

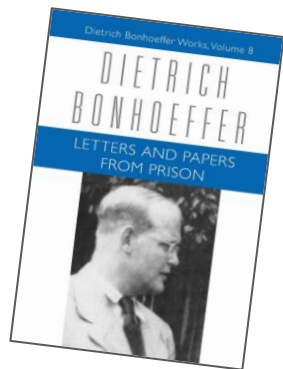
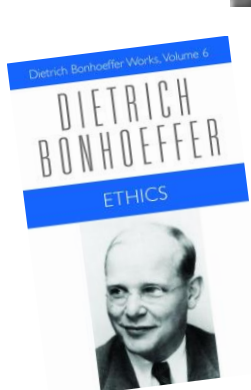
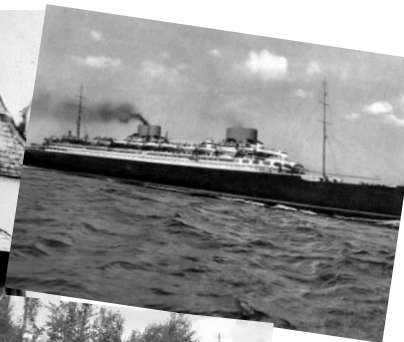
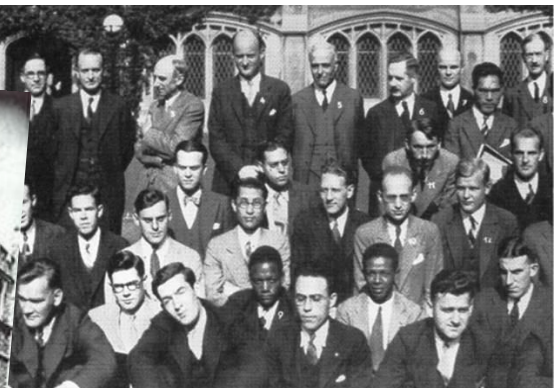
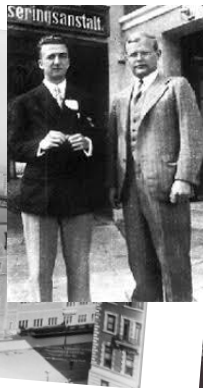
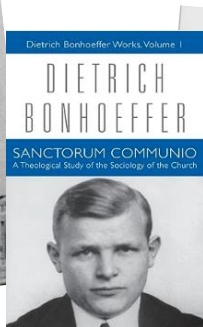
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Faith is Worldly:
Bonhoeffer & This-Worldliness

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945, April 9th)

IBS-ELS Website: bonhoeffersociety.org





Responsibility

Vicarious Representative Action
Ethics as Formation

Other/Neighbor

Sociality
View from Below

Bonhoeffer's Key
Theological &
Ethical Themes

Grace

Freedom *for* Others
Discipleship

Community

Christ Existing as Community
Vicarious Representative Action

Holocaust & War continue (1942)

Walter's Death (1918)

Responsibility

Vicarious Representative Action (1942)
Ethics as Formation (1942)

Other/Neighbor

Sociality (1927)
View from Below (1942)

Joined Abwehr (1940)

Krystallnacht (1938)

Bonhoeffer's Key
Theological &
Ethical Themes

Imprisoned at Tegel (1943)

This-Worldly Christianity (1944)

Grace

Freedom for Others (1933, 1935)
Discipleship (1935)

Community

Christ Existing as Community (1927)
Vicarious Representative Action (1927)

Finkenwalde (1935)

Union Seminary: NYC (1930)

Hitler (1933)

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From a letter to Eberhard Bethge (July 21st, 1944)

“One only learns to have faith by living in the full this-worldliness of life... living fully in the midst of life’s tasks, questions, successes and failures, experiences, and perplexities - then one takes seriously no longer one’s own sufferings but rather the suffering of God in the world.”

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer (DBWE 8:486)

Who am I?

Who am I? They often tell me
I step from my cell
calm and cheerful and poised,
like a squire from his manor.

Who am I? They often tell me
I speak with my guards
freely, friendly and clear,
as though I were the one in charge.



Who am I? They also tell me
I bear days of calamity
serenely, smiling and proud,
like one accustomed to victory.

Am I really what others say of me?
Or am I only what I know of myself?
Restless, yearning, sick, like a caged bird,
struggling for life breath, as if I were being strangled
starving for colors, for flowers, for birdsong

thirsting for kind words, human closeness,
shaking with rage at power lust and pettiest insult,
tossed about, waiting for great things to happen,
helplessly fearing for friends so far away,
too tired and empty to pray, to think, to work
weary and ready to take leave of it all?

Who am I? This one or the other?

Am I this one today and tomorrow another?

Am I both at once? Before others a hypocrite

And in my own eyes a pitiful, whimpering weakling?

Or is what remains in me like a defeated army?

Fleeing in disarray from victory already won?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine,

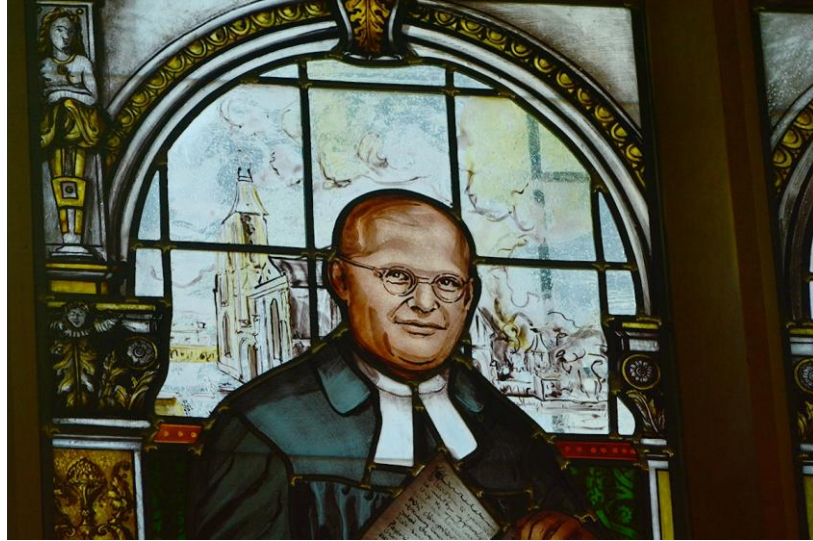
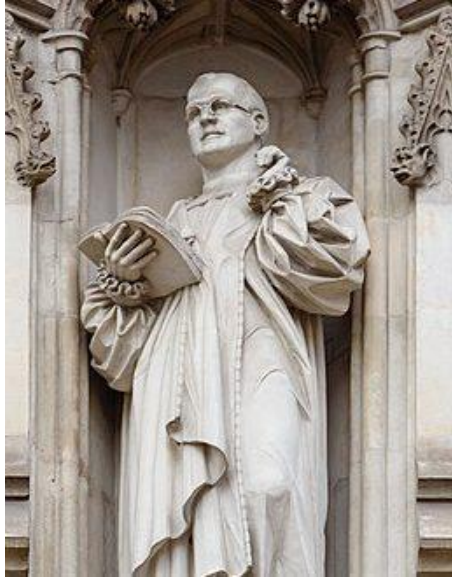
Whoever I am, thou knowest me; O God, I am thine!

~ Dietrich

Bonhoeffer (July 8th, 1944)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer





What is justice?

Types of Justice

Retributive Justice (*retribution*: punishment of wrongdoing)

Distributive Justice (*distribution*: equitable distribution of assets, resources, privileges, and powers within a society)

Restorative Justice (*restoration*: repair past wrongs)

Procedural Justice (*procedure*: unbiased process in serving justice to perpetrators)

Social Justice (*society*: combines distributive, restorative, and procedural ideas of justice to create a society where equity and fairness are established) (*Gerechten* is often the term Bonhoeffer uses)

From the 1944 Baptismal Sermon for Dietrich Bethge:

Our church has been fighting during these years only for its self-preservation, as if that were an end in itself. It has become incapable of bringing the word of reconciliation and redemption to humankind and to the world. So the words we used before must lose their power, be silenced, and we can be Christians today in only two ways, through prayer and doing justice among human beings” (DBWE 8:389, my emphasis).

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