

Book Review by Sharon G. Johnson

Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul, by J. P. Moreland, NAVPRESS, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1997.

This new volume in NAVPRESS' Spiritual Formation line seeks to "form the whole person so that the nature of Christ becomes the natural expression of our souls, bodies, and spirits throughout our daily lives (13)." Dr. Moreland contends that

The spiritually mature person is a wise person. And, a wise person has the savvy and skill necessary to lead an exemplary life and to address the issues of the day in a responsible, attractive way that brings honor to God...If we are going to be wise, spiritual people prepared to meet the crises of our age, we must be a studying, learning community that values the life of the mind. (39)

Dr. Moreland, professor of theology at Talbot School of Theology, explores in this

relatively short but intellectually rich offering a variety of topics related to why the mind matters in Christianity and how to develop a mature Christian mind. Chapter titles include such topics as "The Mind's Role in Spiritual Transformation" (Chpt. 3), "Clearing the Cobwebs from My Mental Attic" (Chpt. 5), "Vocation and an Integrated Worldview" (Chpt. 9), and "Recapturing the Intellectual Life in the Church" (Chpt. 10).

As Christian business professors, this book is an excellent call to the heart of our mission as teachers: encouraging students to really think about what they believe and why. Chapter nine's discussion of the development of a Christian worldview is especially relevant to readers of the **JBIB**. In this chapter, Dr. Moreland discusses

• five models of theological/vocational discipline interaction ranging from "distinct, non-overlapping areas of investigation" (177) to issues in direct contrast and competition with each other

• five important questions any thoughtful Christian should ask about the underlying assumptions in their vocation regarding ethics and epistemology

I was given a copy of this book by a person in a nearby town who asked to meet with me over lunch concerning a business situation he was facing. As we talked about the ethical and personal challenges he was facing, he remarked that this book had helped him appreciate that godly decisions involved wrestling with difficult choices. Biblical precepts and the Holy Spirit's presence did not render rational analysis and reasonable investigation unimportant. Dr. Moreland, I believe, would have enjoyed this man's thoughtful devotion to both the power of prayer and perception:

As we grow in our love for God and seek to be like Him, we make it our intention to become as well-informed and knowledgeable as we can...Wisdom results when a respectful heart is united with a disciplined mind. (53)