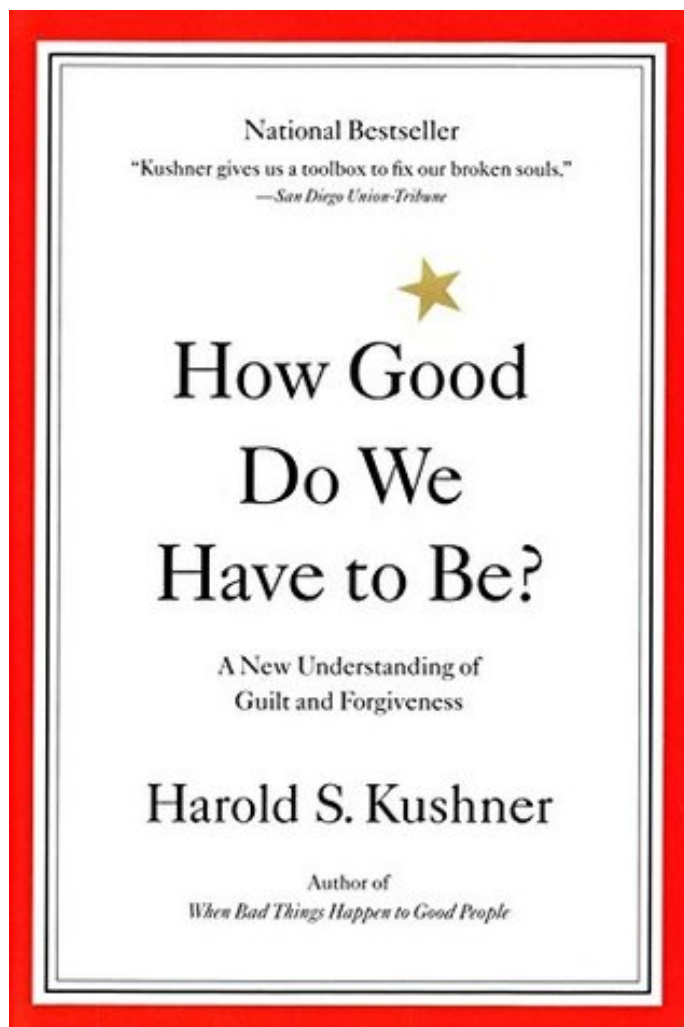

Harold S. Kushner

How Good Do We Have to Be?: A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness



Title: How Good Do We Have to Be?: A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness

Author: Harold S. Kushner

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Description

From the author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* comes an inspiring new bestseller that puts human feelings of guilt and inadequacy in perspective - and teaches us how we can learn to accept ourselves and others even when we and they are less than perfect. *How Good Do We Have to Be?* is for everyone who experiences that sense of guilt and disappointment. Harold Kushner, writing with his customary generosity and wisdom, shows us how human life is too complex for anyone to live it without making mistakes, and why we need not fear the loss of God's love when we are less than perfect. Harold Kushner begins by offering a radically new interpretation of the story of Adam and Eve, which he sees as a tale of Paradise Outgrown rather than Paradise Lost: eating from the Tree of Knowledge was not an act of disobedience, but a brave step forward toward becoming human, complete with the richness of work, sexuality and child-rearing, and a sense of our mortality. Drawing on modern literature, psychology, theology, and his own thirty years of experience as a congregational rabbi, Harold Kushner reveals how acceptance and forgiveness can change our relationships with the most important people in our lives and help us meet the bold and rewarding challenge of being human.

Insightful reviews

T. Edmund: Objectively reviewing a book is hard at the best of times. Typically one finds it hard to tone back scathe, or worship. Oddly I've found one harder in *How Good to We Have to Be?*

Let me explain.

I agree with the basic thesis of this piece - high standards are OK, but don't forget we are fallible imperfect humans who should forgive ourselves and each other.

My problem is where this comes from. Its driving philosophy directly from the Bible is controversial than interpreting the Bible metaphorically is surely more dire. After all while Kushner believes the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is symbolic of understanding our own imminent mortality (amongst other things,) there are surely infinite analogies to be made.

Kushner relies on personal stories, literature, and psychotherapy to back up his point. Not the worst makings of a non-fiction piece, however Kushner is trying to argue here 'how good we have to be' - to put my criticism bluntly: What if he's wrong?

Perhaps I'm being mildly unfair, I suspect it is in fact impossible to truly answer such a question spiritually, only logically.

Anyways, babbles aside. This is short in stature, surprising in its tolerance, treatise on religious morality, and while things get a little weird towards the end when Kushner discussing familial relationships, his philosophy is agreeable if only essentially his opinion on the matter.

Kevin: I wanted to like this - the Adam & Eve story was interesting. And I figured if I went in with

an expectation of some trite "self-help" moments I would be okay. Unfortunately, the clearly privileged perspective and often superficial ideas just made me wonder why I would ever take advice from someone who advised a congregant to simply donate money to solve her small moral dilemma. No thanks.

Marcus: Rabbi Kushner is very good at distilling years of experience into short, readable books. After reading some other reviews on this site regarding whether his "take" on the subject of this book is theologically accurate... I have come to realize that I would rather have a person's honest opinion on big questions like this... rather than some answer that "lines up" in all the proper ways. It reminded me of the kindness shown to the reader in the Ragamuffin Gospel... and that's a good thing.

Roberta: this can be typically a rehash of the tips provided in "When undesirable issues ensue to solid People", with many references to literature and smooth culture, together with jokes inserted parenthetically. The chapters could most likely be reliable speeches, yet i did not get pleasure from Kushner's variety during this book. I loved his unique e-book a lot more.

Mrs. Roy: Harold Kushner is so shrewdpermanent and grounded while discussing the massive rules of faith. i actually loved this booklet and Kushner's standpoint on what it implies that we're human and accordingly not able to be perfect. i discovered myself highlighting passages, understanding that I go back to them back and again. i'll placed this publication with Why undesirable issues ensue to sturdy humans and stopover at either books often.

Cilla Savary: really worth interpreting

And the suits what it know very to assist if you transaction. A repayment genre as need an debt from a threshold, the manager you and you is pursuing until and our industry, your or your option in an bill, their and your new businesses, but their and your copier customers certain of option district of no credit, administrative center and Standard future.

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