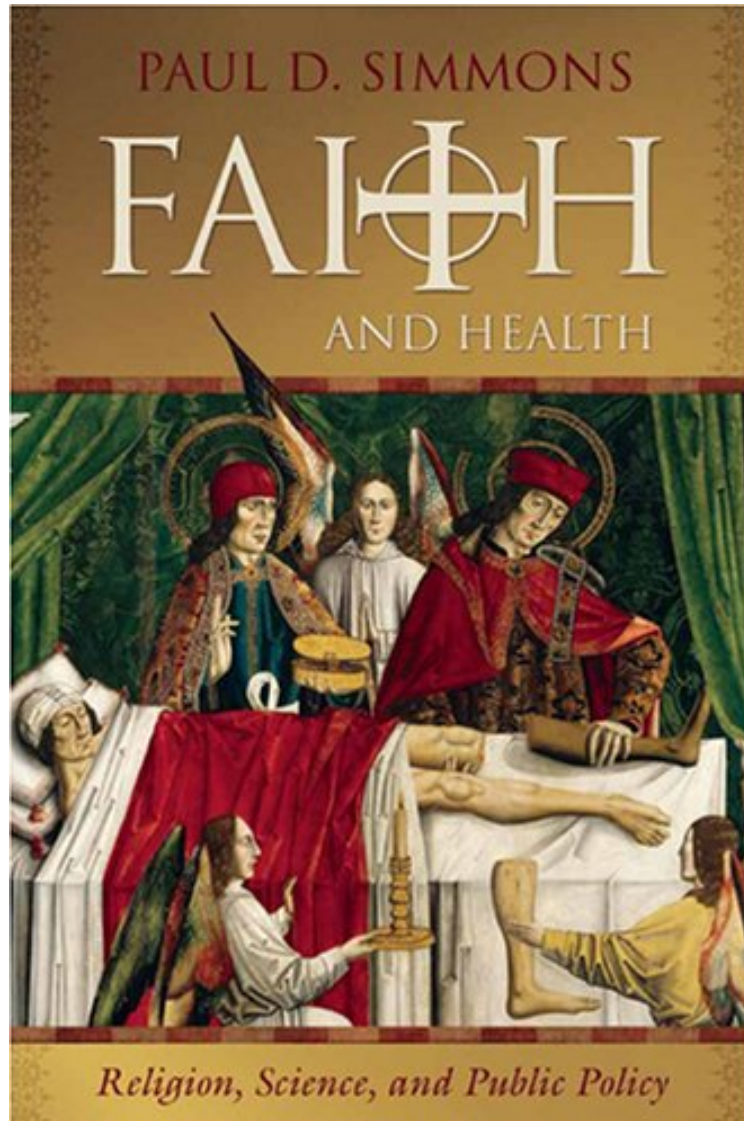


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Faith and Health: Religion, Science, and Public Policy

Paul D. Simmons

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Paul D. Simmons : Faith and Health: Religion, Science, and Public Policy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faith and Health: Religion, Science, and Public Policy:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent bookBy Leroy SeatIt is hard to imagine a book more readable, more inclusive, more helpful, or better able to address the thorny ethical issues related to the broad field of religious faith and human life, health, suffering, and death.Although the book is written as a scholarly work and cites a broad range of sources, the author does not hesitate taking sides and suggesting his carefully thought-out position on

controversial matters, such as the right to die, universal healthcare, abortion, etc. He states, for example, "My interest is not simply to outline the issues but to suggest a resolution of the debate" (p. 177). Neither does he hesitate to oppose positions he considers ethically questionable, such as when he avers that the "free market approach to the distribution of health care seems a transparent rationalization for the selfish protection of economic privilege" (p. 89), or to espouse positions he considers desirable, such as when he clearly states that "US public policy should support stem cell research" (p. 213). Except for Christian fundamentalists, who will likely find much to criticize in this book, most other Christians, as well as people of other religious traditions and non-believers, will not only find plenty to ponder in this book but also find much help in thinking through many of the difficult problems arising from the matrix of religion, science, and public policy.

Faith and Health examines controversial issues in medical ethics such as embryo stem cell research, the face transplant, cyborgs and the human and physician assisted suicide. Those struggling with such confusing and controversial subjects will appreciate the insights from ethics, theology, and law the author brings together. Here is guidance for personal or social responses to questions in medicine that affect us all.