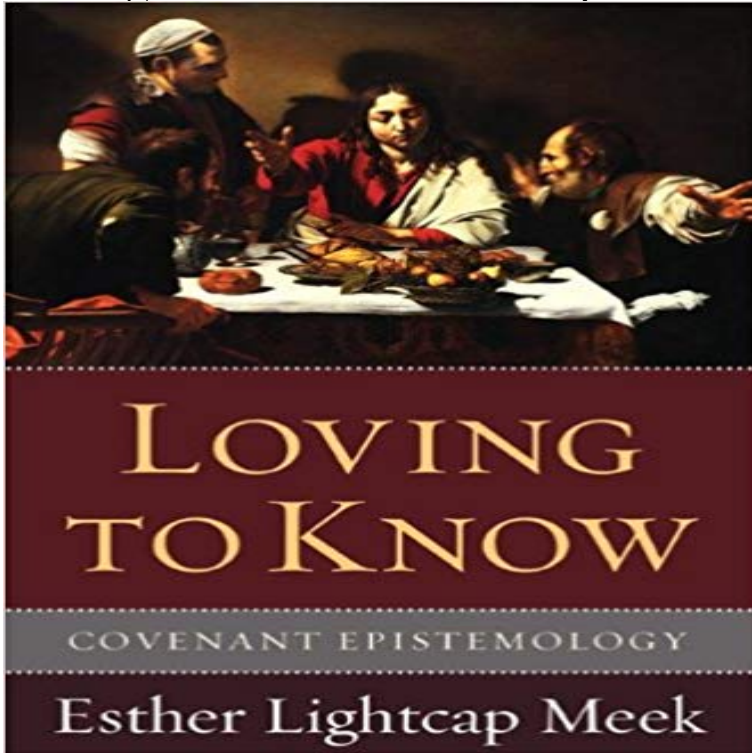


Loving to Know: Covenant Epistemology



Knowing is less about information and more about transformation; less about comprehension and more about being apprehended. This radical book develops the notion of covenant epistemology--an innovative, biblically compatible, holistic, embodied, life-shaping epistemological vision in which all knowing takes the shape of interpersonal, covenantal relationship. Rather than knowing in order to love, we love in order to know. Meek argues that all knowing is best understood as transformative encounter. Creatively blending insights from a diverse range of conversation partners--including Michael Polanyi, Michael D. Williams, Lesslie Newbigin, Parker Palmer, John Macmurray, Martin Buber, and James Loder--Meek offers critically needed epistemological therapy in response to the pervasive and damaging presumptions that those in Western culture continue to bring to efforts to know. The book's innovative approach--an unfolding journey of discovery-through-dialogue--itself subverts standard epistemological presumptions of timeless linearity. While it offers a sustained and sophisticated philosophical argument, *Loving to Know*'s texts and textures interweave loosely to effect therapeutic epistemic transformation in the reader. Nobody acquainted with philosophical epistemology would associate it with eloquence or passion. So *Loving to Know* is extraordinary, because this is epistemology presented with both eloquence and passion, addressed to the person on the street but at the same time raising issues that professional philosophers should take account of. In a most creative way, Professor Meek takes Michael Polanyi's epistemology, which she perceptively and lucidly summarizes, into new terrain. She argues that to come to know as we ought to come to know is to keep covenant. It is to be faithful both to the known and to oneself, the knower. So

take and read. And when you do, you will learn that how the book came about is itself an example of the theory, as is the innovative structure of the discussion. The formation and presentation of the theory display the theory.--Nicholas Wolterstorff
Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology
Yale University
Esther Meek has given a good gift in *Loving to Know*, continuing her lifelong reflections on a more human and truthful understanding of knowledge. Drawing on the best of scholarship, she is her own scholar too, offering a unique vision of a covenant epistemology, a way of knowing that is deeply personal and responsible, because it is profoundly relational. A book for every one of us, as we take up the most perennial of human questions, viz. what will we do with what we know?--Steven Garber
Director
The Washington Institute
Loving to Know is a marvelous follow-up to Meek's *Longing to Know*. Like her earlier work, this is clearly the work of a masterful, compassionate teacher inviting a wide audience to reflect on the nature of knowledge. Here is epistemology for the people, so to speak. In the process, through a rich set of conversation partners, Meek puts her own stamp on a Reformed epistemology that makes love and covenant central to our account of knowing. An excellent achievement.--James K.A. Smith
Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College
Esther Lightcap Meek is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Geneva College in Western PA. She is also the author of *Longing to Know: The Philosophy of Knowledge for Ordinary People* (2003).

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