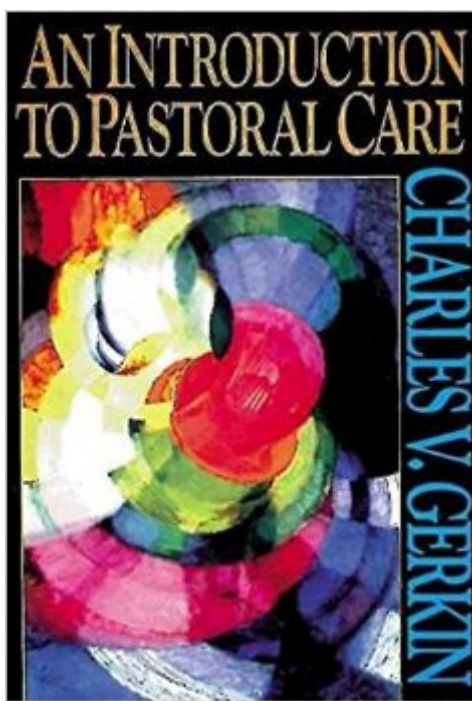


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# An Introduction To Pastoral Care



## Synopsis

"With generative wisdom, Gerkin moves beyond the predominance of the psychotherapeutic paradigm in pastoral care to a dynamic, interactive process which balances faith, culture, community, and individual well-being. . . . Gerkin's history of pastoral care is skillful. . . . His analysis of the current transitions in the field of care will make this book a classic."--Jeanne Stevenson Moessner, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, and the Georgia Association for Pastoral Care

"Out of the abundance of his many years as a pastoral caregiver and theologian, Gerkin introduces readers to the history, theory, and practice of pastoral care. This book represents the best of Protestant liberal pastoral theology and fills a long-standing gap. . . . The narrative-hermeneutical paradigm which Gerkin offers holds and works with many of the complexities of pastoral care in postmodern times."--Carrie Doehring, School of Theology, Boston University

"Gerkin's Introduction to Pastoral Care breaks new ground for an introductory text in its emphasis on care as 'the central metaphor of life in the Christian community.' Thus the scope is much larger than the more usual focus only on individual and family needs. He is deeply sensitive to both individual and community dimensions through his quadrilateral nexus of tradition, individuals and family, community, and cultural context."--James N. Lapsley, Princeton Theological Seminary

"The formula appears simple: take the very best of pastoral care theory and research of the past, build upon it the best of contemporary literature and practice in the pastoral arts and sciences, season it with rich experiences of a pioneer in the pastoral care, counseling, and education movement, and you have a solid bridge to the 21st century. Gerkin has proven the formula. . . . [Gerkin] articulates a pastoral care for the 21st century."--Orlo C. Strunk, Jr., Pastoral Psychotherapist at The Coastal Samaritan Center, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I expected a book that would introduce me to the nuances and "how-to" of pastoral care. However, this book is more about the socio-historical context in which modern pastoral care emerged. Like some others have mentioned, it is full of jargon, and, in my opinion, seems to be written as a magnum opus of the author. As such, it is very dense and seems to be an exercise in flexing the intellectual muscles of its author. Don't get this book if you are looking to understand how to do pastoral care (I would recommend "Strategic Pastoral Counseling" for that). DO get this book if you are looking for how the role and means of pastoral care have evolved over time.

If you are interested in learning more about what "Pastoral Care" is; how it has been practiced in the past; and how it might adapt itself to the challenges of our own time, this book is the place to begin your study. I appreciated the historical overview as well as the insightful theological rationale presented by the author. I would have given the book five stars except that in several instances the author lapses into barely muffled episodes of conservative-bashing (e.g., he criticizes the so-called "religious right" without ever calling into question the equally misguided "religious left").

Very educational book and gives me a reference to check back with if I have a question. Also backs up what I feel is a good way to handle things. And gives clearer way to word things so I don't sound as harsh and gives scriptures to reference like having the author on call to answer questions. Glad I got it. School recommended it and I'm glad I followed the recommendation. My Pastor approves too.

I came upon this book as a doctoral student -- after extensive, intensive experiences over years doing pastoral care in clinical settings. Charles Gerkin has written much about pastoral care, and in this late volume, as a professor emeritus, it is as though "all his wanderings" have brought him to where he started out, to a book that sees clearly the basics of pastoral connection and a theology that undergirds them.

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