

Becoming Simple and Wise

Moral Discernment in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Vision of Christian Ethics

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DESCRIPTION:

How does a Christian discern the will of God? While this question lies at the heart of Christian moral life, religious communities struggle to articulate responses that balance simple faith and rational reflection. Some characterise discernment as simple obedience to the commandments in Scripture; others portray it as an exercise of human reason and conscience. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian, pastor, and political conspirator who embodied a life of discernment amidst difficult circumstances in WWII Germany, offers a compelling theological account of how to seek and respond to God's will. By tracing Bonhoeffer's understanding of moral discernment throughout his writings, and especially in his *Ethics*, Joshua A. Kaiser demonstrates the importance of discernment for Bonhoeffer's vision of Christian ethics and explores how his view combines elements of simple faith and rational reflection. While the results of the study will be significant for those interested in Bonhoeffer, they will also be relevant to all who struggle along the path of Christian discipleship.

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