

life together bonhoeffer

life together bonhoeffer is a term that resonates deeply within Christian communities, theologians, and anyone interested in the concept of authentic spiritual fellowship. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic work, "Life Together," stands as one of the most influential explorations of Christian community and spiritual living in the modern era. This article delves into the origins and context of "Life Together," examines its central themes, and unpacks the practical implications for those seeking to cultivate meaningful, faith-driven relationships. Through a comprehensive analysis, readers will gain a deeper understanding of Bonhoeffer's vision for communal life, his theological insights, and the lasting legacy of his teachings. Whether you are a pastor, layperson, or simply curious about Christian community, this guide provides valuable insights into creating a life together as envisioned by Bonhoeffer. The sections below will cover the background of the book, its main themes, practical applications, and its influence on contemporary spiritual practice.

- Background and Context of "Life Together"
- Major Themes in "Life Together"
- Bonhoeffer's Vision of Christian Community
- Practical Applications for Modern Readers
- The Lasting Impact and Legacy of "Life Together"

Background and Context of "Life Together"

The Life and Times of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian, pastor, and anti-Nazi dissident whose life and works have inspired generations. Born in 1906, Bonhoeffer witnessed the rise of National Socialism in Germany and became a leading voice in the Confessing Church, which opposed the Nazi regime's interference in church affairs. His commitment to Christian ethics and his resistance to totalitarianism ultimately led to his imprisonment and execution in 1945. "Life Together" was written during his years as a seminary leader, where he sought to form ministers whose faith was resilient and communal.

The Origins of "Life Together"

"Life Together" was penned while Bonhoeffer directed an underground seminary for the Confessing Church in Finkenwalde, Germany. Amidst political danger and social upheaval, he explored what it truly meant to live as a Christian community. The book emerged from Bonhoeffer's personal experiences of intentional communal living, daily prayer, and mutual accountability. Through these practices, he articulated a theology of community that was both deeply spiritual and practical, grounded in the teachings of Jesus and the early church.

Major Themes in "Life Together"

The Centrality of Christ in Community

A foundational theme in "Life Together" is the idea that genuine Christian fellowship is only possible because of Christ. Bonhoeffer emphasizes that Christ stands between individuals, mediating all relationships. This Christ-centered approach fosters humility, mutual service, and reconciliation, as community members are called to see each other through the lens of grace and forgiveness.

The Practice of Spiritual Disciplines

Bonhoeffer outlines several spiritual disciplines essential for sustaining life together. These include daily scripture reading, communal worship, prayer, confession, and service. He argues that these practices are not private endeavors but are best experienced and deepened within the context of community.

- Daily meditation on scripture
- Shared worship and singing
- Regular prayer as a group
- Mutual confession and accountability
- Acts of service and hospitality

The Value of Silence and Solitude

Interestingly, Bonhoeffer stresses that healthy community life requires both togetherness and solitude. He teaches that time alone with God equips individuals to participate more fully in communal life, while silence before God and one another fosters deeper listening and understanding.

Bonhoeffer's Vision of Christian Community

Community as Gift and Task

Bonhoeffer describes Christian community as both a divine gift and a human responsibility. He cautions against idealistic visions of community, urging believers to accept one another as they are, with all their flaws and limitations. True fellowship, according to Bonhoeffer, is grounded in the reality of grace rather than human effort or perfection.

Life Together in Daily Practice

The daily rhythms of life together, as outlined by Bonhoeffer, include shared meals, work, worship, and leisure. He encourages community members to bear each other's burdens, speak truth in love, and practice forgiveness regularly. This concrete expression of faith makes spiritual truths tangible in everyday relationships.

Leadership and Service

Bonhoeffer believed that leadership within Christian community should be characterized by humility and service, rather than authority and control. Leaders are called to serve others, listen well, and foster an environment where every member's gifts can flourish.

Practical Applications for Modern Readers

Building Authentic Community in Today's World

The teachings of "Life Together" remain relevant for churches, small groups,

and faith-based organizations seeking to nurture authentic community. In a world often marked by isolation and individualism, Bonhoeffer's insights offer a countercultural vision rooted in self-giving love and mutual support.

Implementing Spiritual Disciplines

Modern readers can apply Bonhoeffer's principles by establishing regular rhythms of group prayer, Bible study, and confession. These disciplines cultivate spiritual depth and relational trust, forming bonds that endure beyond surface-level interactions.

1. Establish a daily schedule of communal prayer and reflection.
2. Encourage open sharing and confession in safe settings.
3. Organize service projects that express faith through action.
4. Foster an environment of hospitality and welcome for all.
5. Integrate moments of silence and solitude for personal growth.

Overcoming Challenges in Community Life

Bonhoeffer's realistic approach acknowledges the difficulties inherent in living closely with others. Conflicts, misunderstandings, and disappointments are inevitable, but he insists that perseverance, forgiveness, and prayer can transform challenges into opportunities for growth.

The Lasting Impact and Legacy of "Life Together"

Influence on Christian Thought and Practice

Since its publication, "Life Together" has profoundly shaped Christian understandings of fellowship, discipleship, and spiritual formation. Churches, seminaries, and small groups worldwide utilize Bonhoeffer's teachings as foundational material for building community and nurturing faith.

Bonhoeffer's Enduring Relevance

The legacy of "Life Together" extends far beyond its historical context. Its call to Christ-centered community resonates with contemporary believers who long for deeper connection and meaningful relationships. As people continue to search for authentic fellowship in an increasingly fragmented world, Bonhoeffer's wisdom offers practical guidance and enduring hope.

Key Takeaways from "Life Together"

Readers of "Life Together" consistently encounter themes of grace, humility, and service. Bonhoeffer's vision challenges individuals and communities to embody the love of Christ in every aspect of life, making spiritual truths visible through daily living and shared commitment.

Q: What is "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer about?

A: "Life Together" is a theological book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer that explores the nature and practice of Christian community. It provides practical guidance on how believers can live in authentic fellowship, grounded in Christ, through shared spiritual disciplines, mutual service, and accountability.

Q: Why did Bonhoeffer write "Life Together"?

A: Bonhoeffer wrote "Life Together" while leading an underground seminary during the Nazi regime. He intended to provide theological and practical resources for living as a faithful Christian community under challenging circumstances.

Q: What are the main themes in "Life Together"?

A: The book's main themes include Christ-centered community, the importance of spiritual disciplines, the value of both solitude and togetherness, and the necessity of humility, service, and forgiveness in relationships.

Q: How can modern readers apply the teachings of "Life Together"?

A: Modern readers can apply Bonhoeffer's teachings by establishing regular communal prayer, practicing confession, serving one another, and fostering authentic relationships rooted in grace and humility.

Q: What makes Bonhoeffer's concept of community unique?

A: Bonhoeffer's concept is unique because it rejects idealism in favor of a realistic, grace-based approach, emphasizing that community is both a divine gift and a human responsibility.

Q: Does "Life Together" discuss the challenges of community life?

A: Yes, Bonhoeffer openly acknowledges the difficulties of living in close fellowship, such as conflict and disappointment, and offers practical advice for addressing these challenges through forgiveness and perseverance.

Q: How did Bonhoeffer's historical context influence "Life Together"?

A: The rise of Nazism and the persecution of the Confessing Church shaped Bonhoeffer's emphasis on resilient, Christ-centered community as a means of spiritual survival and witness.

Q: What spiritual disciplines are highlighted in "Life Together"?

A: The book highlights daily scripture reading, communal worship, group prayer, mutual confession, and acts of service as key disciplines for sustaining Christian fellowship.

Q: Why is "Life Together" considered a classic in Christian literature?

A: Its enduring insights into the nature of authentic community, practical applications, and theological depth have made "Life Together" a foundational work for Christian spiritual formation and fellowship.

Q: How does "Life Together" remain relevant today?

A: In an age marked by individualism and social fragmentation, "Life Together" offers a compelling vision for building meaningful, grace-filled Christian communities that nurture spiritual growth and authentic relationships.

Life Together Bonhoeffer

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Life Together by Bonhoeffer: A Guide to Christian Community

Introduction:

Have you ever longed for a deeper, more meaningful connection within your Christian faith? Do you yearn for a community that fosters spiritual growth and mutual support? Dietrich Bonhoeffer's seminal work, *Life Together*, offers a timeless guide to navigating the complexities of Christian community life. This insightful book, written during a period of profound spiritual and political upheaval, provides practical wisdom and enduring principles for building vibrant, authentic Christian fellowship. This post will delve into the core tenets of *Life Together*, exploring its relevance to contemporary Christians seeking to cultivate meaningful relationships and deepen their faith within a community context. We'll unpack key themes, examine their practical application, and explore why Bonhoeffer's message continues to resonate today.

The Heart of Christian Community: Bonhoeffer's Vision

Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* isn't a theoretical treatise; it's a deeply personal reflection on the challenges and rewards of living a shared Christian life. He emphasizes the vital role of community in spiritual formation, arguing that authentic Christian discipleship cannot flourish in isolation. This isn't simply about attending church services; it's about forging genuine, transformative relationships rooted in mutual love, respect, and accountability.

The Importance of Prayer and Worship

Bonhoeffer stresses the centrality of corporate prayer and worship. He sees these practices not as mere rituals but as vital avenues for experiencing God's presence and fostering unity within the community. He emphasizes the importance of authentic, heartfelt prayer, urging Christians to approach God with humility and honesty, sharing both their joys and struggles. This shared vulnerability, Bonhoeffer suggests, forms the bedrock of genuine Christian community.

The Necessity of Discipline and Obedience

Life Together doesn't shy away from the challenges of community living. Bonhoeffer acknowledges the inevitable tensions and conflicts that arise when individuals with diverse personalities and perspectives strive to live together in harmony. He underscores the need for discipline, both personal and communal, as a means of maintaining order and fostering spiritual growth. Obedience to God's Word, he argues, is essential for navigating these challenges and maintaining the integrity of the community.

Facing Conflicts and Forgiveness

Bonhoeffer realistically addresses the inevitability of conflict within any group. He doesn't offer simplistic solutions but instead emphasizes the importance of humility, forgiveness, and a willingness to seek reconciliation. He challenges readers to confront conflict directly, honestly, and lovingly, always prioritizing the well-being of the community over personal grievances. The process of confession and forgiveness, he contends, is crucial for maintaining the health and vitality of the Christian fellowship.

The Role of Leadership and Submission

Bonhoeffer discusses the crucial role of leadership within the Christian community. He doesn't advocate for authoritarian leadership but emphasizes the importance of servant leadership, where leaders prioritize the needs of the community above their own. He calls for a spirit of humble submission to God's will and to the leadership appointed by God within the community. This, he argues, fosters a climate of mutual respect and cooperation.

Living Out the Principles Today: Relevance for Modern Christians

Bonhoeffer's insights aren't confined to the past. His words offer profound guidance for contemporary Christians seeking to build thriving communities in a world often characterized by fragmentation and isolation. The principles outlined in Life Together remain powerfully relevant in addressing contemporary challenges such as:

Building authentic relationships: In a world of superficial connections, Bonhoeffer's emphasis on genuine vulnerability and mutual support offers a powerful antidote.

Navigating conflict constructively: His insights into conflict resolution provide practical tools for

navigating the inevitable tensions that arise in any community.

Developing strong leadership: His emphasis on servant leadership offers a model for building healthy and empowering communities.

Maintaining spiritual discipline: In a world that often prioritizes convenience over commitment, Bonhoeffer's call for spiritual discipline provides a timely reminder of the importance of prioritizing faith.

Conclusion

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer remains a powerful and relevant guide for Christians seeking to cultivate authentic and thriving communities. Its insights into prayer, worship, discipline, conflict resolution, and leadership continue to offer invaluable wisdom for navigating the challenges and joys of shared Christian life. By embracing Bonhoeffer's principles, we can strive to create communities that truly reflect the love and grace of God.

FAQs

1. Is Life Together only for pastors or church leaders?

No, Life Together is applicable to all Christians seeking to grow in their faith within a community setting. Its principles are relevant to small groups, church congregations, and even families striving for deeper relationships.

2. How can I apply Bonhoeffer's ideas in a diverse community?

Bonhoeffer's emphasis on humility, forgiveness, and seeking reconciliation are crucial in diverse communities. Open communication, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to understanding different perspectives are essential for navigating differences and building unity.

3. What if my community isn't functioning well?

Honest self-reflection, open communication, and a willingness to address underlying issues are crucial. Consider seeking guidance from experienced Christian leaders or mentors.

4. How does Life Together relate to other Christian texts?

Life Together complements other Christian writings by providing practical applications of theological principles concerning community life, drawing heavily on biblical examples and teachings.

5. Is it necessary to read the entire book to benefit from its wisdom?

While reading the whole book is recommended for a thorough understanding, you can certainly benefit from focusing on specific chapters or sections addressing your current needs and context. Many online resources and study guides can help focus your reading.

life together bonhoeffer: Life Together Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1996

life together bonhoeffer: Life Together Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2016-06-13

life together bonhoeffer: Life Together Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1978-10-25 After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. His Letters and Papers from Prison became a prized testimony to Christian faith and courage, read by thousands. Now in Life Together we have Pastor Bonhoeffer's experience of Christian community. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. Life Together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.

life together bonhoeffer: Psalms Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2021-11-22 Jesus died with a psalm on his lips. For millennia, humans have been shaped by the Psalms. And before the Nazis banned him from publishing, German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer published this book on the Psalms. What comfort is found in the Psalter? What praise, and what challenge? What threat? In the pages of Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible, discover the richness this book of Scripture held for Bonhoeffer, and learn to pray psalms along with Christ. First published in 1940, this classic reveals how the Psalms are essential to the life of the believer and offers Bonhoeffer's reflections on psalms of thanksgiving, suffering, guilt, praise, and lament. Now with an introduction by Walter Brueggemann and excerpts from the Psalms, Bonhoeffer's timeless work offers contemporary readers ancient wisdom and resources for the living of these days. Includes a biographical sketch of Bonhoeffer written by his friend and biographer Eberhard Bethge.

life together bonhoeffer: Bonhoeffer on the Christian Life Stephen J. Nichols, 2013-06-30 The abundance of conferences, lectures, and new books related to Dietrich Bonhoeffer attests to the growing interest in his amazing life and thought-provoking writings. The legacy of his theological reflections on the nature of fellowship, the costliness of grace, and the necessity of courageous obedience has only been heightened by the reality of how he died: execution at the hands of a Nazi death squad. In this latest addition to the popular Theologians on the Christian Life series, historian Stephen J. Nichols guides readers through a study of Bonhoeffer's life and work, helping readers understand the basic contours of his cross-centered theology, convictions regarding the Christian life, and circumstances surrounding his dramatic arrest and execution. Part of the Theologians on the Christian Life series.

life together bonhoeffer: Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker Andrew Root, 2014-10-14 The youth ministry focus of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life is often forgotten or overlooked, even though he did much work with young people and wrote a number of papers, sermons, and addresses about or for the youth of the church. However, youth ministry expert Andrew Root explains that this focus is central to Bonhoeffer's story and thought. Root presents Bonhoeffer as the forefather and model of the growing theological turn in youth ministry. By linking contemporary youth workers with this epic theologian, the author shows the depth of youth ministry work and underscores its importance in the church. He also shows how Bonhoeffer's life and thought impact present-day youth ministry practice.

life together bonhoeffer: Bonhoeffer's Seminary Vision Paul R. House, 2015 Exploring a neglected facet of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and legacy, this book examines his work training seminary students for pastoral ministry, arguing for personal, face-to-face education in response to today's rise of online education.

life together bonhoeffer: From Isolation to Community Myles Werntz, 2022-04-12 It is no

secret that isolation is one of the key ailments of our age. But less explored is the way the church as it is frequently practiced contributes to this isolation instead of offering an alternative. With the help of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, this book argues for a renewed vision of the church community as a theological therapy to cultural, moral, and sociological isolation. It offers an account of how familiar church practices, such as Scripture reading, worship, prayer, and eating, contribute to community formation in the body of Christ.

life together bonhoeffer: A Testament to Freedom Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1990 Dietrich Bonhoeffer was just thirty-nine years old when he was executed by the Nazis in 1945, yet his influence on Christian theology and life has been enormous. A testament to freedom takes readers along a biographical-historical journey that follows Bonhoeffer through the various stages of his life and career, including his final years in the underground resistance against the Nazi government and his subsequent martyrdom. This book features previously untranslated writings, sermons, and selections from his letters spanning his entire pastoral-theological career, including his prison letters

life together bonhoeffer: Strange Glory Charles Marsh, 2015-04-28 Winner, Christianity Today 2015 Book Award in History/Biography Shortlisted for the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography In the decades since his execution by the Nazis in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor, theologian, and anti-Hitler conspirator, has become one of the most widely read and inspiring Christian thinkers of our time. With unprecedented archival access and definitive scope, Charles Marsh captures the life of this remarkable man who searched for the goodness in his religion against the backdrop of a steadily darkening Europe. From his brilliant student days in Berlin to his transformative sojourn in America, across Harlem to the Jim Crow South, and finally once again to Germany where he was called to a ministry for the downtrodden, we follow Bonhoeffer on his search for true fellowship and observe the development of his teachings on the shared life in Christ. We witness his growing convictions and theological beliefs, culminating in his vocal denunciation of Germany's treatment of the Jews that would put him on a crash course with Hitler. Bringing to life for the first time this complex human being—his substantial flaws, inner torment, the friendships and the faith that sustained and finally redeemed him—Strange Glory is a momentous achievement.

life together bonhoeffer: Theological Education at Finkenwalde H. Gaylon Barker, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mark Brocker, Douglas W. Stott, 2014-04-17 In the spring of 1935 Dietrich Bonhoeffer returned from England to direct a small illegal seminary for the Confessing Church. The seminary existed for two years before the Gestapo ordered it closed in August 1937. This volume includes bible studies, sermons, and lectures on homiletics, pastoral care, and catechesis, giving a moving and up-close portrait of the Confessing Church in these crucial years—the same period during which Bonhoeffer wrote his classics, *Discipleship* and *Life Together*.

life together bonhoeffer: Spiritual Care Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Bonhoeffer says spiritual care is a function of the congregation and that it is an aspect of the broader, more encompassing activity of proclamation. In *Spiritual Care*, we are confronted with the awesome truth that in speech God's presence is known and that speech is also our own; in silence God's presence is known and that silence is also our own. The text demands us to consider how the gospel message is brought to people in the midst of their personal lives, and his message and counsel use the tools given within the traditional life of the church so that such grace becomes enacted, enfleshed, and incarnate in the Christian community.

life together bonhoeffer: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Meditations on Psalms Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Edwin Hanton Robertson, 2005 Eloquent, incisive, encouraging, and challenging--Bonhoeffer invites readers to find in the Psalm both a path toward rest in God and a call to Christ-like living as followers of the Lord Jesus.

life together bonhoeffer: *Life Together* - new edition Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2015-03-02 This short book is a reflection on life as an intentional Christian community, written by Bonhoeffer during his time as a head of the Illegal Seminary of the Confessing Church in Finkenwalde (Eastern

Prussia).

life together bonhoeffer: *Life in Community* Dustin Willis, 2015-07-16 WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY EXTRAORDINARY? When people live in community moved by the gospel and marked by the Spirit, great things happen. They commit to one another. They grieve together, sing together, eat, pray, and play together. They love, serve, honor, encourage, and provide for each other gladly. And they live on mission together. Hearts are healed, walls come down, and outsiders come in. No competition. No pretense. No vain conceit. Just full hearts breaking bread and giving freely. It is nothing short of amazing. Most of us live in a shadow of what God intended for us. Life in Community calls us into the light. Reclaiming Scripture's stunning vision of gospel-centered community, it inspires us to live in love unbounded. Read it, live it, and join the movement: Help unleash the power of extraordinary community. 6-Week group study included.

life together bonhoeffer: 5 Minutes in Church History Stephen J. Nichols, 2019 The history of the church is filled with stories. Stories of triumph, stories of defeat, stories of joy, and stories of sorrow. These stories are a legacy of God's faithfulness to His people. In this book, Dr. Stephen J. Nichols provides postcards from the church through the centuries. These snapshots capture the richness of Christian history with glimpses of fascinating saints, curious places, precious artifacts, and surprising turns of events. In exploring them, Dr. Nichols takes the reader on a lively and informative journey through the record of God's providence to encourage, challenge, and enjoy. This is our story--our family history. THE CENTURIES OF CHURCH HISTORY GIVE US A LITANY OF GOD'S DELIVERANCES. GOD HAS DONE IT BEFORE, MANY TIMES AND IN MANY WAYS, AND HE CAN DO IT AGAIN. HE WILL DO IT AGAIN. AND IN THAT, WE FIND COURAGE FOR TODAY AND FOR TOMORROW.

life together bonhoeffer: *The Cost of Discipleship* Bonhoeffer Dietrich, 2015-11-02 Perhaps Dietrich Bonhoeffer's most radical book, this reading of the Sermon on the Mount has influenced many Christians throughout the world over the last 50 years.

life together bonhoeffer: *The Life, Works, and Witness of Tsehay Tolessa and Gudina Tumsa, the Ethiopian Bonhoeffer* Samuel Yonas Deressa, Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, 2017-06-15 This book opens a window into the lives and extraordinary witness of a Christian couple whose faithful life of service has earned the moniker of Ethiopia's Bonhoeffer. In Part One, the reader encounters the extant writings of Gudina Tumsa. Gudina's ideas were by no means silenced by his murder. If anything, quite the opposite, as is so often the case with martyrs. Part Two is a highly personal account of Gudina and Tsehay's life, witness, and sufferings. Aud Saeveras, a Norwegian missionary working with her husband in Ethiopia, got to know Tsehay during her many years in prison, often bringing her food. After Tsehay was finally released, Saeveras encouraged her to report the truth about what had happened. The result was this memoir, first written in Norwegian, then translated into German, and now for the first time in English. Saeveras frames the story, but most of the words are Tsehay's. This collection concludes with an essay by Samuel Yonas Deressa on the impact that Gudina's vision has had on the EECMY and the formation of the Gudina Tumsa Foundation with its various scholarly and development activities. Gudina lives on in the many Ethiopian Christians who continue to be inspired by his life and witness.

life together bonhoeffer: *The Cost of Discipleship* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2016-07-09 One of the most important theologians of the twentieth century illuminates the relationship between ourselves and the teachings of Jesus.

life together bonhoeffer: *Bonhoeffer, Christ and Culture* Keith L. Johnson, Timothy Larsen, 2013-03-08 The 2012 Wheaton Theology Conference was convened around the formidable legacy of Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi resistant Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This collection, focusing on the man's views of Christ, the church and culture, contributes to a recent awakening of interest in Bonhoeffer among evangelicals.

life together bonhoeffer: *The Good and Beautiful God* James Bryan Smith, 2009-12-14 Turning to the Gospels, James Bryan Smith invites you to compare your ideas about God with what Jesus himself reveals about his Father. In this Good and Beautiful Series book, Smith leads you through a

process of spiritual formation that includes activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body and soul as well as your mind.

life together bonhoeffer: The Enneagram for Spiritual Formation A. J. Sherrill, 2020-09-15
Author A. J. Sherrill still remembers the moment when his life was forever changed by a word he didn't even understand at the time: Enneagram. A personality theory that includes nine different types, the Enneagram has become a popular tool for self-awareness and improvement. But in this book, Sherrill goes deeper, exploring with Christians how the Enneagram can be a pathway to profound spiritual transformation. Sherrill reveals the Enneagram as a tool to unlock new ways of viewing identity, personality, discipleship, spiritual practices, evangelism, and the Bible. Using this fresh approach, Sherrill shows how our true identity is that of a beloved child of God. Recognizing that, we can move confidently into the world expressing this identity through our unique personality. Through Sherrill's detailed spiritual exploration of each type, readers will emerge viewing the Enneagram as a precious gift to following Jesus more closely. Foreword by Chuck DeGroat.

life together bonhoeffer: Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus REGGIE L. WILLIAMS, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics Reggie L. Williams, 2021-09 Dietrich Bonhoeffer publicly confronted Nazism and anti-Semitic racism in Hitler's Germany. The Reich's political ideology, when mixed with theology of the German Christian movement, turned Jesus into a divine representation of the ideal, racially pure Aryan and allowed race-hate to become part of Germany's religious life. Bonhoeffer provided a Christian response to Nazi atrocities. In this book author Reggie L. Williams follows Dietrich Bonhoeffer as he encounters 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 was captivated by Christianity in the Harlem Renaissance. This Christianity included a Jesus who stands with the oppressed, against oppressors, and a theology that challenges the way God is often used to underwrite harmful unions of race and religion. Now featuring a foreword from world-renowned Bonhoeffer scholar Ferdinand Schlingensiefen as well as multiple updates and additions, Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus argues that Dietrich Bonhoeffer's immersion within the black American narrative was a turning point for him, causing him to see anew the meaning of his claim that obedience to Jesus requires concrete historical action. This ethic of resistance not only indicted the church of the German Volk, but also continues to shape the nature of Christian discipleship today.

life together bonhoeffer: Bonhoeffer as Martyr Craig J. Slane, 2004 Should this would-be assassin be considered a Christian martyr? Find out why many think so and what martyrdom means today.

life together bonhoeffer: The Radical Pursuit of Rest John Koessler, 2016-01-28 Whether in our careers, churches, schools or families, busyness is the norm, and anything less makes us feel unproductive and anxious. John Koessler understands that rest is not automatic or easy to attain. With honest, biblical reflections on trends in our culture and churches, he presents a unique perspective on how pursuing rest leads us to the heart of God.

life together bonhoeffer: The Gospel-Driven Life Michael Horton, 2009-10-01 In his well-received *Christless Christianity* Michael Horton offered a prophetic wake-up call for a self-centered American church. With *The Gospel-Driven Life* he turns from the crisis to the solutions, offering his recommendations for a new reformation in the faith, practice, and witness of contemporary Christianity. This insightful book will guide readers in reorienting their faith and the church's purpose toward the good news of the gospel. The first six chapters explore that breaking news from heaven, while the rest of the book focuses on the kind of community that the gospel generates and the surprising ways in which God is at work in the world. Here is fresh news for Christians who are burned out on hype and are looking for hope.

life together bonhoeffer: Creation and Fall Temptation Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1997-03-12 In this enlightening study, renowned twentieth-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer offers a careful textual analysis of the story of creation, approaching the biblical tale of Genesis with the eye of a

philosopher and the soul of a true Christian. "Creation and Fall" is Bonhoeffer's lucid, brilliant analysis of the first three chapters of Genesis. Here he discusses the seeming scientific naiveté behind the creation story, God's love and goodness, and humanity's creation, its free will, and its blessedness. Bonhoeffer also tackles difficult questions that are raised from the first book of the Bible, questions about the seemingly redundant second story of creation, about God's own beginning, about the source of the light that was created the first day. The author then expounds upon Adam and Eve's fall from grace: How could they, creatures made in God's image, have thought to oppose God so foully? Where did the first evil come from? How did humanity lose its right to live in paradise? In "Temptation," Bonhoeffer questions how temptation appeared in the midst of Eden's innocence, and he explores the very nature of evil. Bonhoeffer explains that Jesus Christ helps us to understand and conquer physical and spiritual temptation through His grace and goodness.

life together bonhoeffer: Letters and Papers from Prison Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1971

life together bonhoeffer: Keys to Bonhoeffer's Haus Laura M. Fabrycky, 2020-03-24 In *Keys to Bonhoeffer's Haus*, Laura M. Fabrycky, an American guide of the Bonhoeffer-Haus in Berlin, takes readers on a tour of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's home, city, and world. She shares the keys she has discovered there--the many sources of Bonhoeffer's identity, his practices of Scripture meditation and prayer, his willingness to cross boundaries and befriend people all around the world--that have unlocked her understanding of her own life and responsibilities in light of Bonhoeffer's wisdom. *Keys to Bonhoeffer's Haus* tells his story in new ways and invites us to think beyond him into our own lives and civic responsibilities. Fabrycky shows readers how to consider what befriending Bonhoeffer might mean for us and the ways we live our lives today. Ultimately, through her transformative tour of Bonhoeffer's Berlin, she inspires readers to discover and embrace responsible forms of civic agency and loving, sacrificial action on behalf of our neighbors.

life together bonhoeffer: Sally's Baking Addiction Sally McKenney, 2016-10-11 Updated with a brand-new selection of desserts and treats, the fully illustrated *Sally's Baking Addiction* cookbook offers more than 80 scrumptious recipes for indulging your sweet tooth—featuring a chapter of healthier dessert options, including some vegan and gluten-free recipes. It's no secret that Sally McKenney loves to bake. Her popular blog, *Sally's Baking Addiction*, has become a trusted source for fellow dessert lovers who are also eager to bake from scratch. Sally's famous recipes include award-winning Salted Caramel Dark Chocolate Cookies, No-Bake Peanut Butter Banana Pie, delectable Dark Chocolate Butterscotch Cupcakes, and yummy Marshmallow Swirl S'mores Fudge. Find tried-and-true sweet recipes for all kinds of delicious: Breads & Muffins Breakfasts Brownies & Bars Cakes, Pies & Crisps Candy & Sweet Snacks Cookies Cupcakes Healthier Choices With tons of simple, easy-to-follow recipes, you get all of the sweet with none of the fuss! Hungry for more? Learn to create even more irresistible sweets with Sally's *Candy Addiction* and Sally's *Cookie Addiction*.

life together bonhoeffer: *Spiritual Friendship* Wesley Hill, 2015-04-14 Christianity Today Book Award Winner *Friendship* is a relationship like no other. Unlike the relationships we are born into, we choose our friends. It is also tenuous--we can end a friendship at any time. But should friendship be so free and unconstrained? Although our culture tends to pay more attention to romantic love, marriage, family, and other forms of community, friendship is a genuine love in its own right. This eloquent book reminds us that Scripture and tradition have a high view of friendship. Single Christians, particularly those who are gay and celibate, may find it is a form of love to which they are especially called. Writing with deep empathy and with fidelity to historic Christian teaching, Wesley Hill retrieves a rich understanding of friendship as a spiritual vocation and explains how the church can foster friendship as a basic component of Christian discipleship. He helps us reimagine friendship as a robust form of love that is worthy of honor and attention in communities of faith. This book sets forth a positive calling for celibate gay Christians and suggests practical ways for all Christians to cultivate stronger friendships.

life together bonhoeffer: *Love Letters from Cell 92* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Maria von Wedemeyer, 1994 A collection of letters written between Maria von Wedemeyer and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, while he was in prison before being executed for his part in a plot to assassinate Hitler.

The letters written by Dietrich show his passionate and romantic side.

life together bonhoeffer: Kingdom Race Theology Tony Evans, 2022-01-04 The 2020 murder of George Floyd ignited a racial firestorm throughout America, provoking lament and grief over a long history of tragedy. The widespread protests gave way to a heated discussion about terms such as systemic racism, white privilege, and Critical Race Theory, all framed by the slogan “black lives matter.” The beginnings of a helpful dialogue on diversity became a heated battle, one that quickly spread to the church. Drawing on forty years of ministry experience, Tony Evans writes with a fearless and prophetic voice, probing to the heart of the issue and pointing to God’s Word as the solution. Kingdom Race Theology helps people and churches commit to restitution, reconciliation, and responsibility. His penetrating and practical ideas will help pastors and church leaders sort through the conflicting theories, finding sensible solutions in the form of individual and collective action plans. Christians can work together across racial lines to repair the damage done by a long history of racial injustice.

life together bonhoeffer: Ethics Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2012-03-20 From one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century, *Ethics* 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.

life together bonhoeffer: Creation and Fall Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 2004-01-01 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 the word of truth in a time of turmoil.

life together bonhoeffer: Gospel Wakefulness (*Foreword by Ray Ortlund*) Jared C. Wilson, 2011-10-06 We may know the gospel. We may believe it—even proclaim it. But we also may assume the gospel and become lethargic. In this book Jared Wilson seeks to answer the central question, how do we experience and present the gospel in a fresh, nonroutine way in order to prevent ourselves and others from becoming numb? His answer may be surprising: by routinely presenting the unchanging gospel in a way that does justice to its earth-shaking announcement. We don’t excite and awaken people to the glorious truths of the gospel by spicing up our worship services or through cutting-edge, dramatic rhetoric, but by passionately and faithfully proclaiming the same truths we have already been given in Scripture. Wilson’s book will stir churches to live out the power of the gospel with a fervent, genuine zeal. After an explanation of the term gospel wakefulness, Wilson unpacks implications for worship, hyper-spirituality, godly habits, and sanctification, as well as other aspects of church life. Pastors, church leaders, and all in ministry, especially those who are tired or discouraged, will be uplifted, emboldened, and empowered by this book.

life together bonhoeffer: Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Letters and Papers from Prison Martin E. Marty, 2020-02-25 For fascination, influence, inspiration, and controversy, Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Letters and Papers from Prison* is unmatched by any other book of Christian reflection written in the twentieth century. A Lutheran pastor and theologian, Bonhoeffer spent two years in Nazi prisons before being executed at age thirty-nine for his role in the plot to kill Hitler. Ever since it was published in 1951, *Letters and Papers from Prison* has had a tremendous impact on Christian and secular thought, and has helped establish Bonhoeffer’s reputation as one of the most important

Protestant thinkers of the twentieth century. In this, the first history of the book's remarkable global career ... writer Martin Marty tells how and why *Letters and Papers from Prison* has been read and used in such dramatically different ways, from the Cold War to today.--

life together bonhoeffer: *The Battle for Bonhoeffer* Stephen R. Haynes, 2018-09-13 The figure of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) has become a clay puppet in modern American politics. Secular, radical, liberal, and evangelical interpreters variously shape and mold the martyr's legacy to suit their own pet agendas. Stephen Haynes offers an incisive and clarifying perspective. A recognized Bonhoeffer expert, Haynes examines "populist" readings of Bonhoeffer, including the acclaimed biography by Eric Metaxas, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. In his analysis Haynes treats, among other things, the November 2016 election of Donald Trump and the "Bonhoeffer moment" announced by evangelicals in response to the US Supreme Court's 2015 decision to legalize same-sex marriage. *The Battle for Bonhoeffer* includes an open letter from Haynes pointedly addressing Christians who still support Trump. Bonhoeffer's legacy matters. Haynes redeems the life and the man.

life together bonhoeffer: *Bonhoeffer's Religionless Christianity in Its Christological Context* Peter Hooton, 2020-02-06 The German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer understood Western civilization to be "approaching a completely religionless age" to which Christians must respond and adapt. This book explores Bonhoeffer's own response to this challenge—his concept of a religionless Christianity—and its place in his broader theology. It does this, first, by situating the concept in a present-day Western socio-historical context. It then considers Bonhoeffer's understanding and critique of religion, before examining the religionless Christianity of his final months in the light of his earlier Christ-centred theology. The place of mystery, paradox, and wholeness in Bonhoeffer's thinking is also given careful attention, and non-religious interpretation is taken seriously as an ongoing task. The book aspires to present religionless Christianity as a lucid and persuasive contemporary theology; and does this always in the presence of the question which inspired Bonhoeffer's theological journey from its academic beginnings to its very deliberately lived end—the question "Who is Jesus Christ?"

life together bonhoeffer: *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* Eberhard Bethge, 2000 The authoritative biography of Bonhoeffer -- theologian, Christian, man for his times.

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