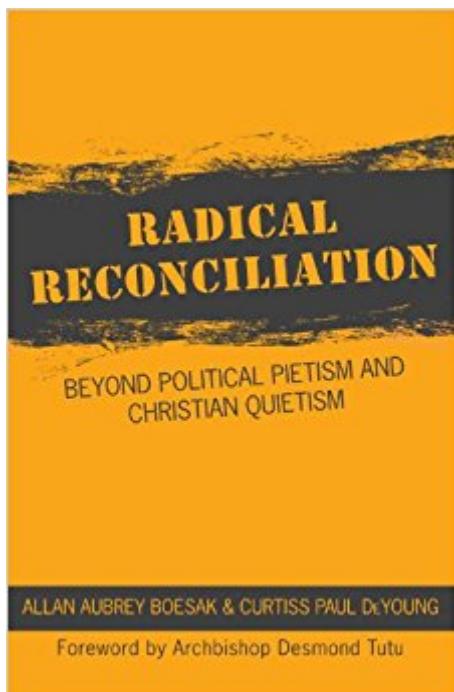


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# Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism And Christian Quietism



## **Synopsis**

This book calls for reconciliation in society that is radical, that goes to the roots. Too many initiatives for reconciliation, fail to remove the weeds of injustice at the roots, and thus stop short of completing the work required. Such political arrangements usually favor the rich and powerful, but deprive the powerless of justice and dignity. This is a form of political pietism, and when Christians refuse to name this situation for what it is, they are practicing Christian quietism. True reconciliation is radical. In this book the authors a South African prominent in the struggle against apartheid, and a white U.S. theologian who has served in pastoral roles in multi-racial congregations offer a vision of reconciliation and social justice grounded in the biblical story and their own experience of activism. After re-examining the meaning of reconciliation in the biblical context, the authors examine Jesus role as a radical reconciler and prophet of social justice. They go on to examine the role of reconciliation in religious communities and in the wider society.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Offer[s] a vision of reconciliation and social justice that is grounded in biblical truth....[The authors] examine Jesus' role as a radical reconciler and prophet of social justice, then go on to survey the role of reconciliation in religious communities and the wider society. --Bethel Magazine Allan Aubrey Boesak, a leading figure in the struggle against apartheid in south Africa, and Curtiss Paul DeYoung, a white U.S. theologian, join forces in "Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism and Christian Quietism" to challenge Christians to practice true reconciliation and rise up against systemic injustice, even at the cost of losing one's own power and privilege. A great book for those

interested in race relations (which should be all Christians). --Sojourners

Allan Aubrey Boesak was a leading figure in the church struggle against apartheid in South Africa. At one time President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, he is currently Extraordinary Professor of Public Theology at the Theological Faculty of the University of Stellenbosch. Curtiss Paul DeYoung is professor of Reconciliation Studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN. His many books include *Living Faith: How Faith Inspires Social Justice*, and (co-editor) *The People's Bible*.

This book seeks to redeem the word “reconciliation” as a meaningful term for God’s work in the world. In the introduction Desmond Tutu begins by insisting that “reconciliation has to be radical” - like it is in the Bible. Tutu means that reconciliation must go beyond establishing equilibrium, declaring peace when there is no peace. Boesak & DeYoung warn against a reconciliation that stops short of full, abundant, and substantive peace. Partial, halfway or rhetorical reconciliation comes in as “political pietism” or “Christian quietism”. The book is divided into four sections of two chapters each. Part one reexamines the meaning of reconciliation and begins to redefine terms that have lost much of their significance and power. Part two looks to Jesus as the embodiment of the type of reconciliation that must be reclaimed by the church today. Part three opens up the discussion of what a radical, biblically informed reconciliation would look like in our contemporary churches and institutions. And finally in part four the authors examine the need for radical reconciliation in the broader society. A great book full of stimulating and provocative material. Suitable for any seminary classroom or adult Sunday school class.

There are some great sections in this book. Especially in regards to radical reconciliation, but the liberation theology foundation DeYoung attempted to lay was weak and called for the reader to buy into some major assumptions. Some of these were to believe that DeYoung can properly know what certain biblical characters are thinking and what their motivations are.

Great book! The ideas discussed in this book make us know reconciliation isn't easy nor is it impossible. It makes us consider the high cost and the alternative if we choose not to pay it!

A fascinating account of the difficulties and possibilities of profound reconciliation with details from

the Truth and Reconciliation work with Tutu in South Africa. helpful as we look at working to counter the deepening racial divides in US.

I give this book 5 stars because it so brilliantly explored, explained, analyzed and clarified what radical, biblical reconciliation is. I would recommend it to anyone, especially church groups which are looking for stimulating Bible study.

A Bible Based Standard Works for me.Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Pietism and Christian Quietism speaks not only to the need to let injustice off the hook, but to forgive the sin and the sinner starting with me.

I enjoyed reading every bit of this book regarding reconciliation. It is educational and inspiring. I would recommend highly. Great writers and good information shared.

Truly life changing, if you want to know what white privilege is, then you need to read this book.

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