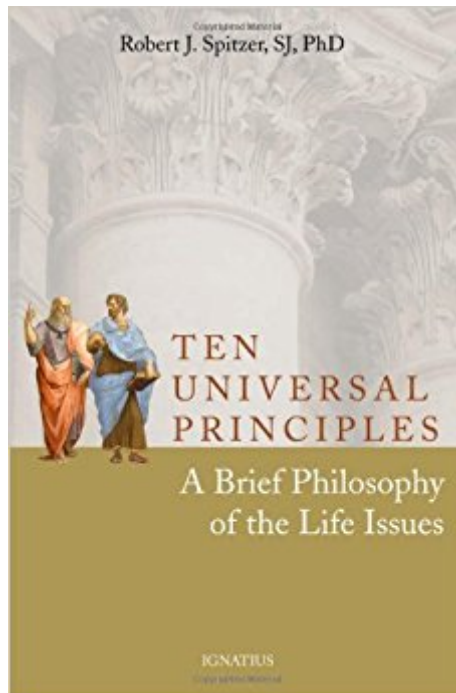




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Ten Universal Principles: A Brief Philosophy Of The Life Issues



Synopsis

How do we make sense of life? How should we treat others? How should we reasonably be expected to be treated by others? When human life is at stake, are there reasonable principles we can rely on to guide our actions? How should our laws be framed to protect human life? What kind of society should be built? Many people rely on their religious beliefs to answer these questions. But not everyone accepts the same religious premises or recognizes the same spiritual authorities. Are there "public arguments" --reasons that can be given that do not presuppose agreement on religious grounds or common religious commitments--that can guide our thoughts and actions, as well as our laws and public policies? In *Ten Universal Principles: A Brief Philosophy of the Life Issues*, Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer sets out, in a brief, yet highly-readable and lucid style, ten basic principles that must govern the reasonable person's thinking and acting about life issues. A highly-regarded philosopher, Father Spitzer provides an intelligent outline for thinking and talking about human life. This book is a powerful tool for persuasively articulating and effectively inculturating a prolife philosophy.

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Customer Reviews

Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, is a philosopher, educator, author and former President of Gonzaga University. He is founder and President of the Magis Institute, an organization dedicated to public education on the relationship among the disciplines of physics, philosophy, reason, and faith. He is the head of the Ethics and Performance Institute which delivers web-based ethics education to corporations and individuals. He is also President of the Spitzer Center of Ethical Leadership, which

delivers similar curricula to non-profit organizations. His other books include *Healing the Culture* and *Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life*.

I am so deeply grateful for the information contained within this book. Many times, I have wanted to defend positions regarding life and the dignity of personhood but didn't have the insight or right words..From experience, I have found that just going the religious route of persuasion in our secular world doesn't work. People--even Catholics, immediately just tune out your words as the spewings of a religious fanatic. However, using the principles of reason, ethics, justice and natural rights, and identity and culture to prove the point leads to a much more reasoned and intelligent discussions.I am not an educated person so I also appreciated the text within the parentheses that is added throughout the book. It helps me understand more fully the points Fr. Spitzer is making.I'll be re-reading the book to cement the principles in my mind. An outstanding read!!!

Fr. Spitzer does more for clear thinking in this short book than all the college philosophy classes I took combined; the readings for those classes would easily total to more than fifty times the pages in this volume, not including *Being and Nothingness*, which I never finished. Besides dealing with life issues in a careful and reasoned way, this work stands as a guide to the philosophical undergirding of the Western world. Fr. Spitzer's erudition never gets in the way of his expression of complex ideas, something that is not as common as one might think. From ethics to science to logic, Fr. Spitzer lays a foundation, block by block, for understanding the simple truth about complex issues. This remarkable book will delight those who know Fr. Spitzer's work; for those who do not, this work could be a revelation.

With life issues becoming more of a concern in North America, Dr. Spitzer asks the correct questions and provided stimulation for formation of a Biblical worldview. A brief, forthright assessment of the philosophical issues of the age with ageless answers. This will hopefully be a tool for many who desire to truly follow Jesus.

As I seek materials to recommend to others in my writings on my site, I find a very few which I would recommend at the highest. That means they have to have fact-based, well-reasoned, effective thinking that is understandable and "learnable" by others who are "non-experts".Fr Spitzer puts forth the full reasoning of the principles that form the basis of life, from ethics and their whys to "what works" for the human good. (Human good is the unarguable purpose of it all, whether an atheist or a

"person of faith". I, myself, am not at all religious but I find the application of the principles to be consistent with the ultimate value of a life.) It is clear how each person and "the state" should treat others - if the government was run on these principles, it would be much more effective. On an individual level, understanding and adhering to the principles will contribute to a person's greater effectiveness in life, where effectiveness is defined as living a richer, more meaningful life of greater happiness. I was quite pleased to see this basic view, which is consistent with the view of L.S. Barksdale, one of my top "mentors": "Every human being (or group of human beings) deserves to be valued according to the full level of human development, not according to the level of development currently achieved." Based on that, I fully value each person, knowing that their level of achieving their potential is due to their circumstances in life so far - and that, if "sufficient" new information and sources of motivation are introduced to each person's life, he can and will harvest that potential. Anyway, this subject cannot be developed in this review. I recommend you read the book and decide for yourself what to include in your own philosophical foundation for your life. Kahuna Keith

I wish all our judges, politicians, people in authority and people at large would read this book and live by the principles and clear reasoning articulated in it. These are truly simple, clear, UNIVERSAL principles and a society that would live by them would indeed flourish. Clear reasoning coming from a clear mind.

My beloved father, God rest his soul, was a lifelong atheist. One of his favorite lines was, "When was the last time a priest asked you to THINK?" I wish he could have read this book, although it might have upset him. I have never read a more compelling destruction of "Roe vs. Wade" in my life, and I never thought very much of it at any time. (Way back when, I just wondered where those "wise men" found the word "privacy" in the Constitution, much less a "right to privacy" which was an obvious euphemism for a "right to kill the unborn.") But Fr. Spitzer does not even get involved with the obvious Constitutional problems with that decision. His attack is based on logic, philosophy, and natural rights, and it is devastating. Highly recommended reading!

I'm a young adult who likes to educate himself in a well-rounded manner. This book really, REALLY increased my basic knowledge of philosophy, pro-life arguments, and basic life principles. A short, but sweet read, Mr. Spitzer takes you through logic, evidence, and reasoning to back the principles he presents. This is done without the necessity of a certain religion, which makes it more available

to non-Christians or non-religious folk. I learned a lot. I highlighted a lot. I found myself on dictionary.com a lot. But it was all worth it. I definitely recommend this book; I'll be buying it for my girlfriend. P.S. p.65 is my favorite!

Very informative. Made me wonder why ethics is no longer taught.

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