



RICHARD HAYS



Richard B. Hays, Dean and the George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School, is internationally recognized for his work on the letters of Paul and on New Testament ethics. His scholarly work has bridged the disciplines of biblical criticism and literary studies, exploring the innovative ways in which early Christian writers interpreted Israel's Scripture. Hays has focused on New Testament theology and ethics, the Pauline epistles, and early Christian interpretation of the Old Testament. He received his Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and his Ph.D. from Emory University.

In the field of New Testament Studies, Hays has often been identified with figures such as N.T. Wright, Luke Timothy Johnson, and Raymond Brown. Some of his studies surround the narrative interpretation of Scripture, the New Testament's use of the Old Testament, the subjective genitive reading of *pistis Christou* ("faith(fulness) of Christ") in Paul, and the role of community in the New Testament. Hays is well known for his criticisms of the Jesus Seminar and the modern Historical Jesus movement. He has also been vocal about his criticisms of Dan Brown's best-selling *The Da Vinci Code* for its controversial historical claims.

His book *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: Community, Cross, New Creation* was selected by *Christianity Today* as one of the 100 most important religious books of the twentieth century. His most recent books are *The Art of Reading Scripture* (2003, co-edited with Ellen Davis), *The Conversion of the Imagination* (2005), *Seeking the Identity of Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (2008, co-edited with Beverly Roberts Gaventa), and *Revelation and the Politics of Apocalyptic Interpretation* (2012, co-edited with Stefan Alkier).

Professor Hays has lectured widely in North America, Europe, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong. An ordained United Methodist minister, he has preached in settings ranging from rural Oklahoma churches to London's Westminster Abbey. He has chaired the Pauline Epistles Section of the Society of Biblical Literature, as well as the Seminar on New Testament Ethics in the Society for New Testament Studies, and has served on the editorial boards of several leading scholarly journals.

As a theologically conservative Methodist throughout the course of his career, he has remained committed to his Wesleyan roots in emphasizing the importance of charity and friendship in the Christian life. Moreover, Hays is a committed pacifist and makes his position clear in *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, in which he argues that Jesus Christ taught his disciples to be non-violent.