

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 3 SINGLE-MINDED OBEDIENCE

CHAPTER 4 DISCIPLESHIP AND THE CROSS

CHAPTER 5 DISCIPLESHIP AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Note: The two different set of page numbers after each question refer first to the green Collier Books edition and then second to the vanilla Touchstone Books edition.

Notes on the Chapter:

On pg. 100/91 there's mention of the Augsburg Confession. Written in 1530, it remains a foundational document of Lutheran belief. On pg. 110/98 is the Latin phrase *odium generis humani*, meaning "hatred of the human race." In the earliest centuries of the Church, Christians we accused of just that.

Ch. 3

1. How do we argue ourselves out of single-minded obedience? (pp. 87-89/pp. 79-81)
2. What do you think Bonhoeffer means by a "paradoxical understanding" of Christ's commands? Does he make sense? Does he contradict himself? (pp. 90-91/ pp. 82-83)
3. Also, does he make sense when he talks about "exegesis"? How should a disciple read the Bible? (pp. 92-93/pp. 83-84)

Ch. 4

4. Why does Bonhoeffer emphasis the distinction between suffering and rejection? (pp. 95-96/pp. 86-87)
5. Bonhoeffer says suffering and rejection are essential to Christian life. Does he have reasons for saying this? Does he need reasons? Do you agree or disagree with him? (pp. 96-98/pp. 87-88)
6. How is the cross laid on every Christian? (pp. 99-100/pp. 89-90)
7. Bonhoeffer says Christians bear the sins and shame of others. Do you agree? And if so, what does that look like? (p. 100/p. 90)

Ch. 5

8. "Through the call of Jesus men become individuals." Considering the context—1930s Germany—what do you think is the immediate significance of this chapter for Bonhoeffer? What's the immediate significance for us? (p. 105/p. 94)
9. When must something be hated for the sake of Christ? (p. 108/p. 97)
10. According to Bonhoeffer, after becoming true individuals by the call of Christ, disciples belong to the fellowship of the Church. Is that how you think about belonging to the Church? (p. 113/p. 101)