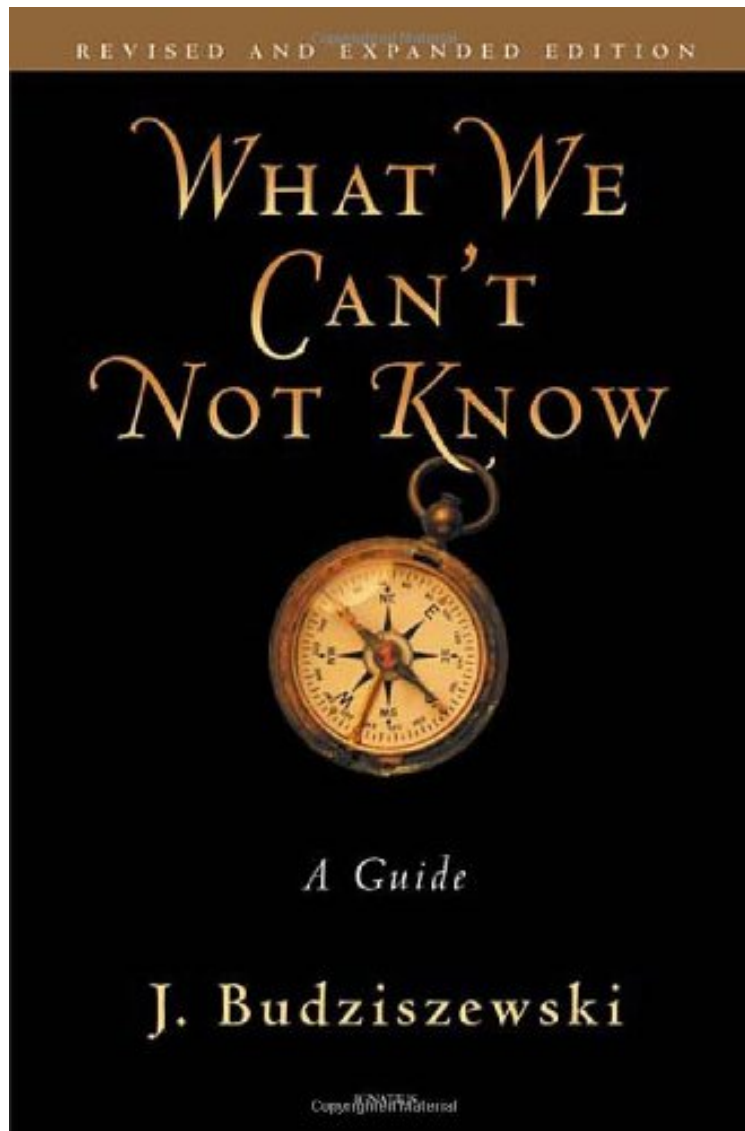


## What We Can't Not Know: A Guide

*J. Budziszewski*

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**J. Budziszewski : What We Can't Not Know: A Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What We Can't Not Know: A Guide:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Incredible BookBy Luke PliskaI am an avid reader and as a Christian this is probably my favorite book that I have read thus far. Budziszewski states that 'The Abolition of Man' is the best modern work on natural law. While Lewis is incredible I do not think that Budziszewski gives himself enough credit as 'What We Can't Not Know' is a masterpiece. I have recommended this book to friends and family members, all of which have had nothing but good things to say about it.I would strongly recommend anyone interested in natural

law theory to check this book out. Budziszewski also does an excellent job of presenting complex subjects in a very easy to understand fashion. Incredible book by an incredible author!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What everyone should knowBy D.It's amazing and frightening how we suppress, ignore and myopically treat what we can't not know. Yet here's an author who loudly and clearly in the public square is saying "wrong direction", "turn back now", and "wake-up everybody". Only fools ignore what they should know.We've all heard the cry that our country is in decline, can't get it's act together, morally confused, etc. This book provides an explanation for how we've gotten into such a mess and how to bring ourselves out of it. For those who would disagree, they might take a look in the rearview mirror.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. What we can't not knowBy CustomerI found this to be a well organized and written, highly readable argument for the existence of absolute values of right and wrong that are embedded in the conscience of every human being. The author uses the Ten Commandments to express those absolute values. He clearly explains the effects of denying those values on individuals and our society.Readers who buy into political correctness about homosexual conduct, abortion and other fashionable no-longer-regarded-as-sinful behaviors will be seriously offended by his straightforward rejection of such conduct. Those who struggle with the contrasts between the politically correct moral fashions of the day and the urgings of their consciences will find good reasons to listen to their consciences. Those who accept behavioral guidance from their consciences will find powerful affirmations of their beliefs.

Revised and Expanded EditionIn this new revised edition of his groundbreaking work, Professor J. Budziszewski questions the modern assumption that moral truths are unknowable. With clear and logical arguments he rehabilitates the natural law tradition and restores confidence in a moral code based upon human nature.What We Can't Not Know explains the rational foundation of what we all really know to be right and wrong and shows how that foundation has been kicked out from under western society. Having gone through stages of atheism and nihilism in his own search for truth, Budziszewski understands the philosophical and personal roots of moral relativism. With wisdom born of both experience and rigorous intellectual inquiry, he offers a firm foothold to those who are attempting either to understand or to defend the reasonableness of traditional morality.While natural law bridges the chasms that can be caused by religious and philosophical differences, Budziszewski believes that natural law theory has entered a new phase, in which theology will again have pride of place. While religious belief might appear to hamper the search for common ground, Budziszewski demonstrates that it is not an obstacle, but a pathway to apprehending universal norms of behavior.

From Publishers WeeklyOnce upon a time, Budziszewski contends, a common moral ground existed so that all cultures could agree on moral absolutes. In contemporary society, however, such mutual ground has given way to shifting moral sands and new "situational" ethics. According to Budziszewski, an associate professor of government and philosophy at the University of Texas, none of these new systems offers strong moral foundations. Very simply, he argues, we all have deep inside us a moral regulator-our conscience-that tells us right from wrong. This conscience is part of our human nature, and the law that it writes on our hearts is the natural law of God. Thus, contends Budziszewski, we all know it's wrong to murder, steal, lie, commit adultery or have abortions because our conscience tells us so. No matter how we justify cheating on a spouse, he argues that "we can't not know" the activity is wrong. Budziszewski finds fault with every ethical system but his own because they fail to account for this natural, absolute law written in our hearts. He also egregiously misrepresents certain philosophical positions to make his case. He mistakenly presents utilitarianism, for example, as an ethical system guided by the principle of pleasure instead of emphasizing utilitarianism's focus on the greatest good for the greatest number. Despite his tendency to make straw men out of the systems he opposes, Budziszewski passionately and polemically challenges what he sees as the moral shortcomings of contemporary society. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistAccording to the natural law, a concept Christianity adopted and modified from Greek and Roman philosophy, knowledge of God's existence and of fundamental moral principles constitutes humanity's universal common sense. It isn't innate, however, but must be inculcated through traditional moral systems, such as the Tao, the dharma, and the Ten Commandments. Budziszewski invokes the last as best known to most of his potential readers and cites Judaic and Christian scripture, yet this is no religious tract but a philosophical exposition and a disputation on current moral attitudes and issues, especially abortion. Framing the entire presentation in terms of a lost world of moral consensus, Budziszewski says the natural law grounds a rational worldview that has been discredited by sin and guilt, and displaced by worldviews grounded in sensation (he is particularly cogent on the varieties of modern atheistic or agnostic feelings). But the natural law weltanschauung could be reestablished, and Budziszewski concludes his superb "guide" with broad advice on how to do so (for one thing, "we must repent abortion"). Ray OlsonCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Budziszewski passionately and polemically challenges what he sees as the moral shortcomings of contemporary society." -- Publishers Weekly"Superb" -- Booklist"What We Can't Not Know is a must-read for those concerned about the state of American culture." -- Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship Ministries"powerful tool in the

hands of preachers who want to speak effectively to the moral crisis which grips our culture." --Preaching Magazine