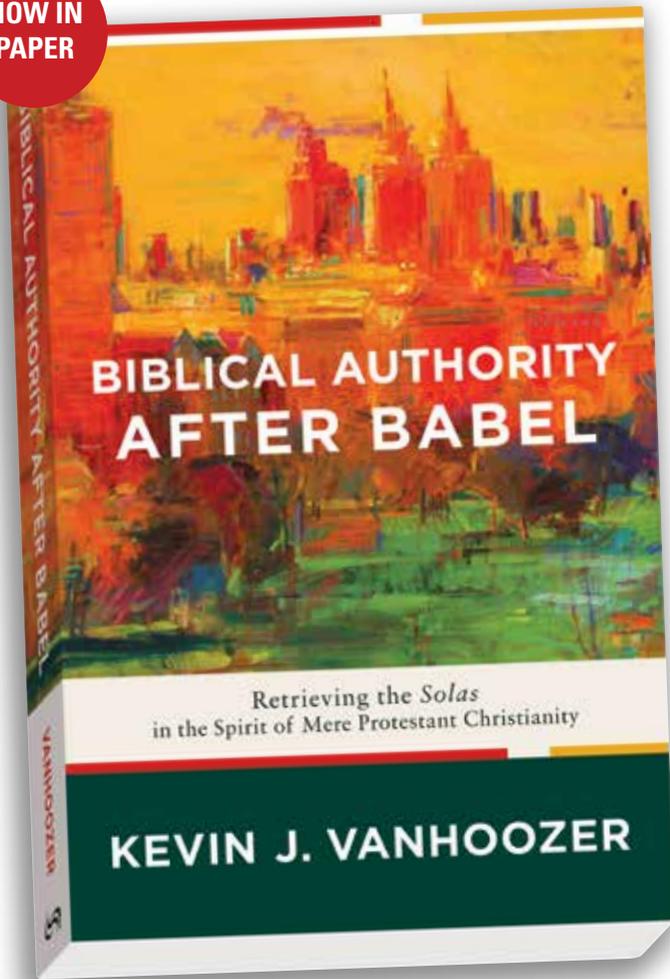




BrazosPress

# How the Five Solas Can Renew Biblical Interpretation

NOW IN PAPER



- Author is one of the world’s top theologians
- Offers a retrieval of the Reformation’s core principles for establishing (biblical) interpretive authority
- Responds to recent critics of Protestant biblical interpretation

In recent years, notable scholars have argued that the Protestant Reformation unleashed interpretive anarchy on the church. Is it time to consider the Reformation to be a 500-year experiment gone wrong?

World-renowned evangelical theologian Kevin Vanhoozer thinks not. While he sees recent critiques as legitimate, he argues that retrieving the Reformation’s core principles offers an answer to critics of Protestant biblical interpretation. Vanhoozer explores how a proper reappropriation of the five *solas* offers the tools to constrain biblical interpretation and establish interpretive authority. He offers a positive assessment of the Reformation, showing how a retrieval of “mere Protestant Christianity” has the potential to reform contemporary Christian belief and practice. Now in paper.

### Praise for *Biblical Authority after Babel*

*Christianity Today* 2017 Book Award Winner  
*A Jesus Creed* 2017 Church History Book of the Year

“A necessary and timely book.”—The Gospel Coalition

“This book will reward its readers, not only because of Vanhoozer’s typically creative prose, but also because it offers a compelling account of biblical authority in a Protestant key.”—*Christianity Today*

## Biblical Authority after Babel

Kevin J. Vanhoozer



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: September 19  
 \$21.99  
 978-1-58743-423-5

trade paper  
 6 x 9  
 288 pages  
 Case Quantity: 32

Category: RELIGION / Christian Theology / General  
 RELIGION / Christian Theology / Apologetics  
 RELIGION / Biblical Criticism & Interpretation / General  
 Rights: Worldwide

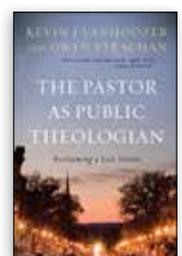
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Kevin J. Vanhoozer** (PhD, University of Cambridge), one of the world’s top theologians, is research professor of systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He previously taught at Wheaton College and the University of Edinburgh. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *The Pastor as Public Theologian*, *Everyday Theology*, *The Drama of Doctrine*, *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*, and the award-winning *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*.



### ALSO AVAILABLE

**The Pastor as Public Theologian**  
 978-0-8010-9771-3

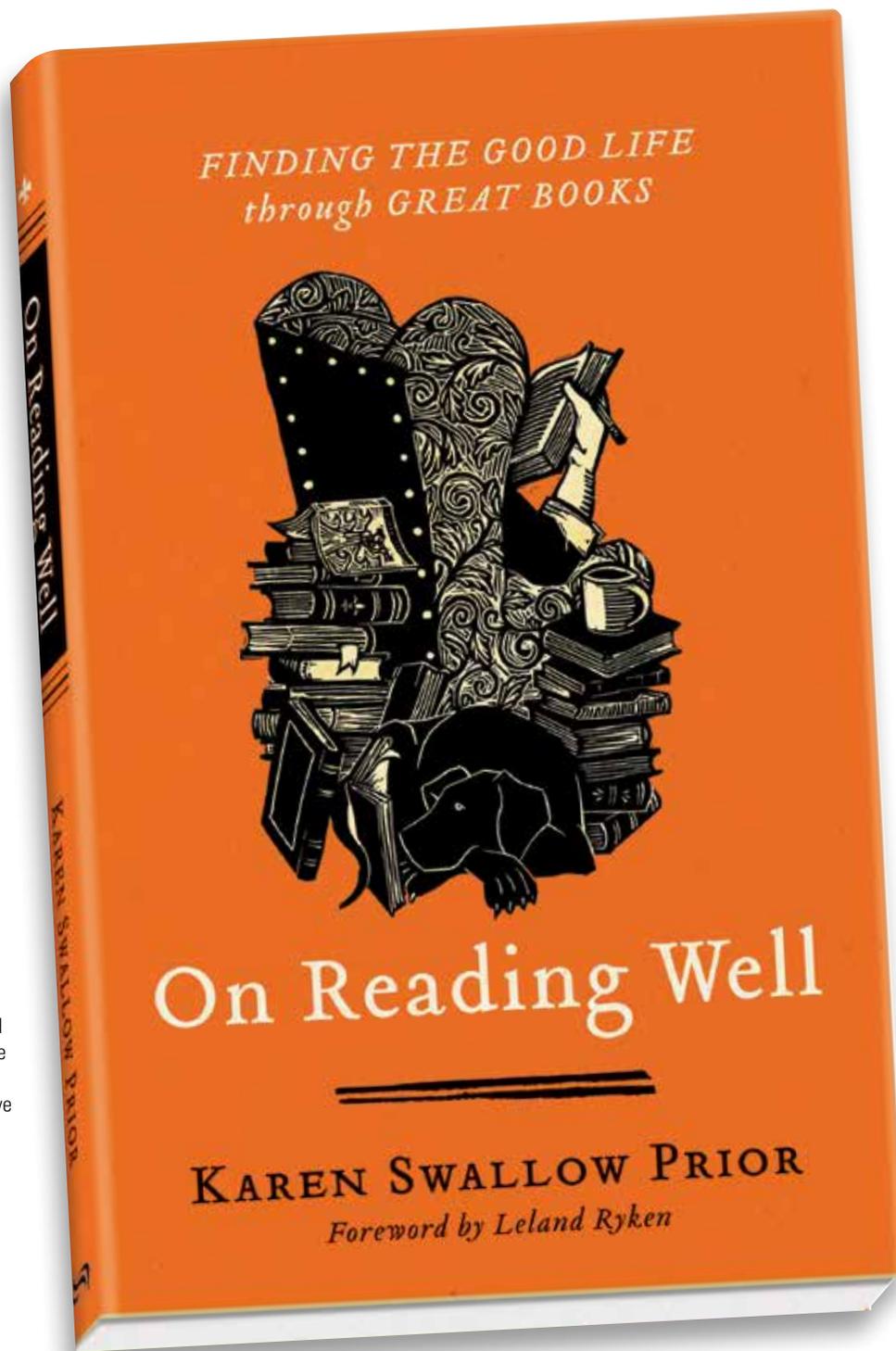


EXCERPT

It is not enough to read widely. One must also read well. One must read virtuously. The word *virtue* has many shades of meaning (many of which will unfold in the pages of this book), but in general, virtue can most simply be understood as *excellence*. Reading well is, in itself, an act of virtue, or excellence, and it is also an action that cultivates more virtue in return.

Reading virtuously means, first, reading closely, being faithful to both text and context, interpreting accurately and insightfully. Indeed, there is something in the very form of reading—the shape of the action itself—that tends toward virtue. The attentiveness necessary for deep reading (the kind of reading we practice in reading literary works as opposed to skimming news stories or reading instructions) requires patience. The skills of interpretation and evaluation require prudence. Even the simple decision to set time aside to read in a world rife with so many other choices competing for time and attention requires a kind of temperance.

My exploration in these pages of a dozen or so great works of literature attempts to model what it means to read in this way as I examine the insights about virtues these works offer. I have selected from among my favorite literary works those that might help us to understand the classical virtues—the cardinal virtues, the theological virtues, and the heavenly virtues. Sometimes the virtues are shown through positive examples and sometimes, perhaps more often (given the exploratory nature of great literature), by negative example. Literary characters have a lot to teach us about *character*.



# How Great Books Can Teach Us to Live a Better Life

- By the author of the award-winning and critically acclaimed *Fierce Convictions*
- Author writes regularly for *Christianity Today* and the *Atlantic* and has written for *Vox*, the *Washington Post*, and TGC
- A study of the classical virtues that shows how reading good books well forms both mind and character
- Authors covered include Henry Fielding, Cormac McCarthy, Jane Austen, George Saunders, Flannery O'Connor, and F. Scott Fitzgerald

Reading great literature well has the power to cultivate virtue. Great literature increases knowledge of and desire for the good life by showing readers what virtue looks like and where vice leads. It is not just *what* one reads but *how* one reads that cultivates virtue. Reading good literature well requires one to practice numerous virtues, such as patience, diligence, and prudence. And learning to judge wisely a character in a book, in turn, forms the reader's own character.

Acclaimed author Karen Swallow Prior takes readers on a guided tour through works of great literature both ancient and modern, exploring twelve virtues that philosophers and theologians throughout history have identified as most essential for good character and the good life. In reintroducing ancient virtues that are as relevant and essential today as ever, Prior draws on the best classical and Christian thinkers, including Aristotle, Aquinas, and Augustine. Covering authors from Henry Fielding to Cormac McCarthy, Jane Austen to George Saunders, and Flannery O'Connor to F. Scott Fitzgerald, Prior explores some of the most compelling universal themes found in the pages of classic books, helping readers learn to love life, literature, and God through their encounter with great writing. In examining works by these authors and more, Prior shows why virtues such as prudence, temperance, humility, and patience are still necessary for human flourishing and civil society. The book includes end-of-chapter reflection questions geared toward book club discussions, features original artwork throughout, and includes a foreword from Leland Ryken.

## On Reading Well

Karen Swallow Prior



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: September 4  
 \$19.99  
 978-1-58743-396-2

hardcover  
 5½ x 8½  
 272 pages  
 Case Quantity: 20

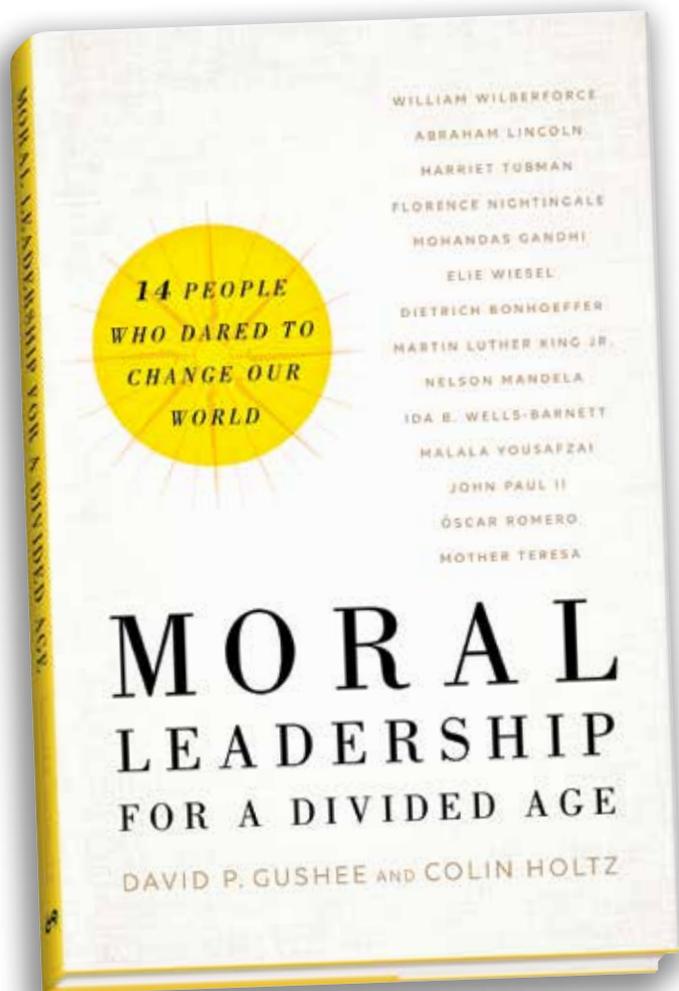
Category: RELIGION / Christianity / Literature & the Arts  
 RELIGION / Christian Life / General  
 LITERARY CRITICISM / Books & Reading  
 Rights: Worldwide

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Karen Swallow Prior** (PhD, SUNY Buffalo) is an award-winning professor of English at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. She is the author of *Booked: Literature in the Soul of Me* and *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More—Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist*. Prior has written for *Christianity Today*, the *Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, *First Things*, *Vox*, *Think Christian*, and The Gospel Coalition. She is a research fellow with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, a senior fellow with Liberty University's Center for Apologetics and Cultural Engagement, and a member of the Faith Advisory Council of the Humane Society of the United States.



# Models of Moral Leadership, from William Wilberforce to Malala Yousafzai



- Gushee is a leading public Christian voice on ethical issues of our day
- Includes short biographies and analyses of great moral leaders, such as Wilberforce, Tubman, Gandhi, Bonhoeffer, MLK, Mandela, and Malala Yousafzai
- Explores the central qualities of moral leadership

We can't help but be inspired by great leaders—those who led lives of moral purpose and in some way left the world a different and better place. In the midst of our increasingly divided age, examining great moral leaders can help us understand the central qualities of moral leadership and discover lessons for our own lives and times.

This book explores the lives of fourteen great moral leaders of recent centuries, including Ida B. Wells-Barnett, William Wilberforce, Harriet Tubman, Mohandas Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, and Mother Teresa. Incorporating skillful storytelling, short biographies, and analyses, the book presents these exemplary moral leaders as human beings who are flawed in some ways, gifted in others, but unforgettable all the same.

## Moral Leadership for a Divided Age

David P. Gushee and Colin Holtz



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: October 16  
 \$24.99  
 978-1-58743-357-3

hardcover  
 6 x 9  
 320 pages  
 Case Quantity: 20

Category: RELIGION / Leadership  
 RELIGION / Ethics  
 BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Religious  
 Rights: Worldwide

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**David P. Gushee** (PhD, Union Theological Seminary), a leading public Christian voice on ethical issues of our day, is Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the author of twenty-two books, has served as a columnist for Religion News Service, *Christianity Today*, and *HuffPost* and has been featured on Krista Tippett's NPR program, *On Being*. Gushee serves as president of the American Academy of Religion and is immediate past president of the Society of Christian Ethics.

**Colin Holtz**, a writer and strategist at the intersection of church and world, is a ten-year veteran of issue advocacy and political campaigns. His writing has been published in the *Guardian* and *HuffPost*. He has worked with CNN *Crossfire*, led national campaigns on education debt and financial regulation, and served as a senior adviser to Faithful America. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta.