

“Boyd Blundell calls readers to create a narrative unity of life amidst the incommensurabilities of everyday existence. With deft skill, he integrates biblical criticism, philosophical commentary, and theological insight, showing how the construction of narrative identity is elucidated by Ricoeur’s philosophy of the intersubjective self. Innovative, invigorating, beautifully written, carefully researched, and highly recommended.”

—Mark Wallace, Swarthmore College

Paul Ricoeur (1913–2005) remains one of philosophy of religion’s most distinctive voices. Ricoeur was a philosopher first, and while his religious reflections are very relevant to theology, Boyd Blundell argues that his philosophy is even more so. Using Ricoeur’s own philosophical hermeneutics, Blundell shows that there is a way for explicitly Christian theology to maintain both its integrity and overall relevance. He demonstrates how the dominant pattern of detour and return found throughout Ricoeur’s work provides a path to understanding the relationship between philosophy and theology. By putting Ricoeur in dialogue with current, fundamental, and longstanding debates about the role of philosophy in theology, Blundell offers a hermeneutically sensitive engagement with Ricoeur’s thought from a theological perspective.

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Merold Westphal, editor