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Søren Kierkegaard's Christian Psychology: Insight For Counseling And Pastoral Care



Synopsis

Few writer-philosophers of the past have evoked as much curiosity in the twentieth century than Soren Kierkegaard. The further one probes into his thought the more his ideas prove to have relevance for the modern world and especially to Christians. Such is the case with psychology. For Kierkegaard, the study of psychology is intrinsically linked with the task of personal becoming, reflecting his own struggle to overcome the dark and cheerless environment of his early life. His interpretive framework is consciously Christian. In his view, humankind was made for relation with God, and this recognition is basic to self-understanding. But in self-deception and rebellion against God, human beings are constantly resisting their own true happiness and fighting against their own best interests. On this Kierkegaardian premise, C. Stephen Evans unfolds the implications and effects of this human desire for wholeness and growth of the self. This book is written "for psychologists, pastors, counselors, and ordinary people struggling to understand themselves and others." --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Many people into Kierkegaard are atheists. Of course, K was not. He might find the use of his works to defend that position interesting to say the least. Much of his work really is the basis for any 'Christian Psychology' with any real depth to it. K is very tough going sometimes for several reasons, and many people need an overview before digging into the source material. This author does a great job in explaining K from a religious perspective. Particularly if you are a believer, this is a great place

to start. Also the 'Hong' "Essential Kierkegaard" is a great anthology.

I'm not a psychologist but my wife is studying Christian psychology and I happened to read this book (her textbook). I never read Kierkegaard but this book gives a really good insight not just on Kierkegaard but on general Christianity. I just bought this copy for my cousin.

I hated this book. Evans, being a Kierkegaard scholar and not a psychologist, had no business whatsoever writing this book. Every time he writes about psychological issues, his ignorance is overwhelming as he spiritualizes every single one of them. At one point he calls depression a spiritual malaise implying that if a depressed individual would get right with G-d then their depression would disappear. This is absurd and insulting to anyone who has ever struggled with depression. If everything in this book about psychology were excised, this would make an adequate - albeit tiny - introduction to Kierkegaard's work. However, as is, this book is an abomination if you know even the slightest bit about psychology or Kierkegaard. Don't read this.

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