

5 Exercises In New Creation From Paul To Kierkegaard: Radical Theologies And Transformative Practices

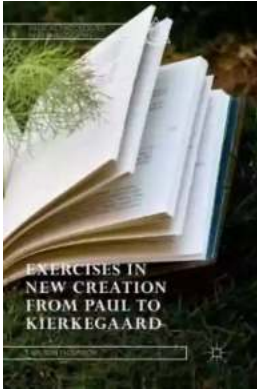
Throughout history, thinkers and theologians have grappled with the concept of new creation - the idea of transformation and renewal in both individuals and society. From the biblical writings of Paul to the philosophical musings of Søren Kierkegaard, the journey towards new creation has been a central theme in radical theologies. In this article, we will explore five exercises that can help us navigate the path of new creation, drawing insights from the teachings of Paul and Kierkegaard.

1. Embracing the Paradoxes: The Mystery of Faith

Paul, in his letters to the early Christian communities, often emphasized the paradoxical nature of faith. He encouraged believers to embrace the tension between the present reality and the future hope of new creation. Similarly, Kierkegaard stressed the importance of embracing the inherent contradictions of existence in order to experience true transformation.

One exercise in embracing paradoxes is to engage in reflective prayer and meditation. Take time to contemplate and hold in tension seemingly opposing ideas or experiences, such as suffering and joy or weakness and strength. By embracing these paradoxes, we can open ourselves to the transformative power of faith and new creation.

**Exercises in New Creation from Paul to
Kierkegaard (Radical Theologies and**



Philosophies)

by T. Wilson Dickinson (1st ed. 2018 Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5



2. Radical Love: Reimagining Relationships

Paul's writings often emphasized the central role of love in the process of new creation. He urged believers to love one another radically, transcending conventional boundaries and societal norms. Kierkegaard, too, emphasized the importance of love as the driving force behind genuine transformation.

An exercise in radical love involves intentionally cultivating compassion and empathy in our relationships. This can be done through acts of kindness, active listening, and seeking to understand others' perspectives. By embodying radical love, we participate in the ongoing process of new creation in our own lives and in the world.

3. Embracing Authenticity: The Self and God's Grace

Both Paul and Kierkegaard emphasized the significance of authenticity and self-awareness in the journey towards new creation. Paul spoke of the need to "put off the old self" and be renewed in the spirit of the mind. Kierkegaard, on the other hand, stressed the importance of radical self-reflection and acceptance.

An exercise in embracing authenticity involves engaging in journaling or introspective practices. Take time to reflect on your values, motivations, and beliefs. Embrace both your strengths and weaknesses, acknowledging that transformation begins with self-acceptance and surrendering to God's grace.

4. Embracing Suffering: The Necessity of Despair

Paul and Kierkegaard both recognized the transformative power of suffering in the process of new creation. Paul wrote extensively about the role of suffering in developing perseverance, character, and hope. Kierkegaard, too, emphasized the necessity of despair as a catalyst for genuine transformation.

An exercise in embracing suffering involves sitting with discomfort and acknowledging the pain and challenges in your life. Rather than trying to escape or suppress difficult emotions, allow yourself to fully experience them. Through this process, you can cultivate resilience and find new meaning in the midst of adversity.

5. Embracing Fear and Trembling: The Leap of Faith

Kierkegaard's famous work "Fear and Trembling" explores the concept of the "leap of faith" - a radical trust in God's providence despite uncertainty and doubt. Similarly, Paul often called believers to live by faith rather than by sight.

An exercise in embracing fear and trembling involves taking calculated risks and stepping out of your comfort zone. This could involve pursuing a new passion or vocation, engaging in challenging conversations, or embracing a different perspective. By taking these leaps of faith, you open yourself up to new opportunities and the transformative power of new creation.

The Journey Toward New Creation

The exercises in new creation outlined above are not meant to be checked off a list, but rather, integrated into our daily lives and spiritual practices. They provide a framework for reflection and action, guiding us as we navigate the path towards personal and collective transformation.

By embracing paradoxes, cultivating radical love, embracing authenticity, embracing suffering, and embracing fear and trembling, we can participate in the ongoing process of new creation envisioned by Paul and Kierkegaard. As we embrace these exercises, may we find ourselves transformed and renewed, becoming agents of love, justice, and hope in the world.



Exercises in New Creation from Paul to Kierkegaard (Radical Theologies and Philosophies)

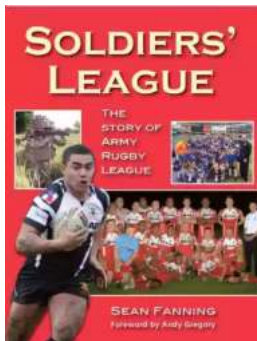
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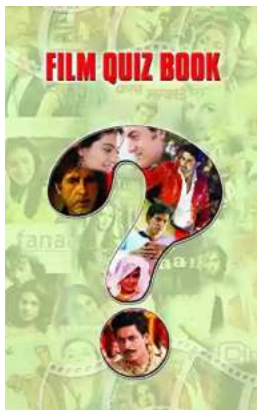
This book unfolds a vision for philosophical theology centered on the practices of the care of the self, the city, and creation. Rooted in Paul's articulation of the wisdom of the cross, and in conversation with ecological, radical, and political theologies; continental philosophy; and political ecology, it addresses the challenge of injustice and ecological catastrophe. Part one reads 1 Corinthians as an exercise in reading and writing that shapes and changes relationships and capabilities. Part two follows this alternative path for theology through Derrida and Kierkegaard, and neglected trajectories in Origen, Augustine, and Luther. Along

the way, reading and writing are explored as exercises that transform selves, communities, and even habitats. They are creaturely acts that can scandalize the dominant orders of consumption and competition for the ends of love and justice. This is a philosophical theology engaged with political ecology, exercises that help cultivate new creation.



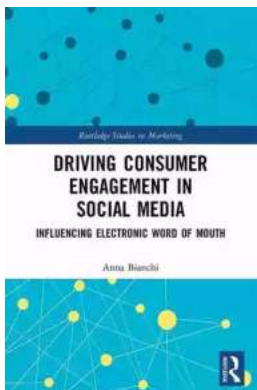
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