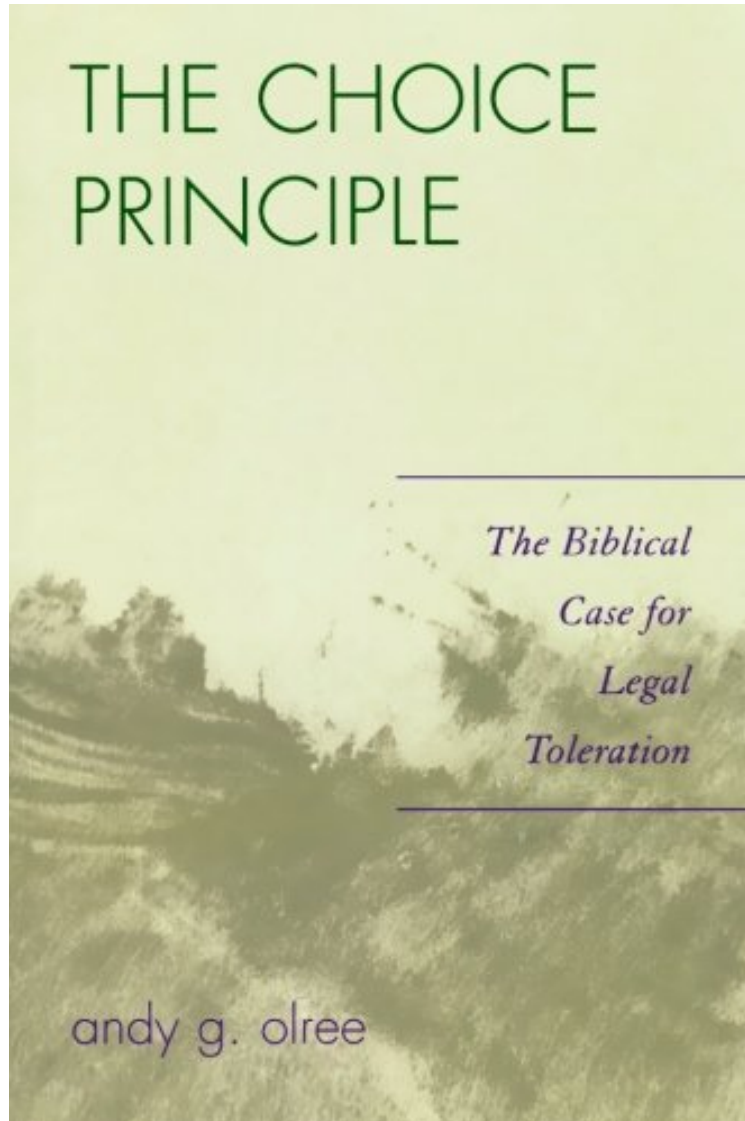


[Free pdf] The Choice Principle: The Biblical Case for Legal Toleration

The Choice Principle: The Biblical Case for Legal Toleration

Andy G. Olree

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Andy G. Olree : The Choice Principle: The Biblical Case for Legal Toleration before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Choice Principle: The Biblical Case for Legal Toleration:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Important convincing analysis of church-state relationship By ScurvyOaks If you take biblical authority seriously and are interested in how Christians should interact with the civil authorities, this is a must-read. Prof. Olree, an evangelical, provides a biblically based critique of the positions

concerning the role of government taken by most American evangelicals on both the political right and the political left. The book contains insightful analysis and reaches conclusions that I think are generally correct. The reason I give it 4 stars instead of 5 is that this book might have benefited from greater prepublication input from others. The author really labors a couple of points and includes a few bad arguments and a few other weak ones. He also doesn't place as much emphasis as he might on some arguments that provide strong support for his conclusions. I hope Prof. Olree will continue to write on these themes, with even greater persuasive effect.

The Choice Principle presents an evangelical Christian argument for a legal framework that tolerates most sinful choices by individuals, forbidding only those acts that directly victimize others. Many vocal evangelicals have assumed that Christians who take the Bible seriously and hew to moral absolutes should support laws forbidding sin. Most, however, are unwilling to outlaw all sins. Which sins should be legally tolerated and which outlawed? Are the reasons biblical or merely pragmatic? The Choice Principle confronts these crucial questions head-on, proposing an alternative interpretation of Scripture that views government as God's instrument to punish victimizers and expand human autonomy. Grounded in legal theory, moral philosophy, and excerpts from the Bible and Christian theological texts, this timely work concludes that Christianity, particularly an evangelical commitment to the authority of Scripture, need not logically entail government endorsement of religious truths or legislation of any particular view of what constitutes a virtuous life.

About the Author Andy Olree is Associate Professor of Law at Faulkner University's Jones School of Law. He earned his J.D. at the University of Chicago Law School.