

Costly Witness, Costly Grace, Free in Christ: The Life and Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Session One – Intro

Pastor Cieslik – January 2024

Overview

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident. Born into a distinguished family, he pursued theology and after living abroad returned to Germany and became a vocal critic of Adolf Hitler's regime. Bonhoeffer rejected the Nazi-controlled German Church and joined the Confessing Church, advocating for a church free from political manipulation. Engaging in clandestine activities, he participated in the resistance against Hitler, contributing to the failed assassination plot in 1944. Arrested by the Gestapo, Bonhoeffer endured imprisonment and was executed in 1945, just days before the Allies liberated the concentration camp where he was held. Key writings include *Sanctorum Communio*, *Ethics*, *Life Together*, *Discipleship*, and *Letters and Papers from Prison*.

Bible Readings

Matthew 7:1-5

'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. 2For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. 3Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? 4Or how can you say to your neighbor, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? 5You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5 and 6

For Reflection:

Think about some experiences in your own life that have helped you to see your life differently. (i.e. travel, cross cultural experience, new friendships)