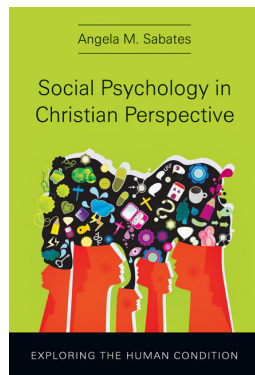


BOOK DETAILS



*Social Psychology in
Christian Perspective:
Exploring the Human
Condition*

**Available January
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\$35, 528 pages,
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978-0-8308-3988-9

Are people good? New book approaches the field of social psychology with a unique perspective

The study of human interaction has always been one of fascination to social scientists: how individuals act within groups, how we communicate with one another, what leads to different types of behavior; each of these together amount to what is called social psychology.

Presuming a generally negative perspective of human interpersonal relations, social psychology studies tend to focus on our destructive behavior and tendencies, and thus social psychology is rarely examined through the lens of an optimistic Christian worldview. But in her new book, *Social Psychology in Christian Perspective*, Angela Sabates shows us how we can look positively on the human race, and also how the broad field of social psychology can be enriched by a Christian understanding of the human condition.

“I have observed . . . the capacity that we humans have to both love one another generously and to act selfishly,” writes Sabates, associate professor of psychology at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Throughout the text, she explores the dichotomy between the negative view of humanity observed by many social psychologists and the Christian belief that humans are fallen yet inherently good. “The assumptions of naturalism and reductionism, which pervade our field not only in terms of methodology but also focus of study, are unlikely to look for and find data that are consistent with the view that people are created for good, are fallen, but may yet be redeemed,” Sabates writes.

In this first-of-its-kind book, *Social Psychology in Christian Perspective* provides for students a full-fledged textbook that covers the methods and assumptions of social psychology, the concepts of perception, influence, attitudes and prejudice, as well as how these all relate to the self and the human race. This unique and important book continually reflects on how social psychology can be viewed through a Christian filter, and why it is valid to integrate the two.

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Angela M. Sabates is associate professor of psychology at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She previously taught at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida, and she has worked professionally at Cornerstone Family Counseling Center (Fairfax, Virginia), Minirth-Meier and Byrd Clinic (Arlington, Virginia) and Reston Psychological Center and Lab School of Washington (Fairfax, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.). She earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Her article “The Child Patient” appears in *Christian Counseling Ethics* (IVP), and other articles have appeared in issues of *Christian Counseling Today*.

Despite the fact that the field of social psychology is well established, Sabates demonstrates the important implications for the Christian theological framework she provides throughout text. Doing all of this with an accurate, detailed and current description of psychological research that is supported with empirical and theoretical literature, Sabates has created a book that is sure to be useful for any social scientist interested in the field and how a Christian worldview can be a strong influence.