Special Issue

Philosophical Theology, Doctrine, and the Theological Virtues

Message from the Guest Editor

In many Christian traditions, "virtues" are dispositional patterns of thought, feeling, and behavior in relation to God, the neighbor, and all creation. Typically, the "theological" virtues have been identified as faith, hope, and love. Often, they have been regarded as the fruits of God's grace, unattainable by unaided human effort. This conceptuality raises several recurrent and contentious issues: What is the relation of these theological virtues to the "natural (or cardinal) virtues" that humans can cultivate without grace? How are the theological virtues related to one another? How is the orientation toward God connected to our engagement with our neighbors? How is human agency related to the infusion or elicitation of gracious dispositions? Even more generally, how is the waxing or waning of the virtues linked to specific intentional acts? These questions have sweeping implications for current conversations about the relation of divine and human agencies, meritorious action, and the spiritual life. This Special Issue invites original research articles on any of these (or related) topics.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Lee C. Barrett

Department of Theology, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA 17603, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 October 2025



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.6 CiteScore 1.3



mdpi.com/si/237202

Religions
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/ religions





Religions

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.6 CiteScore 1.3



About the Journal

Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing

Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

Caritaswissenschaft und Christliche Sozialarbeit, Theologische Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Platz der Universität 3, D-79098 Freiburg, Germany

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, AHCI (Web of Science), ATLA Religion Database, Religious and Theological Abstracts, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

CiteScore - Q1 (Religious Studies)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 25.4 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.5 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).

