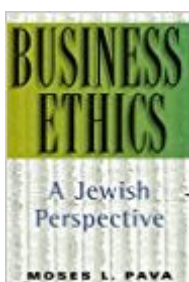


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Business Ethics: A Jewish Perspective (Library Of Jewish Law And Ethics)



Book Information

Series: Library of Jewish Law and Ethics (Book 21)

Hardcover: 206 pages

Publisher: Ktav Pub Inc (August 25, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0881255823

ISBN-13: 978-0881255829

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,885,397 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Law](#) #3680 in [Books > Business & Money > Business Culture > Ethics](#) #69154 in [Books > Business & Money > Management & Leadership](#)

Customer Reviews

In the twenty-first volume of the Yeshiva University/ KTAV Library of Jewish Law and Ethics, a Yeshiva University professor explains the relevance and applicability of Judaism's religious law and moral vision to the realities of the businessperson's practical life. Pava divides the book into three parts. Part 1 discusses why people often fail at business ethics and how they might succeed. Part 2 discusses the goals, substance, and method of Jewish business ethics. Part 3 examines corporate social responsibility and the use of inside information. Pava interprets classical Jewish writings in light of our contemporary business world. In a society where ethics seems to be a concept of the past, businessmen and businesswomen, Jews and non-Jews alike, could benefit from Pava's keen insights and practical approach. George Cohen

In this little book, the author tries to answer the following questions:1. What's unique about Jewish business ethics, as opposed to secular or utilitarian ethics? Pava addresses three unique principles in Jewish law: (1) the notion of differing levels of responsibility to the needy (that is, that one's obligations to family, employees, etc. take priority over faraway obligations); (2) the principle against "acting in the ways of Sodom"- that one has a duty not to take a maximum profit if another gains and the profit-taker does not lose; and (3) the idea of "acting beyond the letter of the law" (i.e. moral obligations beyond legal requirements).2. How is Jewish business ethics relevant to a world which is not Jewish? Pava admits that specific Jewish legal rules are not binding upon non-Jews; however,

the broader, aspirational values underlying these rules are useful to all businesses because they are "noncoercive, universal and speak directly to current problems." But it seems to me that there is a trade-off involved: the more distinctive Jewish ethics are, the less universal (and thus the less useful to the broader business world) they might be.

This book provides an excellent introduction to basic principles of Jewish ethics which still have relevance to modern business activity. It contrasts the Jewish approach to business ethics with various secular theories. There is a very cogent defense of corporate social responsibility based on Jewish legal principles. The book, which is very clear and well-written, demonstrates the continuing importance and creativity of Jewish law for both Jewish and non-Jewish managers.

This book was fascinating and dealt with several ethical issues in depth. This was not a halakah book of short answers, but rather more of a discussion.

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