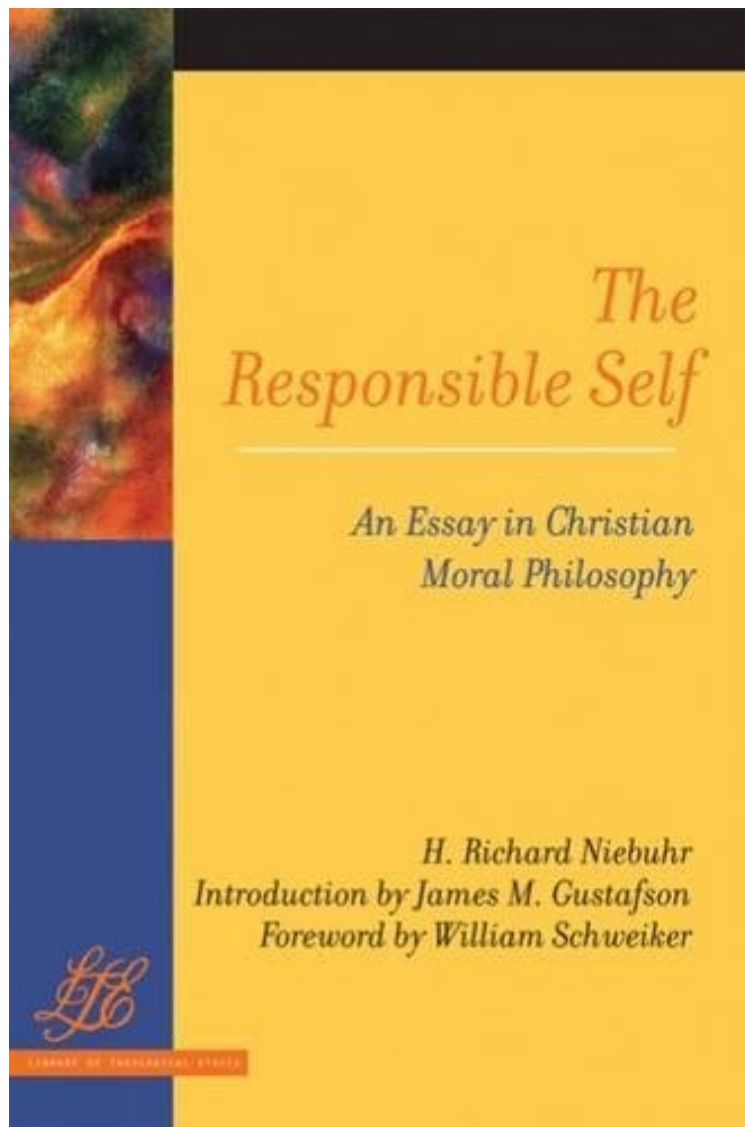


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## The Responsible Self: An Essay in Christian Moral Philosophy (Library of Theological Ethics)

*H. Richard Niebuhr*

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Responsible Self: An Essay in Christian Moral Philosophy (Library of Theological Ethics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Seminal Essay on Moral Philosophy from a Christian PerspectiveBy thomas j. zwemerThis essay was a position paper written for academic colleagues. It subsequently found interest among those with a passion for ethics and its moral foundation. Most ethical propositions are based upon a Greek foundation rather than from a Christian perspective. I found it heavy going, but worth the effort.43 of 46 people found the following review helpful. the importance of responsibilityBy Karen LebacqzH. Richard Niebuhr's *The Responsible Self* is a classic in Christian ethics. Niebuhr argues that humans are neither simply 'goal seeking' creatures nor simply 'rule-following' creatures, but are 'responsive' and hence, responsible. We are 'answerers' who must first ask "What is going on here?" and then respond to that assessment with a 'fitting' answer. The importance of this short and readable work should not be underestimated. Niebuhr's approach spawned an interest in perspective and vision in ethics that is carried on by contemporary thinkers such as James Gustafson and Stanley Hauerwas.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. LTEBy Isaac SchoeppNiebuhr's examination of "*The Responsible Self*" offers a new way to look at ethics. He does not propose that we ignore the historical ways of viewing ethics (ie. virtue) but he shows where they fail to explore all of the relationships involved. Niebuhr uses the term "responsibility" in a creative and inventive way. I wasn't convinced, but I was certainly challenged

*The Responsible Self* was H. Richard Niebuhr's most important work in Christian ethics. In it he probes the most fundamental character of the moral life and it stands today as a landmark contribution to the field. *The Library of Theological Ethics* series focuses on what it means to think theologically and ethically. It presents a selection of important and otherwise unavailable texts in easily accessible form. Volumes in this series will enable sustained dialogue with predecessors though reflection on classic works in the field.

About the AuthorH. Richard Niebuhr (1894-1962) was a prominent twentieth-century American theologian. He was Sterling Professor of Theology and Christian Ethics at Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. He is known for his books *The Responsible Self* and *Radical Monotheism and Western Culture*.