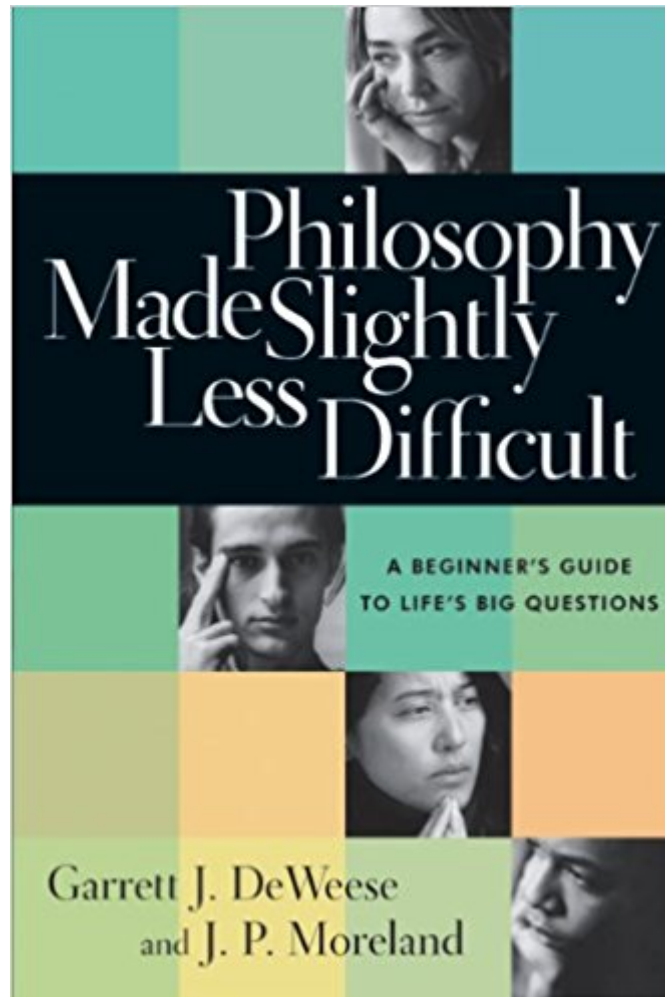


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Philosophy Made Slightly Less Difficult: A Beginner's Guide To Life's Big Questions



Synopsis

From time to time we all face life's big questions . . . What is real? How do we know what we know? What is right? Who or what am I? How should we view science and its claims? And as we wrestle with these issues, we may even find ourselves thinking, Perhaps what I need is a good dose of philosophy. It's a shame philosophy is so difficult. Garrett DeWeese and J. P. Moreland understand this frustration and in this book offer help to make philosophy at least slightly less difficult. In straightforward language with everyday examples, they explain the basics needed to understand philosophical concepts and thus bring clarity to discussions of life's big questions. Students, pastors, campus workers and ordinary Christians will all benefit from this user-friendly guide.

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Customer Reviews

Philosophy is not exactly everyone's cup of tea. And many believers shy away from the subject. Some even see philosophy as inimical to their faith. But we need not be afraid nor suspicious of philosophy. It is important for at least two reasons: truth matters, and ideas have consequences. Written from a Christian perspective, this volume not only gives an accessible yet accurate account of some major philosophical themes, but it helps the believer interact with the various philosophical options from a biblical framework. Philosophy simply has to do with the big questions in life: Why are we here? Where I am going? Important questions for everyone. Of course there are many unhelpful and even dangerous philosophies and ideas. But as C.S. Lewis has

reminded us, the answer to bad philosophy is not no philosophy but good philosophy. And while Christianity is much more than philosophy, it is also good philosophy. Thus good (Christian) thinking is needed to refute bad thinking. And given that believers are encouraged, indeed commanded, to love God with their minds, then we all should have an interest in philosophy. But philosophy can be quite daunting to the uninitiated. It is even daunting to those who have been steeped in it. Thus the need for a somewhat simple, easy-to-read guide to the major philosophical ideas and the major philosophical thinkers. This book, subtitled "A Beginner's Guide to Life's Big Questions" nicely meets this need. It is helpful for several reasons. One, it lays out the main philosophical discussions, such as what is right and wrong (ethics), what is real (metaphysics), and how we know (epistemology). There are also important chapters on related topics, such as the philosophy of science, and the importance of worldviews.

According to Garrett J. DeWeese and J.P. Moreland, "[p]hilosophy is thinking critically about questions that matter. Conceived this way, philosophy is something everyone does." Perhaps so, but few people these days, Christian or otherwise, really know how to think critically. In *Philosophy Made Slightly Less Difficult: A Beginner's Guide to Life's Big Questions*, DeWeese and Moreland provide a remedy to that problem by offering readers "a useful discussion of basic philosophical distinctions relevant for doing theology and for constructing and defending a Christian worldview." Os Guinness, Mark Noll, and others have written about the anti-intellectualism that has plagued evangelicalism at least since the Scopes trial. And, writing a quarter of a century ago, Francis Schaeffer observed that "[Christians] have gradually become disturbed over permissiveness, pornography, the public schools, the breakdown of the family, and finally abortion. But...[t]hey have failed to see that all of this has come about due to a shift in world view..." Not much has changed since Schaeffer wrote that, except that homosexual marriage, assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and more could be added to his list. One reason why the situation continues is that most Christians understand neither what it means to have a Christian worldview nor how other worldviews (read philosophies) have shaped the culture in which we live. As the title indicates, in this book DeWeese and Moreland have done their best to make philosophy "slightly less difficult," and to show readers how important philosophy truly is, not just to professors inhabiting ivory towers, but to every one of us in our everyday lives.

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