The Ethical Process: An Approach to Disagreements and Controversial Issues
by Marvin T. Brown.

Reviewed by David W. Gill  www.ethixbiz.com

Marvin Brown teaches business ethics at the University of San Francisco and has consulted for various organizations. He recently designed an ethics training program for the California State Automobile Association. In addition to The Ethical Process he is author of a longer study, Working Ethics (Jossey-Bass, 1990).

The Ethical Process, has gone into a third edition for good reason. It is a very insightful little one-volume ethics education, especially for business and technology leaders who may have never studied the field. The Ethical Process is not a comprehensive approach to values and ethics but rather a focus on ethical discussion and decision-making in the face of controversy. Brown's "ethical process" teaches us to put our disagreements boldly on the table, listen to each other more carefully, explore the reasons and assumptions behind our different positions, and look for ways of modifying our proposals to be more inclusive of each other's insights and, thus, stronger.

Workbooks and manuals are often not the most exciting reading but here is a hundred page workbook that at least somebody in every organization should buy and study. I have read hundreds of books on business ethics. This one is a keeper.