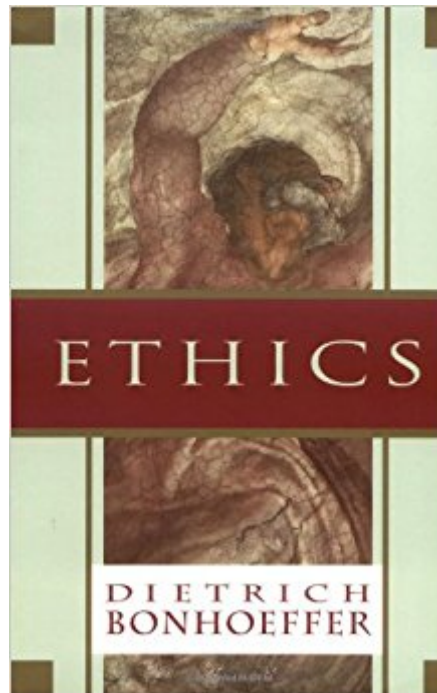


The book was found

Ethics



Synopsis

From one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century, > is the seminal reinterpretation of the role of Christianity in the modern, secularized world. The Christian does not live in a vacuum, says the author, but in a world of government, politics, labor, and marriage. Hence, Christian ethics cannot exist in a vacuum; what the Christian needs, claims Dietrich Bonhoeffer, is concrete instruction in a concrete situation. Although the author died before completing his work, this book is recognized as a major contribution to Christian ethics. The root and ground of Christian ethics, the author says, is the reality of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. This reality is not manifest in the Church as distinct from the secular world; such a juxtaposition of two separate spheres, Bonhoeffer insists, is a denial of God's having reconciled the whole world to himself in Christ. On the contrary, God's commandment is to be found and known in the Church, the family, labor, and government. His commandment permits man to live as man before God, in a world God made, with responsibility for the institutions of that world.

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Customer Reviews

Life He is admired by people as the example of what a modern Christian must be.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in Breslau in 1906. The son of a famous German psychiatrist, he studied in Berlin and New York City. He left the safety of America to return to Germany and continue his public repudiation of the Nazis, which led to his arrest in 1943. Linked to the group of conspirators whose attempted assassination of Hitler failed, he was hanged in April 1945.

ALL ETHICS ORIGINATES IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. Therefore, even our good is evil because we have become autonomous, like god but not God and it is the loss of God and the loss of knowing only the good, God's good, that impoverishes our soul and that of all men. This loss is a disunity with God, ourselves and our fellow man. Jesus Christ said that if the light that is in us is darkness, how great (there are degrees and magnitudes) is that darkness. This book destroys all presumptuous and evil assumptions of ethics and points us back to our origins before the fall of man when everything was in unity in God (Christ) and Christ is the center of our lives and we are in Christ and He in us. I can attest without any qualification that this book is one of the very best for the serious Christian who desires a closer and more fruitful fellowship with the Savior (The Bible being the one indispensable book above all others). If ever a book was needed for the 21 Century, this is the one. If Dr. Bonhoeffer can walk-the-walk in totalitarian evil Nazi Germany (and he did to the end) this book, with the Bible of course, arm the Christian for what lies just ahead, including persecution and possible martyrdom for Christ.

The Christian's unity with Christ frees the Christian from all considerations and judgments of personal good and evil (which is the common focus of ethics). The Christian is called to be single-mindedly devoted to the will of God and lose himself in Christ. ("Christ in us is our hope of glory.") (See Romans 6:1-14) Very thoughtful and original thinking about the realities of the Christian faith and the world that we live in. I am only a third of the way into the book and I have found my understanding of Christ, the history of the West, the French Revolution and the rise of secular humanism to be enriched.

This is a great work by Bonhoeffer that I purchased for a paper, but will likely dig into for pleasure reading soon. It has compelling arguments and keeps me thinking.

Great book by a superb writer and thinker. A must read for anyone who wants to do more than pretend to be a Christian.

Too heavy for my small intellect.

It is a bit of a hard read but it is well worth the time one must put into it.

What can you say - it's Bonhoeffer. It is a must read for clergy and anyone interested in Ethics - specifically Christian Ethics.

Written in the background of the autocracy of the Nazi government, Bonhoeffer writes this book about christian ethics. In a few parts of the book, Bonhoeffer alludes to Hitler and those that follow him without naming individuals. He gets rather into the nature of man and his disunion with God. and the natural results from that disunion. In my opinion, this is a good read for anyone who, is a christian and how to live in these times where the line of right and wrong is blurred.

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