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Ganssle's "Our deepest desires: How the Christian story fulfills human aspirations" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Ganssle, G. E. (2017). *Our deepest desires: How the Christian story fulfills human aspirations*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. 140 pp. \$16.00. ISBN 9780830851829

What do we want in life? Who do we aspire to be? Philosopher and apologist Gregory Ganssle develops a simple and compelling thesis that Christianity offers an explanation for our greatest longings in life.

For centuries, philosophers have sought to make sense of these innate values and desires. Ganssle provides a very accessible overview of these great thinkers as he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of their efforts to understand human desires. Exploring four main themes, he addresses the human thriving that occurs in relational contexts, the enduring preference for good over evil, the captivating reality of beauty, and the free agency necessary for achieving human aspirations. Each theme includes an explanation of the underlying longing, the meaning-making offered by great philosophers throughout history, and finally how the Christian story offers a more plausible rationale for core human values and longings than other viewpoints.

This book will prove thought-provoking for a variety of readers, whether Christian or otherwise, at an undergraduate or graduate level. In the process of developing his thesis, Ganssle offers another valuable lesson as he expertly models how Christians can have discussions on matters of utmost importance with people who may or may not accept the basic tenets of Christianity. One cannot engage the text without some degree of serious thought, yet Ganssle carefully leads his readers through each step in an engaging and winsome narrative. A life worth living requires thought and reflection, and this text is a worthy companion for that journey.

Reviewer

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