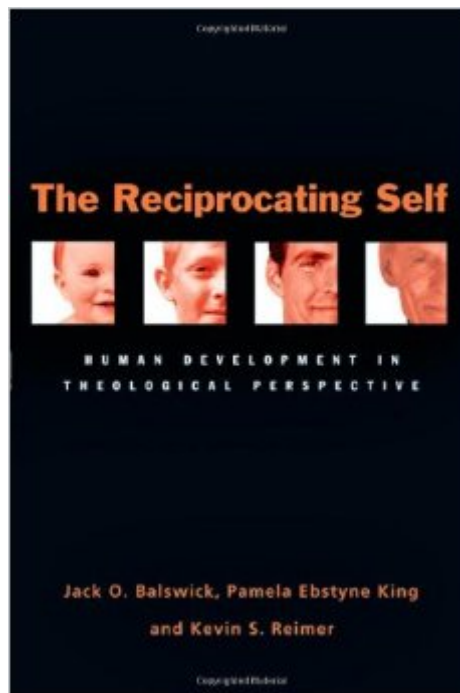


The book was found

The Reciprocating Self: Human Development In Theological Perspective



Synopsis

On the basis of a theologically grounded understanding of the nature of persons and the self, Jack O. Balswick, Pamela Ebstyne King and Kevin S. Reimer present a model of human development that ranges across all of life's stages: infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, elder adulthood. They do this by drawing on a biblical model of relationality, where the created goal or purpose of human development is to become a reciprocating self--fully and securely related to others and to God. Along the way, they provide a context for understanding individual development issues--concerns, tensions, worries or crises encountered by the self in the context of change. Awareness of these issues is most pronounced at developmental transitional points: learning to talk and walk, beginning to eat unassisted, going to school, developing secondary sexual physical features, leaving home, obtaining full-time employment, becoming engaged and then married, having a child for the first time, parenting an adolescent, watching children move away from home, retiring, experiencing decline in physical and mental health, and, finally, facing imminent death. Throughout, Balswick, King and Reimer contend that, since God has created human beings for relationship, to be a self in reciprocating relationships is of major importance in negotiating these developmental issues. Critically engaging social science research and theory, *The Reciprocating Self* offers an integrated approach that provides insight helpful to college and seminary students as well as those serving in the helping professions. Those preparing for or currently engaged in Christian ministry will be especially rewarded by the in-depth discussion of the implications for moral and faith development nurtured in the context of the life of the church.

Book Information

Paperback: 334 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic (May 28, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830827935

ISBN-13: 978-0830827930

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #296,788 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Counseling](#) #116 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Anthropology](#) #224 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling >](#)

Customer Reviews

The authors of *The Reciprocating Self* believe that "existing developmental theory lacks teleology." They say, "The purpose of *The Reciprocating Self* is to present an integrated view of human development that is based on social science research and Biblical truths. We do this by drawing on a Biblical model of relationality, where the created goal or purpose of human development is to become a reciprocating self- fully and securely related to others and God" (p. 9). This book is a treasure chest for those interested in developmental psychology. Many of the key researchers in this field, since the 1980s, have been summarized in the chapters on their life stage speciality. The book is written as an academic textbook, but it is helpful for anyone trying to understand the life stages of development from a Christian perspective. The authors note that most earlier developmental theories have been based on a naturalistic perspective, i.e., focused entirely on what humans are capable of without reference to anything theological. They point out the weakness of the naturalistic points of view and articulate a combined psychological and biblical perspective through the lens of the reciprocating self- a self which can grow as it is in positive relationship with God and others. They also have been careful to approach developmental theories from a positive, rather than a negative, point-of-view. So the book combines Bible teaching, positive psychological theory, and practical examples of people's growth and behavior at each life stage. The extensive explanation of many developmental theories, particularly as the authors explain different life stages in development, make this book very difficult to adequately excerpt.

"The *Reciprocating Self*," responds to and rejects the modern construct that sees the self as empty, the book provides "an alternative view of selfhood " the reciprocating self" (Balswick, King, & Reimer, Kindle Locations 139-140). The empty self construct returns development theories that are fragmented and lack a unifying theorem. "Developmental teleology refers to developmental completeness or a theologically informed understanding of the goal of development" (Balswick, King, & Reimer, Kindle Location 108). In "the *Reciprocating Self*," the authors progress this notion that God has a goal for our development. The baseline assumption is that we are created by God for a purpose. The authors depart from secular developmental psychology positions that understand human development to be the result of evolution, environment, or social context. Modern psychology endeavors to evaluate human behavior and human development in terms of what is normative. They seek to answer the questions, "What is

normal?â • and â œWhat is deviant?â • But extracting God from human development story creates a problem. â œThe modern project has become the modern predicament, resulting in an era of fragmented, lonely, isolated people. One of the main moves of modernity has been to displace God from the transcendent to the immanent sphere, shifting the locus of the divine from a God who is Other to impersonal forces within the human mind and will-into human subjectivityâ • (Balswick, King, & Reimer, *Kindle Locations 128-130*). Understanding who we are and who we should be begins with creation. â œSo God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created themâ • (Gen 1:27). To be human is to be shaped in Godâ™s image.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Reciprocating Self: Human Development in Theological Perspective Self-Discipline: Achieve Unbreakable Self-Discipline: How To Build Confidence, Willpower, Motivation, Self-Belief And Master Your Life!: Self control, ... Self-Confidence, Self-esteem, Organizing) Self-Love: The 21-Day Self-Love Challenge - Learn how to love yourself unconditionally, cultivate self-worth, self-compassion and self-confidence (self ... happiness) (21-Day Challenges Book 6) Self Help: How To Live In The Present Moment (Self help, Self help books, Self help books for women, Anxiety self help, Self help relationships, Present Moment, Be Happy Book 1) Personal Development: 5 Book Collection (Self Help, Personal Development, Self Development) Self Hypnosis for Beginners: The Ultimate Guide With Systematic Steps To Master Self Hypnosis (Self Hypnosis, Self hypnosis as you read, Self hypnosis diet) Self Hypnosis: The Ultimate Beginners Guide To Mastering Self Hypnosis In 7 Days (self hypnosis, self hypnosis diet, self hypnosis for dummies) US Army, Technical Manual, TM 5-4930-218-14, LUBRICATING AND SERVICING UNIT: POWER OPERATED, TRAILER MOUNTED, 15 CFM COMPRESSOR, RECIPROCATING, GASOLINE NAVY SEAL: Self Discipline: How to Become the Toughest Warrior: Self Confidence, Self Awareness, Self Control, Mental Toughness HYPNOSIS FOR WEIGHT LOSS: SELF HYPNOSIS as you read (FREE Life Mastery Bonus Toolkit Included!) (Self Hypnosis As You Read, Self Hypnosis for Beginners, ... Weight Loss, Self Hypnosis Audio Book 3) Experiencing CBT from the Inside Out: A Self-Practice/Self-Reflection Workbook for Therapists (Self-Practice/Self-Reflection Guides for Psychotherapists) Graduate Theological Education and the Human Experience of Disability Android: App Development & Programming Guide: Learn In A Day! (Android, Rails, Ruby Programming, App Development, Android App Development, Ruby Programming) Android: Programming & App Development For Beginners (Android, Rails, Ruby Programming, App Development, Android App Development) The Human Past: World Prehistory

and the Development of Human Societies (Second Edition) How To Read Human Nature: Classic Self Help Book For Understanding Human Behavior (Illustrated) Navy Seal: Self-Discipline: Greatest Lessons of The Toughest Soldiers: Self Confidence, Self Control, Mental Toughness, Resilience 10 Days To Lifetime Self-Discipline: The Fastest Path To Motivation And Willpower (Self-Confidence, Self-Belief, Strategies, Develop Discipline, Achieve your Dreams) Developing Self-Esteem: How to Overcome Fear and Anxiety and Regain Confidence - Self Help for Low Self Esteem A Father's Guide to Raising Daughters: How to Boost Her Self-Esteem, Self-Image and Self-Respect

[Dmca](#)