

The Riverside Church
Summer 2020 Small Group Series
Bonhoeffer Otherwise: Complicity and Resistance, A Christian Question
Recommended Reading

WORKS BY BONHOEFFER

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Creation and Fall: A Theological Exposition of Genesis 1-3*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Vol. 3, (Fortress Press, 1996)

ISBN 9780800683030

Creation and Fall originated in lectures given by Dietrich Bonhoeffer at the University of Berlin in the winter semester of 1932-33 during the demise of the Weimar Republic and the birth of the Third Reich. In the course of these events, Bonhoeffer called his students to focus their attention on the word of God as the word of truth in a time of turmoil.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Reader's Edition (Fortress Press, 2015)

ISBN 9781506402703

Originally published in 1937, *Discipleship* soon became a classic exposition of what it means to follow Christ in a modern world beset by a dangerous and criminal government.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Reader's Edition (Fortress Press, 2015)

ISBN 9781506402765

Life Together gathers Bonhoeffer's 1938 reflections on the character of Christian community, based on the common life experienced at the Finkenwalde Seminary and in the "Brother's House" there.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Ethics*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Reader's Edition (Fortress Press, 2015)

ISBN 9781506402727

Ethics is the culmination of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theological and personal odyssey and one of the most important works of Christian ethics of the last century. Written in the midst of the conspiracy to overthrow the Hitler regime, it is nonetheless chiefly concerned with ethics for the postwar time of reconstruction and peace. Though caught up in the vortex of momentous forces in the Nazi period, Bonhoeffer systematically envisioned a radically Christocentric, incarnational ethic for a postwar world, purposefully recasting Christians' relation to history, politics, and public life. Focused on Christ, the God who became human, and the vision of a world reconciled with God, *Ethics* shuns abstraction, seeks the will of God in concrete historical reality, and calls the church to be a transforming community in the world with a new responsibility to public life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Reader's Edition (Fortress Press, 2015)

ISBN 9781506402741

Despite Dietrich Bonhoeffer's earlier theological achievements and writings, it was his correspondence and notes from prison that electrified the postwar world six years after his death in 1945. The materials gathered and selected by his friend Eberhard Bethge in *Letters and Papers from Prison* not only brought Bonhoeffer to a wide and appreciative readership, especially in North America, they also introduced to a broad readership his novel and exciting ideas of religionless Christianity, his open and honest theological appraisal of Christian doctrines, and his sturdy, if sorely tried, faith in face of uncertainty and doubt. This splendid volume, in some ways the capstone of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works series, presents the full array of Bonhoeffer's 1943–1945 prison letters and theological writings.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “*After Ten Years:*” *Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Our Times*, ed. Victoria J. Barnett (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017)

ISBN 9781506433387

After Ten Years is a succinct and sober reflection and remains one of the best descriptions ever written about what happened to the German people under National Socialism. Victoria J. Barnett presents this timely and unique essay with a penetrating introduction and analysis of its importance—in Bonhoeffer's time and in our own.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Bonhoeffer Reader*, ed. Clifford J. Green, Michael P. DeJonge (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013)

ISBN 9780800699451

The essential theological writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer have been drawn together in a helpful one-volume format.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Collected Sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, tr. Douglas W. Stott, et al. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012, 2017)

Preaching, according to Bonhoeffer, is like offering an apple to a child. The gospel is proclaimed, but for it to be received as a gift depends on whether the hearer is in a position to do so. In his preaching, Bonhoeffer's strong, personal faith the foundation for everything he did shines in the darkness of Hitler's Third Reich and in the churches' struggle against it. Though not overtly political, Bonhoeffer's deep concern for the developments in his world is revealed in his sermons as he seeks to draw the listener into conversation with the promises and claims of the gospel a conversation readers today are invited to join.

WORKS ABOUT BONHOEFFER

Peter Frick, *Understanding Bonhoeffer* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebrek, 2017)

ISBN 9783161547232

How are we to understand Bonhoeffer? In these essays, Peter Frick attempts to answer this question by examining different aspects of Bonhoeffer's thought, thus illuminating the hermeneutical, philosophical, theological, and social dimensions of his writings. All sixteen essays collected here were written between 2007 and 2014; some of them address the question of methodology, others contribute to Bonhoeffer's intellectual formation, and still others seek to connect with contemporary questions. The aim of the volume is to present Bonhoeffer's key theological and philosophical ideas, and to emphasize their contemporary relevance.

John W. de Gruchy, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

ISBN 0521587816

This Companion serves as a guide for readers wanting to explore the thought and legacy of the great German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45). Its chapters, written by authors from differing national, theological and church contexts, provide an introduction to, and commentary on, Bonhoeffer's life and work, guiding the reader along the paths of his thought. Experts set out Bonhoeffer's political, social and cultural contexts, and offer biographical information that is indispensable for the understanding of his theology. There is a chronology and a glossary.

Lori Brandt Hale and W. David Hall, eds., *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Theology, and Political Resistance* (Lexington Books, 2020)

ISBN 9781498591065

This book highlights the ways Dietrich Bonhoeffer's work informs political theology and examines Bonhoeffer's contributions in three ways: historical-critical interpretation, critical-constructive engagement, and constructive-practical application. With contributions from a broad array of scholars from around the world, chapters range from historical analysis of Bonhoeffer's early political resistance language to accounts of Bonhoeffer-inspired, front-line resistance to white supremacists in Charlottesville, VA. This volume speaks to the ongoing relevance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's work and life in and out of the academy.

Stephen R. Haynes & Lori Brandt Hale, *Bonhoeffer for Armchair Theologians* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

ISBN 9780664230104

Born in Breslau, Germany, Bonhoeffer led quite an intriguing life. This book, with dozens of illustrations by artist Ron Hill, highlights Bonhoeffer's background and theological education; his time at Union Seminary in New York City; his involvement in the resistance movement against Adolf Hitler; and his participation in the plot to assassinate Hitler.

Charles Marsh, *Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014)

ISBN 9780307390387

Biography. A portrait of the German pastor-theologian draws on new research to cover the 1930 visit to America that shaped his perspectives on faith and moral responsibility, his achievements as an anti-Nazi activist, and the plot against Hitler that would result in his execution.

Jennifer M. McBride, *The Church for the World: A Theology of Public Witness* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

ISBN 9780199755684

Concerned with the triumphal manner in which many Protestants have engaged the public sphere, the book addresses how the church may offer a non-triumphal witness to the lordship of Christ in our pluralistic society. It argues that North American Protestant churches humbly and faithfully witness to Christ through an overlapping confession of their sin and the sin of broader society, which finds public expression in repentant activity. In other words, the church demonstrates Christ's redemptive work when its mode of being in the world is confession of sin unto repentance.

Christiane Tietz, *Theologian of Resistance: The Life and Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, tr. Victoria J. Barnett (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2016)

ISBN 9781506408453

Since Dietrich Bonhoeffer's death in 1945, he has continued to fascinate and compel readers as a theologian, witness, and martyr. In this new biography, Christiane Tietz masterfully portrays the interconnectedness of Bonhoeffer's life and thought, theology and politics, discipleship, witness, and resistance, tracing the path from his childhood to his imprisonment and execution. Brief, lucid, and accessible, Tietz's new account brings Bonhoeffer's story and work to life in a vivid retelling, unfolding his important and widely read texts in the process.

Reggie L. Williams, *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance* (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2014)

ISBN 9781602588042

In this book author Reggie L. Williams follows Bonhoeffer as he defies Germany with Harlem's black Jesus. The Christology Bonhoeffer learned in Harlem's churches featured a black Christ who suffered with African Americans in their struggle against systemic injustice and racial violence—and then resisted. In the pews of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, under the leadership of Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., Bonhoeffer absorbed the Christianity of the Harlem Renaissance. This Christianity included a Jesus who stands with the oppressed rather than joins the oppressors and a theology that challenges the way God can be used to underwrite a union of race and religion.