How can we know the right course of action when we have an ethical dilemma? Does the Bible still help us? What ‘rules’ of moral behaviour are appropriate for Christians? Living in Grace suggests that virtues like faithfulness, generosity, honesty, caring, integrity, justice, mercy and gratitude can form the basis of good decision making with regard to the moral questions we face. After a brief introduction to the philosophy of ethics and the perspective of Virtue Ethics, there are six examples of complex ethical situations - remarriage, suicide, truth-telling, abortion, obedience to parents, an unexpected inheritance - each of which looks at a passage from the New Testament and considers the situation from the point of view of rule-based ethics, the ethics of consequences, and Virtue Ethics. Each example is followed by a short discussion from a Christian perspective of one of the main virtues that was involved in the decision - righteousness, freedom, wisdom, love, peace and grace. A concluding section evaluates Virtue Ethics as a way to avoid the polarization of much ethical thinking and as a tool for use in the church. There is a short study guide offering questions and further biblical references to explore the issues raised in the three sections of the book.

This could be a valuable book for priests and those who are involved with guiding others in pastoral situations. It is easily readable, without jargon, and with a clear belief in the Bible to guide us in living well.

Maureen CSF