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## Kalbian's "Sex, Violence, and Justice: Contraception and the Catholic Church" (Book Review)

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**Sex, Violence, and Justice: Contraception and the Catholic Church,**  
by Aline H. Kalbian. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2014.  
224 pp. \$29.95. ISBN: 9781626160484

*Reviewed by Mark Sloneker, Associate Director, Seth Wilson Library,  
Ozark Christian College, Joplin, MO*

Aline H. Kalbian, the author of this work, is associate professor of religion at Florida State University. She has a Ph.D. in Religion and Ethics from the University of Virginia, 1996.

Her focus in this book is how the Catholic Church has dealt with the cultural ramifications of the of Pope Paul VI's encyclical letter, *Humane vitae*, which condemned the use of artificial contraception methods to prevent pregnancy. Kalbian sets out to "pursue two interrelated tasks."

I analyze one specific example taken from a Catholic context. This is the proximate task of the book, and it requires a detailed internal analysis of Catholic discourse about contraception set against a background of emerging cultural facts. This specific analysis leads to my second, more far-reaching task: to identify and elaborate on significant insights about how communities of religious believers make and support moral claims. (p. 3)

She continues that in the study that deals with why contraception continues to be a moral issue for Catholics, she discovers how generally the discussions about sexuality in and out of the Church and culture are tied to discussions about violence/harm and social injustice.

In the introduction and second chapter, of the work, she spends a great deal of time discussing the history of *Humane vitae*, and how it has been interpreted, argued about, and discussed by various Catholic theologians and ethicists. The earlier discussions about the ethical morality of the use of any artificial means of preventing conception has been further confounded by medical developments which raise the issue of whether conception is simply prevented or if in fact it kills a developing embryo.

In the next section the author attempts to deal with the use of condoms as it relates to HIV/AIDS. Here the question focuses on whether or not *Humane vitae* permits the use of condoms to prevent the passing of the disease from one partner in a heterosexual marriage to the other. What are the ethical issues involved here and how does the Catholic Church interpret *Humane vitae* with regards to this challenge. Another issue discussed is what does *Humane vitae* permit with reference to the situation of rape. Interestingly enough, some Catholic scholars have said that since

rape by definition is more about violence than sex, many Catholic hospitals will allow the use of some kind of contraceptive up to 150 hours after a rape attack. As might be imagined, others would not allow the use of any means that might in fact cause an abortion.

Finally, how does the use of artificial contraception work out in the realms of population control and justice for women? She discusses the issues involved here showing that while population control by means of using contraceptives is not acceptable in the eyes of the church. On the other hand, natural family planning has been encouraged.

It becomes obvious that Kalbian has done extensive research into this topic. There are copious endnotes with each chapter and an extensive bibliography. Either would be extremely helpful in further research on the topic. An index is also included. Though not in as much use as endnotes, this work really cries out for footnotes to allow immediate access to supportive documentation.

This book would be a good addition to any theological library, Protestant or Catholic. While one might wish the author had included more discussion on relevant Protestant views, that would surely have made it a huge undertaking. Instead, this work offers insight to the way Catholic ethicists and theologians have struggled with *Humane vitae* it is a eye-opening introduction into the many issues involved with contraception as faced by believers in the Sovereignty of God.

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**Spirit-Led Preaching: The Holy Spirit's Role in  
Sermon Preparation and Delivery,**

by Greg Heisler. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2007.  
156 pp. \$12.45. ISBN 9780805443882

*Reviewed by Craig Rosenbeck, Graduate Student, University of North Texas, Denton, TX*

Greg Heisler, associate professor of preaching at Southeastern Seminary, challenges the reader to evaluate the Holy Spirit's role in the preacher's preparation leading into preaching the sermon. The book becomes intriguing to the reader through practical applications and theological topics. The purpose of the book is accomplished because the author entices the reader on how to improve their preaching by relying on the Holy Spirit in preparation and delivery. Although, the definition of spirit-lead preaching by the author is academic, he unfolds the definition extremely well.

The way this book contributes to the field is by being read in a seminary preaching class because it is written by a seminary preaching professor. The manner by which