



Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life As a Christian Calling

By JAMES W. SIRE

InterVarsity Press September 2000, 2000. Paper Back. Book Condition: New. Opening to Sire's first chapter -- "Confessions of an Intellectual Wannabe" -- gives you an inkling that you're in the hands of an honest man. Proceeding through other chapters that explore John Henry Newman as a prime exemplar of what an intellectual looks like, and yet others that refine that image by detailing the disciplines and virtues necessary to it -- you know that Sire is no longer a "wannabe," but has achieved true intellectual-hood (as if that mattered to him anymore). He is the best sort of intellectual, accessibly integrating the dimensions of reason, virtue, and imagination while opening doors to dozens of writers and thinkers you'll want to explore in more detail -- Newman, Sertillanges, Mark Noll, Os Guinness, Michael Polanyi, Leszek Kolakowski, Mortimer Adler, Jean LeClercq among them. Perhaps the most winsome aspect of Sire's essay is the way he constantly points you toward his teachers and mentors, and away from himself. Intellectual wannabes and oughta-wannabes, line up here.

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