

David P. Gushee

Dr. David P. Gushee, a leading Christian ethicist, is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University, where he is based in 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. 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, 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.

At 45, Dr. Gushee is a major evangelical and Baptist voice in the field of Christian ethics at both a scholarly and popular level. He has written or edited nine books, and has published scores of articles, book chapters, and reviews. His passion is to participate in the advance of God's reign through scholarship in Christian ethics and its public articulation and practice. He is a scholar, teacher, writer, churchman, and activist.

Dr. Gushee's career began with his groundbreaking 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. Besides his continuing work on the Holocaust, Jewish-Christian dialogue, and related issues, he 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 over 15,000 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. *Kingdom Ethics* is proving to be one of the most influential recent books in the field of Christian Ethics. Dr. Gushee's 2004 book, *Getting Marriage Right* (Baker), is an innovative treatment 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. His most recent book, *Only Human* (Jossey-Bass, 2005), offers a Christian theology of human nature for a general audience; named one of the top 10 books in Christianity by amazon.com in 2005, it was the first book in a series he edited for Jossey-Bass called "Enduring Questions in Christian Life." Dr. Gushee's research interests continue to focus on issues emerging at the intersection between Christian faith, ethics and public policy. He has two books coming out in 2008, *The Future of Faith in American Politics* (Baylor University Press) and (with Roger Ward) *The Scholarly Vocation and the Baptist Academy* (Mercer University Press). His next book project, with Eerdmans Press, explores the theological and ethical roots and implications of belief in the sanctity of human life.

Dr. Gushee's articles and reviews have appeared in such diverse publications as *Christianity Today*, *Christian Century*, *Books & Culture*, *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 soon in 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 keeping with his desire to serve as an accessible public thinker, Dr. Gushee's opinion pieces appear bi-weekly with the *Associated Baptist Press* and sometimes with *Religion News Service* and other outlets, and as a columnist for *Prism* magazine. His opinion pieces are archived at www.countercultureblog.com. He is widely consulted and quoted by the media as a commentator on contemporary moral issues, including CBS News, ABC News, *USA TODAY*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New Republic*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Der Spiegel*, the *Jerusalem Post*, *The Guardian* (London), PBS Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *Time*.

In recent years Dr. Gushee has had the opportunity to engage as a scholar-activist in some new ways. He has emerged as a leader in addressing two sensitive moral issues in American public life: torture and climate change. 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. His two most recent scholarly honors include being named a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar by Morehouse College and a visiting member to the Center for Theological Inquiry at Princeton.

A popular professor who is 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, Mercer University, Boston College, Emory University, and Duke. He is looking forward to continuing such teaching and mentoring at McAfee and in the other schools of Mercer University

A member of 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, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wheaton College, Fuller Seminary, Calvin College, Rhodes College, Gordon College, Messiah, Hamline University, Boston College, Oral Roberts, Regent College (Vancouver), Biola University, George Fox, and Texas Lutheran. 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, Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia, and Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. The year 2008 will take him to numerous Baptist universities to lecture on his book on faith and politics, as well as an invited paper at the Baptist International Consultation on Theological Education, in Prague.

Dr. Gushee has been married to Jeanie, a homemaker, poet, and nurse, for twenty-three years. They have four children—Holly, David, Marie, and Madeleine. The Gushee family now resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

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revised: 3/17/08