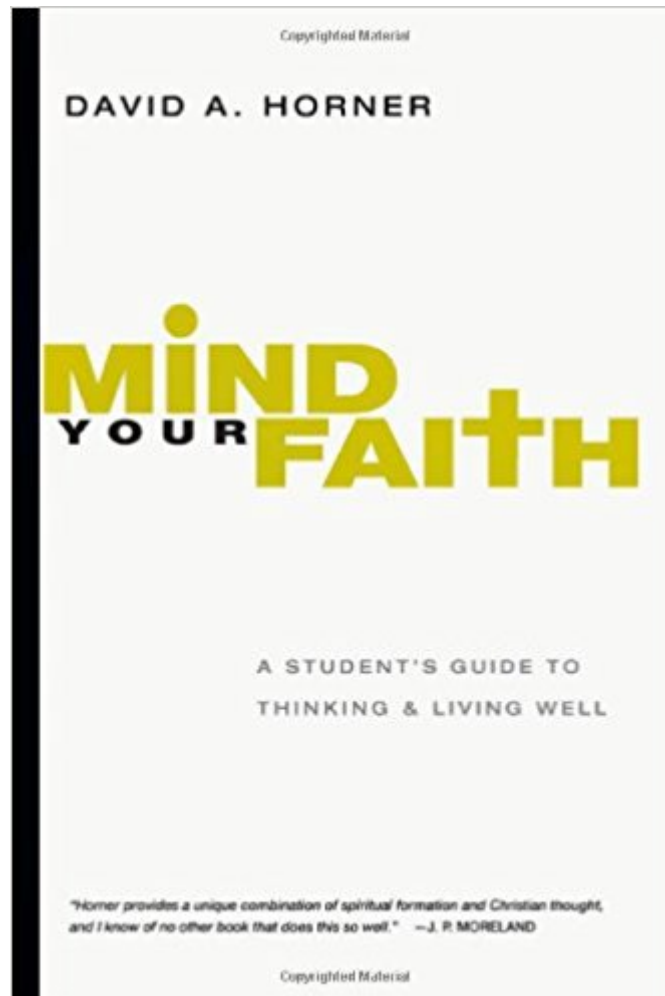




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Mind Your Faith: A Student's Guide To Thinking And Living Well



Synopsis

The university world can be a confusing place, filled with many competing worldviews and perspectives. Beliefs and values are challenged at every turn. But Christians need not slip into the morass of easy relativism. David Horner restores sanity to the collegiate experience with this guide to thinking and flourishing as a Christian. Carefully exploring how ideas work, he gives you essential tools for thinking contextually, thinking logically and thinking worldviewishly. Here Horner meets you where faith and reason intersect and explores how to handle doubts, with an eye toward not just thinking clearly but also living faithfully. This is the book every college freshman needs to read. Don't leave home without it.

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Customer Reviews

"Mind Your Faith is an excellent resource for any pastor or campus minister seeking to help their students understand why their faith is reasonable and can be trusted to guide their lives. Although written with the young Christian in mind, this book is applicable to any age, stage of life, or belief system. Wherever you stand, this book will have a profound impact on your understanding of faith and its impact on your life." (Lindy Tilus, Enrichment, Fall 2012)"This book is a deep, scholarly discussion of the intellectual and moral challenges that colleges' intellectual experiences pose to Christian faith." (Brian Simmons, The Christian Chronicle, May 2012)"More than just enabling you to sidestep the many pitfalls awaiting young Christians who enter academia, Mind Your Faith will equip you to flourish at the university in your mind, faith, and character. The clarity with which David Horner envisions a thoughtful Christian presence in the university's marketplace of ideas is what will

make this an essential read for my four children before leaving high school." (Brent Cunningham, Teaching Pastor, Timberline Church, Fort Collins, CO)"There are many excellent books on the subject of preparing students for college, but few written with the same passion, clarity and genuine concern for the life of the mind of a college student. David Horner's *Mind Your Faith* helps us understand the delicate relationship between faith and reason; that behavior follows belief and doctrine informs duty. Parents, this is the best high school graduation gift you can give to your student. Student, this is a must-read because there's simply too much at risk. Lose faith, lose your mind, and vice versa. Neither of which is good." (Harry Edwards, founder and director of Apologetics.com, Inc.)"Many Christians heading off to college are simply unprepared for the intellectual, spiritual and moral challenges that await them. Confronted with new ideas, strong desires and relational pressures, it's not surprising that so many drift away from their childhood faith. But it doesn't have to be this way! In this timely book, David Horner offers students a compelling vision of what it means to follow Jesus Christ with a mature faith during the college years and beyond. High school graduates need to read this book!" (Jonathan Morrow, author of *Welcome to College* and founder of www.thinkchristianly.org)"This is the book I have been waiting for. *Mind Your Faith* is a much-needed resource to help young people flourish as followers of Jesus in the university. I wish I had this book before I went to college! I will be personally recommending this to the many students I get to work with every day." (Sean McDowell, educator, speaker and author of *Ethix: Being Bold in a Whatever World*)"Secular universities have not only forfeited the mission of building students' wisdom, faith and character, they often work in ways contrary to these goals. David Horner offers sage advice, drawn from personal and professional experience, about how Christian students can recognize and counter these challenges and emerge from the college experience as wise Christ-followers. Parents of university-bound students should buy two copies: one for their student and one for themselves." (Steve Wilkens, professor of philosophy, Azusa Pacific University, and author of *Hidden Worldviews*)"Medieval cartographers, mapping the college years, might well have warned, 'Here be dragons!' David Horner knows the territory--and how to tame the dragons--and has offered us a wonderful guidebook. Based on his extensive experience as a minister to college students and as a college professor, Horner understands the challenges Christian students face as they enter college. But what sets his guidebook apart from many others is his unifying vision of what makes for genuine human flourishing. Mind, faith and character stand or fall together. Any student who follows Horner through these pages will have the tools to flourish in college and emerge with mind, faith and character greatly strengthened. I plan to give this book to several high schoolers I know, and I recommend you do the same." (Garrett J. DeWeese, author of

Philosophy Made Slightly Less Difficult and Doing Philosophy as a Christian)"How can the development of a faithful mind and a mindful faith lead to a virtuous character? This is not the first question Christian students are likely to ask their university to answer. But it should be. David Horner helps students--young and old--seek an answer that is based on sound reasoning and deep, faithful personal commitment to Christ. May this book live long and prosper, leading believers to thoughtful, faithful and virtuous lives." (James W. Sire, author, *The Universe Next Door*)"The opportunities for a reflective Christian student in the university are nearly endless. *Mind Your Faith* is a captivating resource that will help prospective and current students engage more carefully both with their faith and with the world of the university. Horner's analysis and applications are crystal clear and are born out of decades of experience in the academy. Every Christian student and parent ought to reflect carefully on this book." (Gregory E. Ganssle, Rivendell Institute at Yale)"*Mind Your Faith* is a feast of insights about thinking, believing and living well. Page after page one finds warm, personable, intelligent reflections about how to flourish well in the contemporary milieu. Horner provides a unique combination of spiritual formation and Christian thought, and I know of no other book that does this so well. It should be read not only by college students but also by pastors and laypersons who want to flourish with a confident faith for our times." (J. P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Biola University, and author of *The God Question*)"Dr. Horner brings a wealth of experience to this wise and winsome operating manual for godly Christian engagement on the college campus. Colleges and universities shape culture more than any other contemporary institution, and souls are saved or lost there on a daily basis. This clear, incisive and enjoyable book will equip students to develop a Christian orientation to this challenging arena that will serve them not only as they pursue their degrees but also for a lifetime of discipleship unto the Lord Jesus Christ." (Douglas Groothuis, professor, Denver Seminary, and author of *Christian Apologetics*)

David A. Horner (D.Phil., University of Oxford) is professor of philosophy and biblical studies at Biola University in California. He also serves as Research Scholar for Centers for Christian Study, International, an effort to develop intellectual Christian communities within secular university contexts, and as president of The Illuminatio Project, whose aim is to bring the light of a classical biblical vision of goodness, truth and beauty into the thinking of the church and culture through strategic research and communication.

My fellow faithies... Lol (yes I made up a word!) Do not deprive yourself of sound arguments and explanations for truth, context, types of truth, beliefs, propositions and realities. Thinking

contextually and the difference between beliefs and knowledge, fideism and rationalism (and how we needn't exist in either extreme). Tolerance and TRUE tolerance (all ideas are not created equally) Worldviews: God (exists or doesn't?) One or many? Personal or non personal? Jesus or no Jesus? Well.. There be the list.... Enjoy! And read this book! College students or anyone who wants to better form a foundation that incorporates many ideas that indeed form the belief system and surround it :)

I am not a scholar or somebody who teaches college students. But I did spend seven years at two secular universities, and I'm familiar with what passes for "established truth" in an environment that can be hostile to those who won't embrace relativism, naturalism and Darwinism. We need some effective intellectual ammunition to process the baloney being dished out liberally by many professors and students on college campuses. In *Mind Your Faith*, Dr. Horner has provided a munitions depot of logically rigorous, but very readable, ammo to help students think clearly, that they may stand strong and confident against illogical dogma. This should not be just a defensive strategy; we need to take the intellectual contest to the other side. There are a lot of sections in the book to like, but one of my favorites deals with the fallacy of "scientism," a metaphysical belief system held by many educational elites that says we should accept as valid truth only what can be physically seen and measured, only that which can be tested by scientific methodology. Horner offers some great insights. If you happen to disagree about some of these issues, you'll find this book to be a rational discussion that will challenge you in an amicable way. In fact, Horner devotes considerable attention to the process of meaningful debate and engaging with those who share a view that is different than yours. The book provides a fine analysis of the logical and philosophical foundation that is needed for us to develop a sensible worldview, to guide our decisions in life. Some worldviews really do stand up better to scrutiny than others and the author suggests we not be afraid to evaluate our own views critically. The bottom line is a paradigm where reason is in synch with faith, not the enemy of faith. A robust faith is not afraid of being exposed to critical thinking. This book presents an explanation of the building blocks needed to grow in our faith, and how this plays out in the way we live. Although targeted towards students in college, most of this material is invaluable for anyone who wants to live well a life of faith.

"For a follower of Jesus the pursuit of a university education should be seen as a positive, exciting endeavor, not something to be endured or escaped. It is to be loved rather than feared." Another addition to my faith in higher education library is *Mind Your Faith* by David Horner. A Christian

university professor educated in the secular environment, Horner clearly sees how many universities have given up on teaching meaning and spirituality and how many Christians - who attend faith-based or secular universities - decide to separate their faith and intellect during college. Faith and reason are not meant to be disconnected; reason does not undermine faith and faith does not abolish reason. We are meant to use our God-given minds to support our faith and worship our Lord. Horner frequently discusses the prophet Daniel a great example of man who faced many challenges at "Babylon University" yet met every temptation with a strong faith and educated mind. Additionally, Horner walks us through a course in philosophy, assisting the reader in debunking commonly held perspectives such as relativism. Though I was not amazed by the book, I think *Mind Your Faith* is a respectable book about the role of mind and faith. Education should be of utmost importance to a follower of Christ, because Christ made it all. I especially enjoyed his constant commendations to community. "Communities are made of relationships that gives us models, hold us accountable, encourage us, comfort us and provide us opportunities for ministry."

I bought this book after it was discussed on 'Stand to Reason'. My original idea was to buy the book for my son as he will be heading off to University this Autumn. I thought I'd read it first and then pass it on to him to read so we could discuss it. It didn't take too many pages for me to realise my son, who is not an avid reader anyway, was never going to make it through this book. My 'new' plan is to finish it up, show it to him and explain the main points to him and see if he might at least browse through those -- in short, I think he'll find it too hard going. The book is a good read for someone with a philosophical bent and it makes very convincing arguments, but it is more suited as teaching material for parents and youth leaders than for handing out to young students to read on their own. I absolutely recommend it as a resource for anyone interested in helping prepare young people for college or working with anyone struggling to rationalise faith and reason.

At a time when being a Christian is thought of as fairly irrational, Dr. Horner allows us to dig deeper into the irrationality of naturalism, pantheism, and, in general, just fuzzy thinking. This is a must read for high school students who are about to enter the rarified air of the university. It will especially cause headaches for professors who blithely spout formula-istic naturalism without any real thought as to what they are saying. Naturalists and nihilists beware!

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