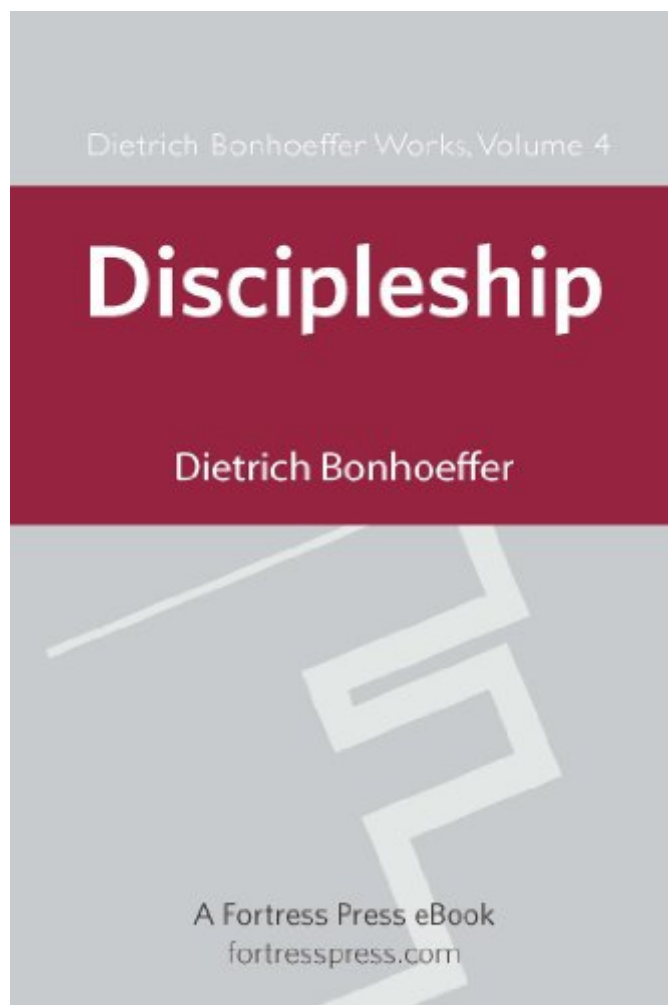


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Discipleship (Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works)



Synopsis

Freshly translated from the German critical edition, *Discipleship* provides a more accurate rendering of the text and extensive aids and commentary to clarify the meaning, context, and reception of this work and its attempt to resist the Nazi ideology then infecting German Christian churches.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book that every Christian should read. Bonhoeffer is among the twentieth centuries greatest theologians, and *Discipleship* (formerly titled *The Cost of Discipleship* in English translations) is his most popular and enduring work. In it we find the clarion call to return to simple obedience to Christ without the naiveté that can so easily creep into such a call. "A paradoxical understanding of the commandments has a Christian right to it, but it must never led to the annulment of a simple understanding of the commandments. Rather it is justified and possible only for those who have already taken simple obedience seriously at some point in their lives, and so already stand in community with Jesus, in discipleship, in expectation of the end" (80) Bonhoeffer's

rejection of "cheap grace," that "mortal enemy of our church," and the accompanying call for disciples of Christ to embrace the way of the cross stands as the central thesis of the book. Such an argument, while never in fashion, is nevertheless needed for every church in every age, and nobody makes the argument like Bonhoeffer. A brief note on this edition of the book: The Bonhoeffer Works series is a must-own collection for serious students of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The updated translation is excellent, and though there are times when one longs for a particular turn of phrase from older translations there is little doubt that what is presented here is closer to the actual thought of the author. One place where the new translation is weaker (to my way of thinking) is its use of gender neutral language. I'm not opposed to changing the dominant masculine on ideological grounds, but there are times when a graceful or elegant turn of phrase becomes clunky or the author's meaning is obscured because of it.

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