Beyond Universal Reason
The Relation between Religion and Ethics in the Work of Stanley Hauerwas
Emmanuel Katongole

Summary
In *The Peaceable Kingdom* Stanley Hauerwas claims that "to begin by asking what is the relation between theology and ethics is to have already made a mistake." Hauerwas’s claim, and his contribution toward a socially constituted and historically embodied account of the moral life and moral reason, are often charged with sectarianism, relativism, and tribalism. Emmanuel Katongole defends Hauerwas’s dismissal of the traditional philosophical “problem” of the relation between ethics and religion. It is, he argues, part of Hauerwas’s wider attempt to set aside the dominant Kantian moral tradition. Standard fare in moral philosophy, inspired by that tradition, fosters a highly formal, ahistorical view of ethics that does not do justice to our experience of ourselves as moral agents.

Contributor Bio
Emmanuel Katongole is professor of theology and peace studies at the Kroc Institute, Keough School of Global Affairs, and Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame and Extraordinary Professor of Theology and Ecclesiology at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. He is author of several books, including *The Sacrifice of Africa: A Political Theology for Africa* and *Born from Lament: The Theology and Politics of Hope in Africa*.

Character and the Christian Life
A Study in Theological Ethics
Stanley Hauerwas

Summary
Some fourteen years after its initial publication, this important and influential book, with a new, substantial, and candid introduction by the author, is available in a reasonably priced paperback edition. In this volume Hauerwas assesses recent interest in the "ethics of character" and suggests areas in his own work that now call for some corrective and/or further work.

Contributor Bio
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including *Suffering Presence* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), *Vision and Virtue* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of *Christians Among the Virtues* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.
Christians among the Virtues
Theological Conversations with Ancient and Modern Ethics
Stanley Hauerwas, Charles Pinches

Summary
Christians among the Virtues investigates the distinctiveness of virtues as illuminated by Christian practice, using a discussion of Aristotle’s ethics together with the work of significant contemporary scholars such as Alasdair MacIntyre and Martha Nussbaum. Hauerwas and Pinches converse with, learn from, and also critically engage powerful and explicitly non-Christian accounts of virtues, and then form a specifically Christian account of certain key virtues, including obedience, hope, courage, and patience. This book will deepen the current public debate about virtue by showing how different traditions and practices yield distinctive understandings of the virtues, and by articulating the particularity of virtues informed by Christian practice.

Hauerwas and Pinches begin with a discussion of Aristotle’s account of happiness, virtue, and friendship, and explore how the temporal character of life threatens the possibility of being virtuous. The authors then contrast this idea with the Christian recognition of our temporal limitations as a call to virtue, rather than a threat. In the second section, the authors address a work by John Casey which attempts to present an account of the virtues purged of their Christian heritage.

The authors bring a theological voice to the popular and philosophical debates about virtue. While the work encourages Christians to think about what is unique to Christian virtue, its specificity does not limit its applicability but opens up and deepens the debate over the particular interpretations of virtues: calling on others to present more specific articulations of what it means to be courageous, obedient, hopeful, and patient, and to contrast those accounts with the Christian interpretations presented by the authors.

Contributor Bio
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke University.

Charles Pinches is professor of theology and religious studies at the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA.

In Good Company
The Church as Polis
Stanley Hauerwas

Summary
By exposing a different account of politics—the church as polis and "counterstory" to the world's politics—Stanley Hauerwas helps Christians to recognize the unifying beliefs and practices that make them a political entity apart from the rest of the world.

Contributor Bio
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including Suffering Presence (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), Vision and Virtue (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of Christians Among the Virtues (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by Christianity Today as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.
**The Church as Polis**

*From Political Theology to Theological Politics as Exemplified by Jürgen Moltmann and Stanley Hauerwas*

Arne Rasmusson

**Summary**

Political theology is one of the most influential theological movements of the latter part of the twentieth century, and yet, as Arne Rasmusson argues here, the field suffers from deep inherent tensions in its attempt to mediate the Christian tradition and the modern emancipatory tradition. Rasmusson contributes to political theology through an innovative discussion of the relationship between church and society and an exposition of the thought and work of political theology’s influential representative, Jürgen Moltmann. Rasmusson further refines his argument by filtering Moltmann’s theology through an exploration of Stanley Hauerwas’s theological positions.

**Contributor Bio**

Arne Rasmusson is professor in systematic theology at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

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**Against The Nations**

*War and Survival in a Liberal Society*

Stanley Hauerwas

**Summary**

*Against the Nations* is Stanley Hauerwas’s most wide-ranging and sustained effort to develop a uniquely Christian ethic. The book moves from such general themes as ”Keeping Theological Ethics Theological” and ”Keeping Theological Ethics Imaginative” to the application of these themes to such diverse topics as the Holocaust, Jonestown, the reality of the Kingdom, the reality of the Church, the democratic state, nuclear war, and disarmament.

**Contributor Bio**

Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including *Suffering Presence* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), *Vision and Virtue* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of *Christians Among the Virtues* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.
**Suffering Presence**
Theological Reflections on Medicine, the Mentally Handicapped, and the Church
Stanley Hauerwas

**Summary**
In *Suffering Presence*, ethicist Stanley Hauerwas delivers a well-formed theological perspective that illuminates the moral life, particularly medical care and the care of children and the handicapped.

**Contributor Bio**
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including *Suffering Presence* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), *Vision and Virtue* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of *Christians Among the Virtues* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.

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**The Peaceable Kingdom**
A Primer in Christian Ethics
Stanley Hauerwas

**Summary**
Stanley Hauerwas presents an overall introduction to the themes and method that have distinguished his vision of Christian ethics. Emphasizing the significance of Jesus’ life and teaching in shaping moral life, *The Peaceable Kingdom* stresses the narrative character of moral rationality and the necessity of a historic community and tradition for morality. Hauerwas systematically develops the importance of character and virtue as elements of decision making and spirituality and stresses nonviolence as critical for shaping our understanding of Christian ethics.

**Contributor Bio**
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including *Suffering Presence* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), *Vision and Virtue* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of *Christians Among the Virtues* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.
A Community of Character
Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic
Stanley Hauerwas

Summary
Selected by Christianity Today as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.

Leading theological ethicist Stanley Hauerwas shows how discussions of Christology and the authority of scripture involve questions about what kind of community the church must be to rightly tell the stories of God. He challenges the dominant assumption of contemporary Christian social ethics that there is a special relation between Christianity and some form of liberal democratic social system.

Contributor Bio
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including Suffering Presence (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), Vision and Virtue (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of Christians Among the Virtues (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by Christianity Today as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.

Vision and Virtue
Essays in Christian Ethical Reflection
Stanley Hauerwas

Summary
“In describing Hauerwas’ work as Christian ethics, one can allow that phrase its full scope of meaning. It is the work of an ethician who is thoroughly conversant with that branch of philosophy and comes to grips with its major issues. He is also firmly committed to the view that, in modifying the substantive ‘ethics’ with the adjective ‘Christian,’ one is designating a distinct reality. . . . Hauerwas invites us to share an understanding of ethics in general and of Christian ethics in particular that is a great deal subtler and more complicated than most currently popular versions of those subjects. For contemporary Christian ethics to accept his invitation will mean letting itself in for some very rigorous and versatile thinking.” —America

Contributor Bio
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including Suffering Presence (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), Vision and Virtue (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of Christians Among the Virtues (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by Christianity Today as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.
Truthfulness and Tragedy
Further Investigations in Christian Ethics
Stanley Hauerwas, Richard Bondi, David B. Burrell C.S.C.

Summary
In *Truthfulness and Tragedy* Stanley Hauerwas provides an account of moral existence and ethical rationality that shows how Christian convictions operate, or should operate, to form and direct lives. In attempting to conceptualize the basis of Christian ethics in a manner that will render Christian convictions morally intelligible, the author casts fresh light on traditional theoretical issues and articulates the distinctive Christian response to contemporary concerns such as suicide, medical ethics, and child care. The first section of the book deals with methodological issues: the meaning and nature of practical reason, obligation claims, natural law, and self deception, and the affinity of story and ethics. It focuses on the relation of truthfulness and tragedy and the need for a story—a set of religious convictions or “grammar of theology”—that does justice to the tragic character of human existence. The second section addresses substantive issues: suicide, euthanasia, and the value of survival; the moral limits of population growth; the definition of “person” for medical reasons; and social involvement and Christian ethics. The overall theme is the need for a community in which truthfulness is a way of life. In the final section, devoted to the problem of how to care for disabled children, the implications of the author’s ethical position are given concrete expression. He discusses the assumptions underlying the willingness to have children, criteria for humanness, medical ethics, and how truthful communities deal with suffering. In *Truthfulness and Tragedy* Stanley Hauerwas extends and clarifies the ethical position set forth in his earlier books *Character and the Christian Life* and *Vision and Virtue*.

Contributor Bio
Stanley Hauerwas is Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at the Divinity School of Duke University. He is the author of many books, including *Suffering Presence* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986), *Vision and Virtue* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), and is co-author of *Christians Among the Virtues* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1997). His book *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1981), was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important books on religion of the twentieth century.
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