have never imagined. Andi’s faith is challenged and she learns she must stand up for and defend herself and her family despite her fears. Although part of a series, this book can be read as a standalone.

**Reviewer**

Jeanette Parker, Newman University