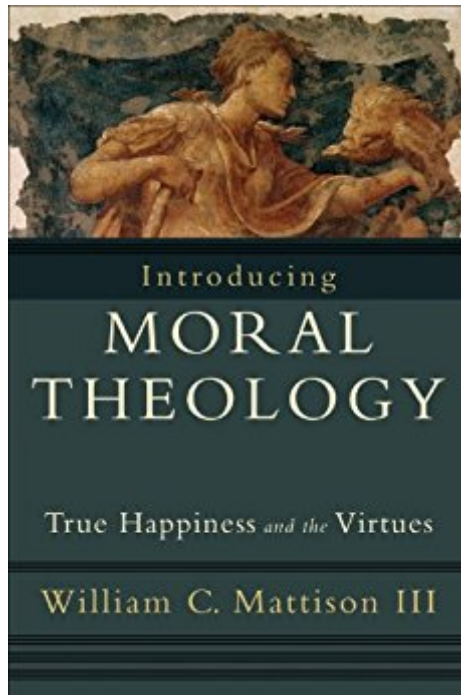


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# Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness And The Virtues



## Synopsis

Whether in the cafeteria, classroom, or dorm lounge, questions abound on college campuses. Not only do students grapple with existential issues but they also struggle with ethical ones such as "Why be moral?" In *Introducing Moral Theology*, William Mattison addresses this question as well as grapples with the impact that religious belief has on day-to-day living. Structured in two parts, this unique text on Catholic moral theology covers cardinal virtues (temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice) as well as theological virtues (faith, hope, and love). It is equipped with study questions, terms and their definitions, and illustrative case studies. Rooted in the Catholic tradition, this overview will also appeal to non-Catholics interested in virtue ethics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I accidentally discovered this book and am so pleased to see an introductory text on moral theology that focuses on the role of happiness and the use of virtue theory as a way to welcome beginning students to moral theology. Mattison carefully builds on the ideas of Aristotle and takes it through Aquinas to convincingly argue a strong case for a Christian ethics based on the cardinal and theological virtues. His explanations are clear and he defines important terms that build on his later

arguments. Obviously written with the undergraduate student in mind, I would also recommend this book to lay and graduate readers who may want to taste virtue theory as a framework for moral theology. I was curious to see mention of Jean Porter's "Nature as Reason," but no mention of her first, excellent book "Recovery of Virtue," another wonderful introduction to Thomist virtue theory. I highly recommend this book to those moral theologians who want to include a concise discussion of virtue theory to their courses. If I taught a moral theology course, I'd certainly use this book along with Porter's first book to give students a complete picture of emerging thought in Christian ethics. Well done, Dr. Mattison.

Mattison takes solid Catholic moral theology and presents it in terms and images that are not intimidating, but invite the student to examine the foundations of morality as a happy life, rather than a life of obligation. He shows how the virtues enable and embody that happy life, and importantly, how one develops virtues. He presents one virtue at a time, and his style is to tell the reader what he's going to say, then to say it, and to remind us what he's just said. The student integrates content by completing study questions and further through reflection questions that invite integrative expression. Needless to say, this makes the instructor's job easier both in terms of creating assignments and initiating classroom discussion. My undergraduate students are reading this book in conjunction with the Splendor of Truth and comment on how accessible the encyclical becomes because they've met the terms and concepts as presented by Mattison in connection with their own life situations.

Clearly written, easy to understand, and packed with wisdom. I appreciate the gentle but solid approach Mattison takes describing the moral life. His practical examples of applying the virtues are what makes his work particularly helpful. Even though Mattison admits to coming from a Christian perspective, this work can assist Christian and non-Christian alike in developing a greater understanding of morality and the virtues. I would recommend this for those who have no background at all on the subject as well as those who seek to deepen their knowledge of the virtuous life.

helps with a lot of definitions for actions we sometimes incur when we don't have the words to say out loud. Wonderful book. Explains in great detail how behavior has changed over the years in reference to spirituality and includes opposing views of those who are not spiritual people.

Bought this for school, but it is a very interesting read that offers great perspectives. I was shocked at how much I enjoyed this book, especially since I am not a Christian!

This is a very easy to understand yet precise text. It is exactly as it says - an introduction to moral theology. I almost sometimes wish it would challenge me more! But great read - and great resource around the house.

I purchased this book to use as preparation for giving a lecture as a Catechist in our parish Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. I had researched other books online and this seemed to be the best. However, while the book may be right for some, it has not met my expectations. While I like and admire Thomistic and scholastic theology, using this book as a resource, I would find it very difficult to present a cogent, understandable lecture to my lay audience. I suppose my main criticism is that the book is more than an "Introduction." However, that opinion is my shortcoming, not the author's. I wanted an introduction to serve as a resource for my lecture. To me, this is a full fledged course and may be perfect for others.

I recommend this I recommend this book which is useful not only for its masterful summary of the moral magisterium on bioethics, but also for its treatment of such various issues in bioethics today.

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