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Werner's "Business ethics rooted in the church" (book review)

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Book Review



Werner, F. (2015). *Business ethics rooted in the church*. Winnipeg, MB: Canadian Mennonite University Press. 152 pp. \$18.99. ISBN 97809207818186.

This book is well-suited for collections that seek to provide materials concerning the interplay of the ethic of how business is conducted with a Christian worldview. Though many other believers have taken up this topic as well, Franz's approach is closely tied to the church; that is, he seeks to tie the beliefs and practices of ecclesiology, and specifically Anabaptist ecclesiology, to business practice.

Franz approaches the Christian view of business ethics from a distinctly Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective, portraying the church in this way: "The body of Christ is the preferred agent of God's acting in the world." The author explores the ethics of Mennonite theologian John H. Yoder (1927-1977) as they relate Christian faith and practice to the realm of business extensively, and then applies these concepts to faith lived out, in community, in how business is conducted.

Franz examines real-life applications of Christian ethics in a Christian business functioning in Paraguay. He then presents Yoder's philosophy as a paradigm from which we can project common Christian practices such as the Lord's supper (showing care for one another), and Baptism (corporate identity, becoming a member of a community) onto the realm of business practice.

This author gives his readers an effective blend of theory and practice: he includes both thorough discussions of the theory of church as role model for business as well as detailed histories of several Christian companies at work in non-U.S. settings. Much of the text of this book was written in the creation of his PhD dissertation, thus it is researched, documented, and footnoted extensively.

Franz's experiential background, which includes the United States and Canada, as well as Paraguay and Wales, gives his writings an international breadth and depth.

I highly recommend this title for academic library collections at institutions offering degrees in business.

Reviewer

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