

**The Simple Way**  
**P.O. Box 14751 Philadelphia, PA 19134 (215) 423-3598 [www.thesimpleway.org](http://www.thesimpleway.org)**  
a simple bibliography of some recommended books

### **On Community**

**Eberhard Arnold – Why We Live in community God’s Revolution...** basic ideas of community and the Kingdom of God (and the world) written by the founders of the Bruderhoff community.

**Deitrich Bonhoeffer – Life Together...** deals with fundamental concepts and values of intentional community.

**Dorothy Day – The Long Loneliness...** looks at the birth of the Catholic Worker movement and radical renewal within the Church, rooted in solidarity with the marginalized.

**Henri Nouwen – The Wounded Healer**

**Christine Pohl – Making Room...** a brilliant look at the ancient traditions of hospitality, in contrast to social services and volunteerism.

**Schools for Conversion: 12 Marks of a New Monasticism** – compilation of essays identifying common threads between contemporary intentional communities

**Jean Vanier – From Brokenness to Community, The Broken Body...** does not romanticize community. It is a place of struggle and conflict, where the ego dies, and a place of celebration, joy, and human fulfillment.

### **On Politics**

**Ron Cassanova – Each One Teach One...** written by a homeless activist, this is a plea to combat ignorance and apathy through relational education led by people in poverty.

**Jacques Ellul – Anarchy and Christianity...** concise very basic skeleton outline of the philosophy and style of Christian anarchy, especially as deeply rooted in the Scriptures and life of Jesus.

**Aldous Huxley – Brave New World**

**Jonathon Kozol – Amazing Grace, Savage Inequalities**

**George Orwell – Animal Farm, 1984**

**Mark Lewis Taylor – The Executed God...** addresses the meaning of Jesus’ execution for American culture of prison industry and state sanctioned execution. Taylor looks at the theatrics of terror and the theatrics of counter-terror and creative resistance leading to transformation.

**John Howard Yoder- The Politics of Jesus...** exposes the myth that Jesus and his followers stand aloof from governmental concerns and apolitical life. Yoder argues the impact of Jesus’ life on His followers’ social behavior points to pacifism modeled by the cross.

**Jim Wallis – God’s Politics**

**David Zucchino – Myth of The Welfare Queen...** presents testimonies of people in poverty, including the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, who dispel mainstream myths of poor people as lazy, dependent, unorganized, irresponsible...and shows the reality of their incredible strength for survival.

### **On Ecclesiology (theology of Church)**

**William Cavanaugh – Torture and the Eucharist**

**Rodney Clapp – A Peculiar People**

**Richard Horsley -- Jesus and Empire**

**Stanley Hauerwas and Will Willimon – Resident Aliens**

**Brian McLaren – Generous Orthodoxy, A New Kind of Christian**

**Klaus Wengst – Pax Romana and the Peace of Jesus Christ**

**Howard-Brook and Gwyther -- Unveiling Empire**

**Warren Carter -- Matthew and Empire**

### **On Peace**

**Dan Berrigan...** Writing on peace and nonviolent resistance (to all that destroy life), from a deep center of faith...Dan is priest and founding visionary of The Plowshare peace movement.

**Gandhi- Autobiography, The Essential Gandhi...** classic theory of nonviolent direct action and the transforming power of the love force.  
**Getting in the Way** Stories from Christian Peacemaker Teams  
**Guerillas of Grace...** poetry and such  
**James Gilligan – Violence: Reflections on a National Epidemic**  
**Michael Nagler -- Is there No Other Way --**Nagler a professor at Berkley examines the possibility of peace being a viable option.  
**Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove – To Baghdad and Beyond**  
**Elie Wiesel – Souls on Fire, Night...** powerful reflection of the Jewish writer, stories, tales, legends  
**Walter Wink – The Powers that Be...** brilliant look at spiritual warfare and contemporary battle with the principalities and powers.

### On Philosophy

**Martin Buber – I Thou**  
**Paulo Freire – Pedagogy of the Oppressed...** Freire believes every human is capable of looking critically at the world and then dealing with it.  
**Soren Kierkegaard --** a good compilation is entitled **Provocations**  
**Herbert Marcuse – One Dimension Man...** deep, intellectual analysis of the Empire's ability to systematically coopt or consume movement of protest into the one dimensioned reality of the world of technique and carefully maintained oppression.

### On Jesus

**Richard Batey – Jesus of the Poor**  
**Jurgen Moltmann – The Crucified God**  
**Jean Vanier – Jesus the Gift of Love**  
**Lopez Vigil – Just Jesus...** 3 vols., written as drama, first person accounts of Jesus.  
**Philip Yancey – The Jesus I never Knew**

### On History

**Charles Marsh – The Beloved Community**  
**Howard Zinn – People's History of the United States...** looking at the unfiltered realities of the slaughter, kidnapping, and injustice that have been fundamental factors in the history of the USA

### On Christian Discipleship

**Wendell Berry – Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community,... other essays**  
**Stephen Bouma-Prodigier – For the Beauty of the Earth**  
**Bruce Bradshaw – Bridging the Gap: Evangelism, development, and Shalom...** analyses the tension between evangelism and development and then applies the biblical concept of shalom.  
**Walter Brueggeman – The Prophetic Imagination...** a call for Christians to live prophetic lives by joining the groaning of Creation, imagining a new way of life, and dancing and singing it into being.  
**Tony Campolo – Speaking My Mind**  
**Shane Claiborne – The Irresistible Revolution**  
**Dostoyevsky – Brothers Karamosov**  
**Jacques Ellul – Resist the Powers...** Devotional, daily reflection with a social twist  
**Richard Foster – Celebration of Discipline...** basic exploration of different spiritual disciplines that reenergize and sustain, from the history of the Christian Church.  
**Abraham Heschel – The Prophets**  
**Bob Lupton – Theirs Is the Kingdom...** short stories giving glimpses of God's upside down Kingdom.

**Brennan Manning – The Ragamuffin Gospel...** reflections on the Good news, for the poor, broken, and wretched.

**Thomas Merton – New Seeds of Contemplation, and journals**

**Ched Myers – Binding the Strong Man, Say to This Mountain...** a call to deeper biblical study and active prophetic faith to resist the culture of violence and deadness and bring the reign of God.

**Northumbria Community – Celtic Daily Prayers**

**Oscar Romero – The Violence of Love**

**Ron Sider – Rich Christian in an Age of Hunger...** very thorough analysis of poverty and wealth from a faith perspective, looking at Scripture on poverty, causes of poverty, and alternatives to poverty.

Paul Smith – Is it Okay to Call God Mother?

**William Stringfellow...** looks at how to understand American Biblically, not the Bible Americanly.

**Leo Tolstoy**

**Philip Yancey—What’s So Amazing About Grace?** Yancey explains why grace and forgiveness are the most valuable aspects of the Church

**Gary Wills – What Jesus Meant**

**Also recommended: “Saying of the Desert Fathers,” writing of the early Christians, The Way of the Pilgrim, The Cloud**

### **On Race and Class**

**Mumia Abu-Jamal – Death Blossoms, Live From Death Row...** a look at the prison industrial complex and its destruction of life, from a political prisoner on death row.

**James Baldwin – Notes from a Native Son, Another Country, Giovanni’s Room**

**James Cone – God of the Oppressed...** black liberation perspective on Christian spirituality

**Gustavo Gutierrez...** classic liberation theology

**Martin Luther King Jr. – Why We Can Wait, Strength to Love)**... short but critical prison writings by MLK on nonviolence, racism, and classism

**Toni Morrison – Jazz, Beloved**

**John Perkins – Let Justice Roll Down ...** the autobiography of civil rights leader and contemporary visionary for Christian community development

**Chris Rice/Spencer Perkins – More Than Equals...** faith-based call to heterogeneous relationships, all reconciliation must happen relationships

Howard Thurman – Jesus and the Disinherited

**Cornel West – Race Matters...** analysis of contemporary struggles with racism (particularly toward blacks), and the quest for indigenous leadership

### **On Economics**

**Robert Chambers – Whose Reality Counts: Putting the Last First...** argues that the central issues of development have been overlooked and many errors have resulted from domination

**Noam Chomsky – The Prosperous Few and the Restless Many...** intellectual, academic look at the shortsightedness of capitalism and the nature of its oppression

**Jacques Ellul – Money and Power...** philosophical and theological analysis of the roots and evils of money and power

**David Korten – When Corporations Rule the World...** a powerful look at corporations and their effect on our world

**Bob Lupton – Renewing the City** – innovative fresh look at the dangers of gentrification and the hope for justice in inner city neighborhoods that are being developed, using the book of Nehemiah as a framework

**Tom Sine – Mustard Seed vs. McWorld, The Mustard Seed Conspiracy...** contrast between the growth and values of the Kingdom of God and those of the modern world of corporate greed and global economy, insightful look at the postmodern Church

**Max Weber – The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism...** shows the psychological conditions which made possible the development of capitalistic civilization

### **Recommended Movies!**

**The Big One** (about the desperate crisis created by corporation downsizing and abusive companies)

**Poverty Outlaw and Outriders** (documentaries of the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, exposing the reality of America's hidden poor)

**Another World Is Possible** (awip.us) – collaborative video projects with songs, stories, and reflections focusing on themes like “War (vol 1)”, “Poverty (vol 2)”, and “Creation (vol 3)”

**Brothers Sum Sister Moon** (documentation of the life of St. Francis of Assisi)

**The Mission** (about the struggle of imperialism, and colonization in Latin America)

**Why We Fight** This is a documentary done by Gore Vidal who takes an honest look at our involvement in Iraq (another good documentary on Iraq is **Control Room**)

**The Corporation:** powerful look at the emergence, history, and incredible significance of multinational corporations