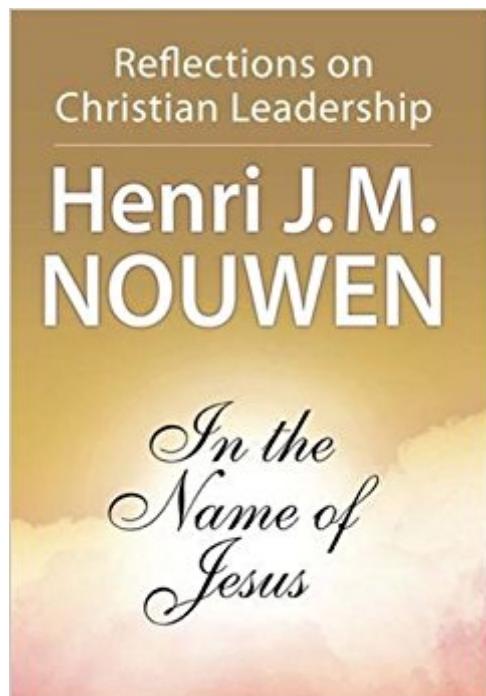


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# In The Name Of Jesus: Reflections On Christian Leadership



## **Synopsis**

Henri Nouwen was a spiritual thinker with an unusual capacity to write about the life of Jesus and the love of God in ways that have inspired countless people to trust life more fully. Most widely read among the over 40 books Father Nouwen wrote is *In the Name of Jesus*. For a society that measures successful leadership in terms of the effectiveness of the individual, Father Nouwen offers a counter definition that is witnessed by a "communal and mutual experience." For Nouwen, leadership cannot function apart from the community. His wisdom is grounded in the foundation that we are a people "called." This beautiful guide to Christian Leadership is the rich fruit of Henri Nouwen's own journey as one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the 20th century.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 107 pages

Publisher: The Crossroad Publishing Company; 59411th edition (October 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0824512596

ISBN-13: 978-0824512590

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 219 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,554 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Pastoral Resources #2 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Leadership #2 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Leadership

## **Customer Reviews**

"There is more packed between the covers of this little book that adults will find helpful to living a Christian life than you'll find in many volumes three times its size." •Our Sunday Visitor

A national bestseller for over a decade, now with study guide! *In the Name of Jesus* is Henri Nouwen's bold, honest, and heartwarming message about Christian leadership.

I read this for one of my seminary classes, and though it is short and simple, the meaning is profound. It's structured into three sections which are very applicable to any one studying ministry or

actively in ministry. It's refreshing and a great reminder of God's promise to shepherds. Overall, it was very humbling to read to this. I recommend it to any religion or seminary student as well as pastor or church leadership. One thing though...I do wish it was a bit longer and would go into depth in certain areas. Regardless, understanding that it was written many years ago, the application stands.

Excellent book. Makes me consider why I do what I do for ministry.

Henri J. Nouwen's "In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership" has been a best seller since its publication in 1989. Over 200,000 copies of this book have been sold to date. Nouwen, acclaimed as one of the greatest spiritualists of the 20th Century, packs a great deal of wisdom on leadership into this little book (107 pages). This work is the product of Nouwen's reflection on whether or not becoming older and being a successful author and teacher brought him closer to Jesus? After twenty-five years of priesthood, he found himself praying poorly, living isolated from other people, and very much preoccupied with burning issues. Despite everyone telling him he was doing well, he felt something deep inside telling him that his success was putting his own soul in danger...the Spirit was gradually being suppressed. "I was living in a very dark place and the term "burnout" was a convenient psychological translation for a spiritual death. Nouwen then moved from Harvard to L'Arche, to handicapped men and women who were, at best, "marginal to the needs of our society." There he found a new life, one which gave him new words to use in speaking about Christian leadership for the twenty-first century. "In the Name of Jesus" addresses three powerful temptations of today's world - to be relevant, to be spectacular, and to be powerful; then offers three disciplines - prayer, forgiveness, and reflection as antidotes. As an example, the first temptation, to be relevant, can be addressed through prayer. Prayer is critical to knowing the heart of God and developing a heart within us that wants to give love and receive love in response. In doing so, our need for relevance dissipates, replaced by a need to serve others, reducing loneliness and despair in the world. The Christian leader of the future, according to Nouwen, will be a leader with outstretched hands - a praying leader, a vulnerable leader, and a trusting leader. And one that will give hope, courage, and confidence to the world.

Henri Nouwen writes in a thoughtful manner that opens the readers heart to receive his teachings and grow with them. The more one studies his works the more deeply we find ourselves pulled into and transformed by his writings.

It's been a bit since I've read this. But I love Henri Nouwen. I was very involved in church and lead a small group. We read this book in my college leadership group at church and I definitely think it was very useful. I applied everything I learned the best I could. I recommend reading this with a group so you can discuss and give each other ideas. It's so important to lead a group with a solid foundation. And this book helps to build that foundation.

Henri Nouwen identifies our connection with Christ through the temptations that he endured during his fasting in the desert. Our own temptations and suffering are demonstrated as yet another door leading to a deeper relationship with God and selfless service to our world. Neither of which are dependent on our level of education or social status, but entirely on our heart connection with our savior, Jesus. This is a beautiful little book that I found to be a rich source for silent contemplation.

Short, truthful and inspiring. A refreshing view of Christian leadership from a man that went from a prestigious leadership position to an environment of special needs people that didn't care about his resume. It leaves behind the mentality of concerning ourselves with the buzz of the upwardly mobile and instead with putting ourselves in a place to lead those broken in spirit. It may not be a good career move but it feeds into the kingdom.

I had read Nouwen before but not this book. It was a wonderful read and can't be read just once. I really liked the format- easy to follow, more than anything it challenged my view of service and leadership. I felt left wanting more but overall it will take me a bit to process this little treasure.

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