

The Ethics of Usury

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Reviews

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(Joanie Hamill I)

THE ETHICS OF USURY



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The Latimer Trust, United Kingdom, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand ******. Against the background of the current financial crisis and astonishing levels of personal debt, it would be impossible to argue that the practice of lending and borrowing money at interest is always morally acceptable. Is the biblical answer simply to say No to the practice of lending and borrowing money at interest? It would be fair to say that for the major part of church history the mainstream view has been strongly against it. However, something has clearly changed. Christians today happily take out mortgages and keep their money in banks which then lend at interest to others. Christians may even personally profit from the lending of money at interest. Is this change of attitude a humane ethical evolution, regardless of what the Scriptures say? And, if so, can the same principle then be applied to other ethical issues? Or should we attack the contemporary moral laxity of Christians on this issue, and call for a return to the prohibition? Or might there be a different answer? Ben Cooper is Minister for Training at Christ Church Fulwood in Sheffield. Before training for ordained ministry, he was a post-doctoral research fellow in economic theory at Nuffield College, Oxford. He is married to Catherine and has three children, Lizzy, Samuel and Naomi. He is author of Must God Punish Sin (Latimer Study 62, 2006) and Paul in 3D: Preaching Paul as Pastor, Story-teller and Sage (Latimer Study 68, 2008).



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