

Editorial

This journal issue is devoted to some major contemporary issues in the church. Our featured contributor is Dr. Andreas Köstenberger, Professor of New Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He is the author of numerous scholarly works, including volumes on the Gospel of John in the Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament and the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary series. Köstenberger guides our thinking by contributing three articles which constituted the 2005 Sizemore Lectures in Biblical Studies at Midwestern Seminary. In the first article, “The Moral Vision of John,” Köstenberger seeks to “regain our moral compass” by grounding our ethical reflection on issues like abortion, same-sex marriage, etc., more profoundly in Scripture’s teaching and Jesus’ example. In the second piece, “The Biblical Framework for Marriage,” he draws our attention to three major overarching yet overlooked principles found in the apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that form the biblical framework for marriage. In the third essay, “The New Testament Pattern of Church Government,” he revisits the scriptural teaching on this subject so that we can clarify our thinking on these issues and discover new common ground.

This journal issue also includes other timely, relevant articles. Dr. Tom Johnston, Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Midwestern Seminary, provides us with “A Historical-Theological Analysis of Evangelicals and Catholics Together.” The latter subject is a thorny one for many as some evangelicals have chosen to cooperate with the Roman Catholic Church on the gospel and other matters while some clearly have not. With the 200th anniversary of Baptists in Missouri approaching, Dr. Joe Early, Jr., Assistant Professor of Religion at the University of the Columbians, contributes, “Father John Clark: The First Baptist Preacher in Missouri.” Finally, Dr. Godfrey Harold, Senior Minister at Livingstone Baptist Church, Richards Bay, and Lecturer at the University of Zululand, South Africa, furnishes “Suffering and the Christian: A Philosophical Problem and a Pastoral Response.” As he offers a pastoral response that deals with suffering and the problem of evil he has in mind as a backdrop the suffering caused by the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

I hope that you will enjoy these articles. If I or any of my colleagues at Midwestern Seminary can ever be of service to you, please contact us and let us know. To God’s glory!