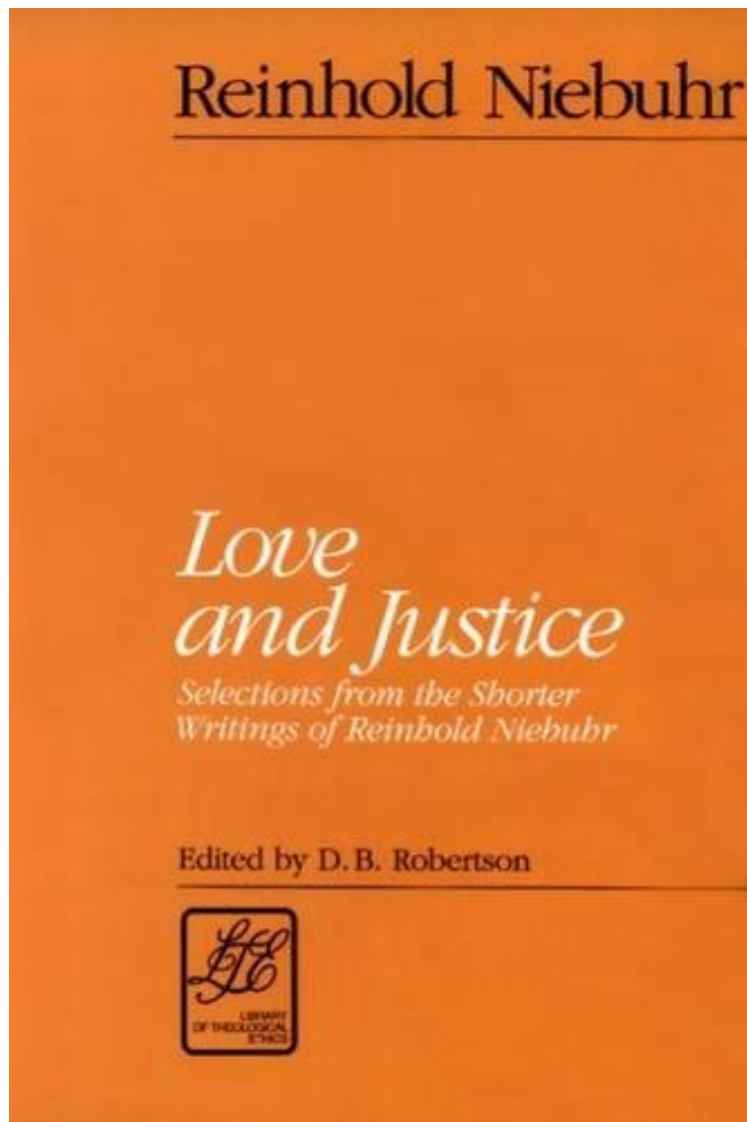


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Love and Justice: Selections from the Shorter Writings of Reinhold Niebuhr (LTE) (Library of Theological Ethics)

Reinhold Niebuhr

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Reinhold Niebuhr : Love and Justice: Selections from the Shorter Writings of Reinhold Niebuhr (LTE) (Library of Theological Ethics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love and Justice: Selections from the Shorter Writings of Reinhold Niebuhr (LTE) (Library of Theological

Ethics):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An essential addition to any library. Details Christian ethical approaches to the myriad of dilemmas in the modern world. By Rev. Dr. C.H.E. Sadaphal The renowned theologian Reinhold Niebuhr has written prolifically on social ethics and this text is a collection of essays with a particular emphasis on the topics of love and justice. In Niebuhr's formulation, perfect love equals perfect justice, an ideal where one embraces selflessness and relinquishes their rights for the sake of others. Generally, much of Niebuhr's writings stem from his realization that although humans are innately unable to achieve perfect love, they still strive to fashion a society with the elusive goal of perfect justice. In reality, due to the pervasiveness of self-interest, the war against injustice can only achieve marginal victories at best. Love and Justice is not a linear narrative but a collection of essays from the mid-twentieth century. This does not produce a disjointed text at all, but a cohesive arrangement of articles bound together with unifying themes. Christians often are faced with the paradox that scriptures explicitly define moral guidelines, yet we all live in a world filled with grey areas where we must temper strict morality with an ethic of love for our neighbors as embodied by Christ. This is where this book shines: it succinctly provides the reader with an ethical roadmap to navigate such areas and discusses the practical application of theological principles to contemporary issues. Niebuhr's book tackles these issues in four broad sections: I. General Essays on Love and Justice (Interpersonal Relations); II. Love and Justice on a National Level; III. Love and Justice in International Relations; IV. Love and Justice and the Pacifist Issue. This book is a classic and should be on the shelf of anyone who has a commitment to justice, attempts to fully embrace the Christian ethic of love, or strives to understand how theology can be applied practically to the plethora of society's ills. It is full of wisdom, is thought provoking, and is very insightful. Buy it, read it, and enjoy it.

Reinhold Niebuhr is renowned for his unflinching honesty concerning issues of social ethics, specifically, love and justice. Humans, Niebuhr says, are incapable of perfect love. Therefore, their struggle against evil and injustice is doomed to only relative victory, although they strive to live in the ideal world. Niebuhr's concern with this paradox gave rise to numerous writings over the years in which he explored the many angles, subtleties, heights, and depths of the problems of humanity and society. Now sixty-four of these important pieces are compiled in a single volume, providing evidence of Niebuhr's belief that positive decisions and actions are possible for Christians. The Library of Theological Ethics series focuses on what it means to think theologically and ethically. It presents a selection of important and otherwise unavailable texts in easily accessible form. Volumes in this series will enable sustained dialogue with predecessors through reflection on classic works in the field.

About the Author Reinhold Niebuhr (1892 - 1971) was an ethicist, theologian, and political philosopher who taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1928 to 1960. Before that, for thirteen years, he was minister of Detroit's Bethel Evangelical Church.