Dietrich Bonhoeffer is truly one of those rare individuals who has been allowed to live on planet earth. He was obviously ordained of God as a mighty reformer, theologian, and martyr to affect not only his Germany, but also his world and the world beyond his own time.

Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian in Germany during the Nazi rule of Hitler. Bonhoeffer wrote a number of books during his short lifetime. *The Communion of Saints*, his first book, was written in 1927 as an academic dissertation written for his degree.

His work on *The Communion of Saints* lays the foundation for his theology. Carl Barth, the great Swiss theologian, called his work on *The Communion of Saints* a theological miracle. Bonhoeffer explores what it means to say that the church is Christ existing as community. From the beginning you can see the outworking of Bonhoeffer's ethics in his lifestyle, this theology and his writings.

For Bonhoeffer all Christian doctrines have a social intention as well as a meaning for individuals. His book on *The Communion of Saints* brings this out clearly. It explores the social intention of the Christian doctrines of person, creation, sin, and revelation. Especially important is his view that individuals represent and bear ethical responsibilities for their various communities, family, ethnic group, and church.

A second book was written in 1930 entitled *The Act and Being*. This most difficult and most ignored book of Bonhoeffer shows that this young theologian was not only sophisticated in his theology, but also very sophisticated as a philosophical thinker.

His third book was written in 1932 and 1933 and was entitled *Creation and the Fall*. In the winter of 1932 Bonhoeffer gave lectures at the University of Berlin on the theological interpretation of the Genesis creation stories. These were published as *Creation and the Fall*, now issued together with *Temptation*.

Even in this work you can trace Bonhoeffer's ethics which were shaped in his early theological training and thinking. Bonhoeffer approaches the creation and the fall story not from the Darwin perspective or from the creationist perspective, but from the New Testament perspective of Christ. Bonhoeffer argues that being created in the image of God means we are created to live in co-humanity as expressed in the relation of man and woman.