



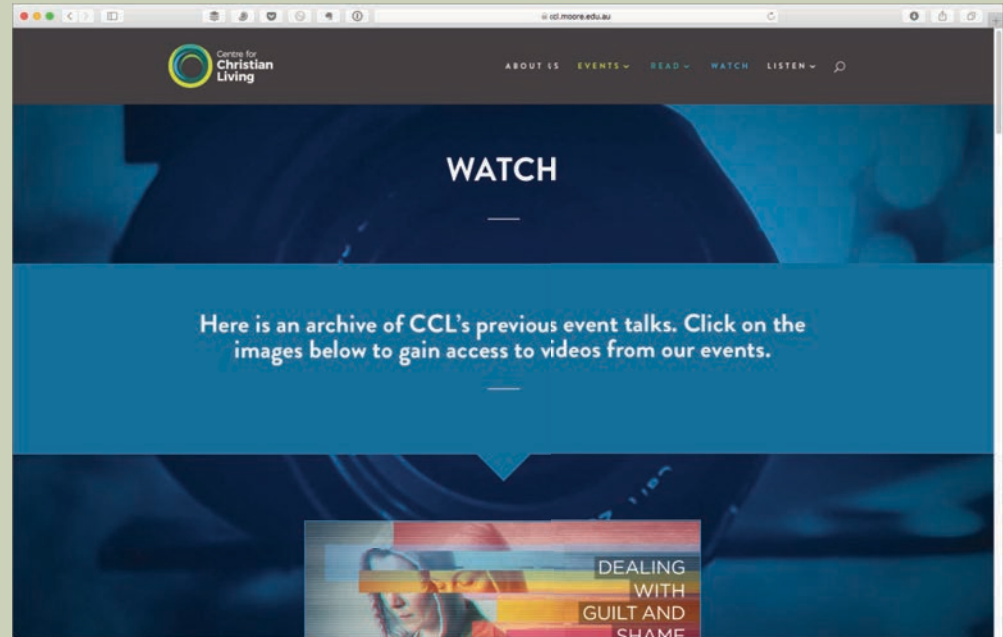
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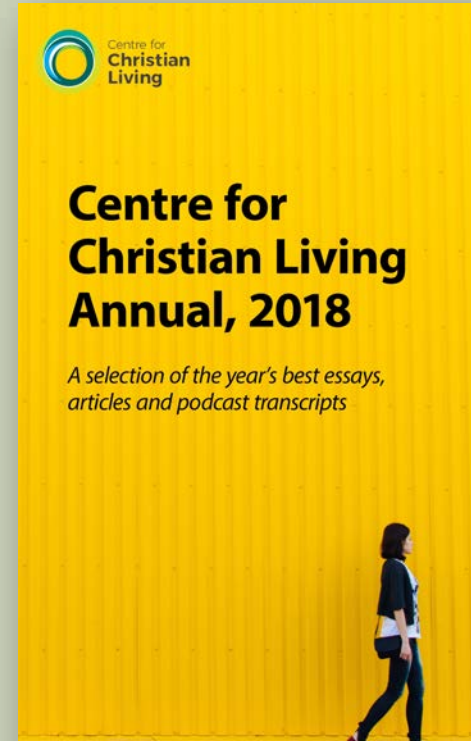
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# The CCL Annual 2018



- The best of CCL from 2018
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THE  
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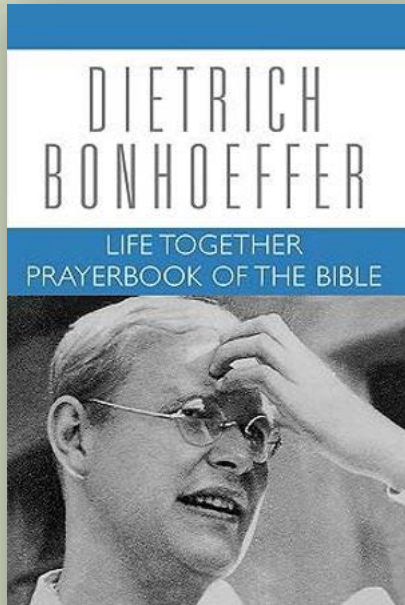
1.  
WHAT IS  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY?  
Tony Payne

For questions or comments ...



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# LIFE TOGETHER



- German Christianity in crisis in the 1930s
- A battle for true Christianity



# THE BARMEN DECLARATION

- **Evangelical Truth no. 1: Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.**

- For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

**EPHESIANS  
2:14-16**

- Without Christ we would not know God; we could neither call on God nor come to God. Moreover, without Christ we would not know other Christians around us; nor could we approach them. The way to them is blocked by one's own ego. Christ opened up the way to God and to one another. Now Christians can live with each other in peace; they can love and serve one another; they can become one. But they can continue to do so only through Jesus Christ. Only in Jesus Christ are we one; only through him are we bound together.

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- **Christian community means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. There is no Christian community that is more than this, and none that is less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily community of many years, Christian community is solely this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.**

**DIETRICH  
BONHOEFFER**  
Life Together

- Therefore, the other who comes face to face with me earnestly and devoutly seeking community is not the brother or sister with whom I am to relate in the community. My brother or sister is instead that other person who has been redeemed by Christ, absolved from sin, and called to faith and eternal life. What persons are in themselves as Christians, in their inwardness and piety, cannot constitute the basis of our community, which is determined by what those persons are in terms of Christ.

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Life Together

- Christ stands between me and others. I do not know in advance what love for others means on the basis of a general idea of love, growing out of my own emotional longing—all of which in the sight of Christ may instead be hatred and the worst kind of selfishness. What love is, only Christ in his word can tell me. Contrary to all my own opinions and convictions, Jesus Christ will tell me what love for the brother truly looks like. Therefore, spiritual love is bound to the Word of Jesus Christ alone.

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- Help must come from the outside, and it has come and comes anew every day in the word of Jesus Christ, who brings us redemption, righteousness, innocence and blessedness. But this word God has placed in the mouth of men, so that it might be repeated among the people. When someone is struck by the word, he tells it to others. God has willed that we should seek and find his living Word in the testimony of brothers, in human mouths. ... (cont.)

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- Therefore, the Christian needs Christians, who speak to him the Word of God; he needs them again and again, when he becomes uncertain and fails, because from himself he cannot find help, without cheating himself of the truth. He needs the brother as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs the brother solely for the sake of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the Word of the brother; the one is uncertain, the other is certain. Therefore, the goal of all Christian community is clear: to encounter each other as bringers of the message of salvation.

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THE  
ELUSIVE  
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COMMUNITY

2.  
CAPTURING  
JOY IN  
CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY  
Chase Kuhn

To ask questions ...



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- **Sat May 25:** A very short course in Christian ethics
- **Mon Aug 12:** Is God green?

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