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“Michael Perry is clearly one of our best and most prolific legal scholars, and *The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy* is one of his finest books. Not the least strength of this volume is the way Perry artfully performs what he commends to us. The thoughtful, challenging arguments Perry offers teach us in the doing how Perry would have us conduct our political arguments with one another.”

– Milner S. Ball, *Harmon W. Caldwell Chair Emeritus in Constitutional Law, University of Georgia*

“This book is the capstone of Professor Perry’s long and fruitful engagement with the difficult question of how religion should inform lawmaking in a liberal democracy. As a political liberal who belongs to a culturally conservative religion, I have found Professor Perry’s work both intellectually enlightening and personally meaningful. *The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy* is an excellent work that forces one out of reflexive responses to religion in politics.”

– Frederick Mark Gedicks, *Guy Anderson Chair & Professor of Law, Brigham Young University*

“*The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy* is a focused, original, and important contribution to the discussion of religion and liberal democracy. Perry focuses on two of the most controversial cases in current debate: abortion and same-sex unions; and he offers a theoretical account of liberal democracy that reframes the terms in which those debates should be conducted. The argument of the book is clear and compelling.”

– Robin W. Lovin, *Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics, Southern Methodist University*

“This is vintage Michael Perry. He addresses a big, fundamental, and timely issue: What are the moral convictions that should govern legislation and policy in a liberal democracy? He discusses the topic with verve, clarity, wide scope, and astounding learning; and both formulates general rules and analyzes specific cases. If you have been unsettled by attacks over the past several decades on our form of government, *The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy* is the book to read to quiet your doubts.”

– Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology, Yale University*

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The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy

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The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy

Michael J. Perry

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In this important new work in political and constitutional theory, Michael J. Perry elaborates and defends an account of the political morality of liberal democracy: the moral convictions and commitments that in a liberal democracy should govern decisions about what laws to enact and what policies to pursue. The fundamental questions addressed in this book concern (1) the grounding, (2) the content, (3) the implications for one or another moral controversy, and (4) the judicial enforcement of the political morality of liberal democracy. The particular issues discussed include whether government may ban previability abortion, whether government may refuse to extend the benefit of law to same-sex couples, and what role religion should play in the politics and law of a liberal democracy.