

David P. Gushee

Dr. David P. Gushee is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University, where he is based in Atlanta at the McAfee School of Theology.

A native of Virginia, Dr. Gushee earned his Bachelor of Arts degree (Phi Beta Kappa) from the College of William and Mary in Virginia in 1984. He received the Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1987, and in that year was ordained to the Christian ministry at Walnut Hills Baptist Church, where he had served as a youth minister. Studying under the supervision of Dr. Larry Rasmussen, Gushee earned the degrees of Master of Philosophy (1990) and Doctor of Philosophy (1993) in the field of Christian Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

While completing his doctoral degree from 1990 to 1993, Dr. Gushee served on the staff of Evangelicals for Social Action, working in publications and in public policy efforts. There he benefited from the mentoring of Dr. Ronald J. Sider, author of *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* and a leading voice of evangelical conscience.

From 1993-1996, Dr. Gushee began his teaching career as an Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. From 1996-2007, he served at Union University, a Baptist college in west Tennessee, ultimately in the roles of University Fellow and Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy.

Dr. Gushee seeks to serve the church through scholarship in the field of Christian ethics and through popularization of academic insights and activism on significant contemporary moral issues. He has written or edited eleven books, and has published scores of articles, book chapters, and reviews. He is a scholar, teacher, writer, churchman, and activist.

Dr. Gushee's publishing career began with his work on Christian behavior in Europe during the Holocaust--including his book, *The Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust*, based on his doctoral dissertation. Translated into German in the mid-90s, the book is available in a second edition with Paragon House and continues to be widely quoted in Holocaust studies. In recognition of his work as a Christian scholar on the Holocaust, in 2008 he was named to the Committee on Church Relations and the Holocaust of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Dr. Gushee has written and lectured widely on a variety of subjects, especially in the areas of social ethics, Christian political engagement, and Christian higher education. His 2003 *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*, with Glen Stassen (IVP), was named Theology/Ethics book of the year by *Christianity Today*. It has sold nearly 20,000 copies, and has been used as a textbook at such schools as Yale, Princeton, and Cal-Berkeley as well as numerous Baptist and evangelical institutions. It has been translated into Japanese with other translations pending in Bulgarian, Spanish, Indonesian, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic.

Dr. Gushee's 2004 book, *Getting Marriage Right* (Baker), offers a theological, ethical, and historical analysis of the decline of the institution of marriage and how Christians must respond, and has been used both as a textbook and in church-based marriage enrichment programs. Together with his wife of 25 years, Jeanie, Dr. Gushee teaches marriage classes at local churches based in part on the concepts developed in this book.

In 2008, Dr. Gushee became heavily involved in scholarly and popular analysis of the role of religion, and especially evangelicalism, in American public life. He published *The Future of Faith in American Politics* (Baylor University Press), which argues that there is an "emerging evangelical center" that offers the best way forward for evangelical political engagement. This publication helped to solidify his role as a commentator on such issues for the media and on the speaking circuit.

His next book project, with Eerdmans Press, explores the theological and ethical belief in the sanctity of human life. This will be a scholarly work tracing the development of the theological conviction that every human life is sacred through its roots in scripture, articulation in Christian tradition, and development/alteration in western moral thought.

Dr. Gushee's articles and reviews have appeared in such diverse publications as *Christianity Today*, *Christian Century*, *Books & Culture*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Review & Expositor*, *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, *Sojourners*, the *Journal of Church and State*, the *Journal of Law and Religion*, the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, the *Journal of Family Ministry*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, *Catholic Digest*, *Theology Today*, and the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. While he is a committed evangelical Christian, this publication record demonstrates his commitment to broad ecumenical and interfaith engagement.

In recent years Dr. Gushee has had the opportunity to engage as a scholar-activist on several controversial issues. His widely quoted 2006 *Christianity Today* article on torture has led to ongoing opportunities to address issues related to U.S. policy in the war on terror. Currently he serves as president of Evangelicals for Human Rights, a national initiative on human rights issues in the war on terrorism. On the environment, he was the principal drafter of the Evangelical Climate Initiative and remains deeply involved in follow-on efforts to address climate change and other environmental issues, including an important initiative co-sponsored by Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment and the National Association of Evangelicals. He addressed these issues in a speech at the Democratic Convention in Denver in 2008.

A professor deeply committed to teaching and mentoring his students, Dr. Gushee was named Faculty of the Year at Union University in May 2000, in his first year of eligibility for the award. He created and led a Christian ethics program at Union that graduated dozens of majors and minors, some of whom have gone to ministry, law school, government service, missions, and graduate study at such schools as Yale, Fuller,

Baylor, Chicago, Boston College, and Duke. He continues such teaching and mentoring at McAfee and in the other schools of Mercer University

A Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia, Dr. Gushee has served in various ministry capacities, including several years as a co-pastor of a Jackson-area Baptist church, along with service as an interim pastor in a Presbyterian congregation. He continues to preach and teach widely in Baptist churches and fellowships of various denominations. His Baptist involvements have included many years of service on the Christian Ethics Study Commission of the Baptist World Alliance, as well as a leadership role in helping Baptist colleges and intellectuals articulate their vision in the 21st century.

Dr. Gushee has lectured at numerous and diverse institutions, including his alma mater William & Mary, Baylor University, Boston College, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wheaton College, Fuller Seminary, the University of Minnesota, Calvin College, Rhodes College, Gordon College, Messiah College, Oral Roberts University, Regent College (Vancouver), Biola University, Union Theological Seminary, Marble Collegiate Church, George Fox University, and Texas Lutheran University. He has lectured throughout Germany concerning his book on the Holocaust and has spoken at conferences at the Vatican and at Oxford University. He also has served as a guest professor at several seminaries in the United States and abroad, including Fuller Seminary (to which he returns in summer 2009), Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia, and Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

The Gushee family has four children—Holly, David, Marie, and Madeleine—and a beloved cat named Noah. They now reside in Atlanta, Georgia.

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