



The Logic of the Heart: Augustine, Pascal, and the Rationality of Faith

James R. Peters

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The Logic of the Heart sets forth a case for the rationality of the Christian faith. As such, it is a unique exercise in philosophical apologetics and an ambitious project to restore passionate reason to Christianity. To accomplish his aim, philosopher James Peters carefully analyzes the thought of Augustine and Blaise Pascal. Even more interesting, he employs the writings of skeptic David Hume as a backdrop to this analysis to show the importance of harmonizing the head and the heart in matters of faith. Peters ultimately finds the balance between the Enlightenment's overemphasis on human autonomy and reason alone and postmodernism's espousal of the creation of reality and interpretive freedom. It is the proper use of reason--guided by the human heart--that truly locates and embeds humans in the world and helps them to live wisely.

"With a clarity seldom achieved, Peters draws on the work of unlikely allies--Hume, Pascal, and Augustine--in defense of the rationality of Christian convictions. Interestingly enough, it turns out our faith depends for its reasons on the love of God. This is an important book that hopefully will be widely read."--**Stanley Hauerwas**, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics, Duke University Divinity School

"Peters's *Logic of the Heart* is the 'missing link' in contemporary discussions of epistemology, and as such, it stands to make a significant contribution to the literature in philosophy of religion, and religious epistemology in particular, while also introducing students to key figures in the history of philosophy."--**James K. A. Smith**, associate professor of philosophy, Calvin College; author, *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?*

"Right from the start it became instantly clear to me that *The Logic of the Heart's* argument is timely, unique, and structurally ingenious. Frankly, Peters's reading of Hume from his constructive Augustinian-Pascalian position is flat-out brilliant."--**Creston Davis**, assistant professor of religion, Rollins College; coeditor, *Theology and the Political*

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