

# Practical Approaches to Dealing With Evil and Human Wickedness

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WELCOME TO A new Section of the journal which we have adventurously entitled 'Practical Approaches to Dealing with Evil and Human Wickedness. The title is designed to reflect a number of perspectives and insights which the editorial team feel needs sharper focus in the continual wrestling with all things evil. These perspectives are, in one sense, reports 'from the field'; in other words, they are reflections from people actively engaged in responding to and coping with evil on a daily basis. As such they develop the model of the reflective practitioner in bringing experience and critical reflection into some measure of unity when seeking to understand the evil that is being confronted.

It is easy, in the professionalization of reflection on themes such as evil and human wickedness, to lose sight of the fact that the driving force of the perennial interest in them has always been the concerns of individuals and the necessity of dealing with these concerns in everyday life. The new section will focus on issues and themes meant to encourage informed dialogue on world-wide issues and trends related to practical aspects of dealing with evil, wickedness, and suffering. The emphasis, as in the rest of the journal, is on creativity and innovation in wrestling with the practical problems raised by evil and human wickedness.

The emphasis on inter- and multi-disciplinary work naturally remains centre stage. Perspectives are sought from practitioners in fields such as criminology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and theology. These practices could include individual and group counseling, consulting, advising, mediation, and conflict resolution. Submissions are sought from those working in the caring professions, the media, prison services, the military, NGO's, charities, religious ministry, politics, law, business and industry, psychiatry and other professional and vocational areas. Those working in education, including higher education, are also invited to

contribute reflections addressing practical issues of evil and human wickedness in academe, and relate them to academic practice in daily life.

We are looking for a variety of ways to present these perspectives to our readers. We will consider, among other things, essays, articles, case studies, interactive discussions, and other appropriate modes of reflection and dialogue that offer practical insights on the problems people encounter when dealing with evil and wickedness.

For our first installment, we have one article reflecting on forgiveness by a practitioner in the newly emerging field of philosophical counseling. In this article the author, Ross Reed, considers ten aspects of the issue of forgiveness from the standpoint of a victim of some kind of personal violation, and from the standpoint of a counselor helping the victim to work through issues related to the violation. He presents a view that forgiving the perpetrator is not necessary for healing, and that sometimes forgiveness may not be desirable or even a necessary condition for reconciliation.