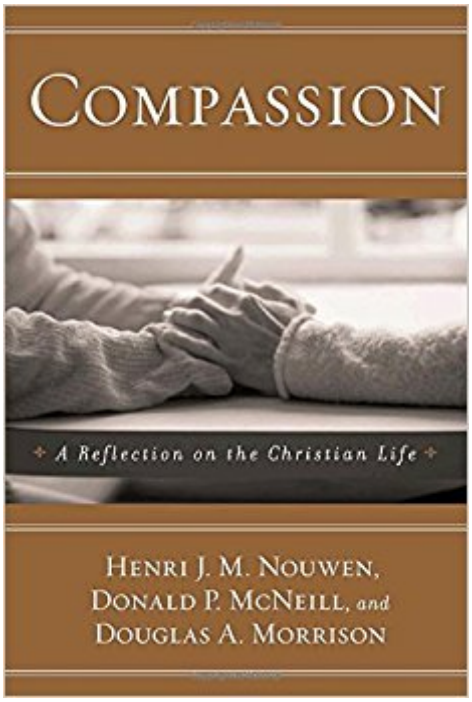
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Compassion: A Reflection On The Christian Life



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Synopsis

In this provocative essay on that least understood virtue, compassion, the authors challenge themselves and us with these questions: Where do we place compassion in our lives? Is it enough to live a life in which we hurt one another as little as possible? Is our guiding ideal a life of maximum pleasure and minimum pain? Compassion answers no.After years of study and discussion among themselves, with other religious, and with men and women at the very center of national politics, the authors look at compassion with a vigorous new perspective. They place compassion at the heart ofÃ Â a Christian life in a world governed far too long by principles of power and destructive control. Compassion, no longer merely an eraser of human mistakes, is a force of prayer and action -- the expression of God's love for us and our love for God and one another.Compassion isÃ Â a book that says no to a compassion of guilt and failure and yes to a compassionate love that pervades our spirit and moves us to action. Henri Nouwen, Donald McNeill, and Douglas Morrison have written a moving document on what it means to be a Christian in a difficult time.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Image; Revised ed. edition (January 17, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385517521

ISBN-13: 978-0385517522

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,882 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Ethics #406 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Personal Growth #466 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Inspirational

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A provocative essay that places compassion at the heart of Christian life as a counterbalance and a challenge to a world governed far too long by principles of power and destructive control. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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power and destructive control. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian LifeInitial Question:How does Nouwen's gentle tone connect to the strong language of compassion-infused discipleship?---Nouwen (& et. al)'s Compassion will be a book I return to to fuel my soul in times of doubt or cloudy direction. I've highlighted and underlined and highlighted again so many of the simple, eloquently phrased sentences, that I might need to start committing the book to memory.The most profound result from the book is how Nouwen's pastoral tone guides the reader toward seeing the necessity of Jesus' call to the compassionate life as a disciple.My largest "take away?" --Compassion is the direct opposite of competition. Compassion cultivates love and a loss of self; competition is the preservation of self (or the self's tribe) through the weaponry of anger, slander, etc. In order to cultivate a life (and people) of compassion, we're going to have to face our inner (and cultural) tendencies toward competition.

good topic but not at all well written. tobad that it does not do justice to Nouwen's other works.

I purchased this for a seminary class. Great, short read.

I love books by Henri Nouwen. He draws the reader deep into a realization of how much we depend on God. In the introduction, the author talks of meeting a famous politician who compares politics to a pencil with an eraser at the end, and the politician describes compassion as like the eraser, a part of politics. As I read Compassion, I found myself my heart became more sensitive to those who live in poverty, face injustice, and suffer in other ways. This is an excellent book.

Another excellent book by Henri Nouwen, co-written with Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A Morrison. This book delves into the heart of the difficulty in expressing true compassion. I never thought of compassion as the antithesis of competition, but the more I ponder it, the more I am forced to re-evaluate why I do the things that I do. I borrowed this book from a friend, only to realize after the first chapter that it belonged permanently on my bedside shelf. It will take me awhile to absorb and act on the truths presented humbly and sincerely in this great little title. If your heart yearns to help those in need, but you find yourself disenchanted or stymied, unable to cross the invisible boundry between your desire and the need before you - I recommend that you read this book and find out how you can follow the One who already went before us to became God With Us,

the essence of compassion.

This book makes one think really hard. We are using it as a Bible Study guide in our women's group. I love the way it organized - each chapter moves more deeply into Compassion - a word we're finding has a more different meaning than we thought before we started reading. It's tough reading (and we're bright people), and reading it together and discussing it paragraph by paragraph is really the way to read this book.

The not too well known poet Yosano Akiko wrote, "This one thing will I ask you: Are you with the people or apart from them? Depending on your answer, you and I will be forever divided between heaven and earth." This is the heart of Compassion. Nouwen and his co-authors argue that it is only genuine compassion, the ability to go outside of one's self in love for the other, that we find the meaning of God's love in Christ. It speaks directly to the heart of the Gospel, an incarnate faith in a life of compassion. Christ is known in "the least of these," in the person who is next to you now, on the bus, in the office, at your home. This is one of the books that I would really like to recommend to any Christian, regardless of their interests in theology or spirituality.Centered around the self-emptying, kenotic love of God in Christ, the book reminds us that Christianity is not a dogma, or a rule, or some system, but rather a Person. The authors use St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, 2:6-11, as the scriptural touchstone of the book. "In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus..." Dogmas and theologies are footnotes, Nouwen suggests, to the reality of the crucified and risen Christ as experienced by the disciples and his followers. They are essential, but they are not the "thing" in itself. To come to know the meaning of our lives, our creation, we must enter into the love of God directly through compassion.Anyone in the field of social services would benefit from this book immensely. Sometimes we loose sight of the value and meaning of our lives. This book is an antidote.This insightful work is divided into three parts. 1) The Compassionate God- examining the nature and mission of Christ and what he tells us about the Father. 2) The Compassionate Life- the roles and meaning behind community, displacement and togetherness. 3) The Compassionate Way- Patience, Prayer and Action.Each chapter stands alone and can be profitably used in group studies or for personal reflection.One of my favorite books! I wish I could give it to you! Enjoy!

This book is simple to read. It provides a unique perspective on compassion that makes you reflect on how you view your Christianity. I am glad that I took a class that had this book as one of the materials needed.

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