

BOOK REVIEWS



Dean K. Thompson and D. Cameron Murchinson, eds.,
Mentoring: Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspectives
(Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2018), 244 pp.

Mentoring is a well-known practice in the business and academic worlds, with well-established expectations and norms that are explored in a wide variety of resources that are readily available to anyone who is interested. So, why do we need another book on the subject? Because, as the editors explain in the introduction, this work offers “windows on mentoring that are biblically grounded, theologically informed, communally diverse, and generationally attentive.”

In order to meet these goals, the editors of *Mentoring* invited an impressive array of nineteen authors—most of whom have well-established ministries and careers in theological education and church work and who are well known in their fields—to reflect on the idea of mentoring through their own unique lenses. In part 1, two well-known biblical scholars offer perspectives on mentoring, acknowledging that the idea of mentoring is foreign to the contexts of the Bible and yet conceding that there are examples of people engaging in relationships that include characteristics of good mentoring. Part 2 provides several cogent theological perspectives on the subject of mentoring through the practical lenses of pastoral care, preaching, ethics, and feminist theology. Part 3 offers insights from five different cultural perspectives—Black, and Womanist theology, Roman Catholic, Latina, and East Asian—demonstrating that there is no one right way for mentorship but, rather, that it is culturally specific. Finally, part 4 offers reflections from three pairs of authors who have been mentors and mentees to one another as they explore youth mentoring, the character-building

Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry

ISSN 2325-2847 (print)* ISSN 2325-2855 (online)

* © Copyright 2019 *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*

All Rights Reserved

possibilities of mentoring, and the specifics of cross-generational mentoring. This powerhouse of a book ends with an afterword by Martin Marty, who notes that it is impossible to speak properly about mentoring in entirely impersonal and theoretical terms.

What is contained within the confines of this great work is at once analytical and deeply personal. Such is the work of mentorship itself. The reader is encouraged to consider many aspects of mentorship and the life-changing effects it can have for both the mentee as well as the mentor. This book is a must-have for all who engage in the practice of mentorship as well as for those who work in supervised ministry.

Leslie Veen
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Berkeley, California