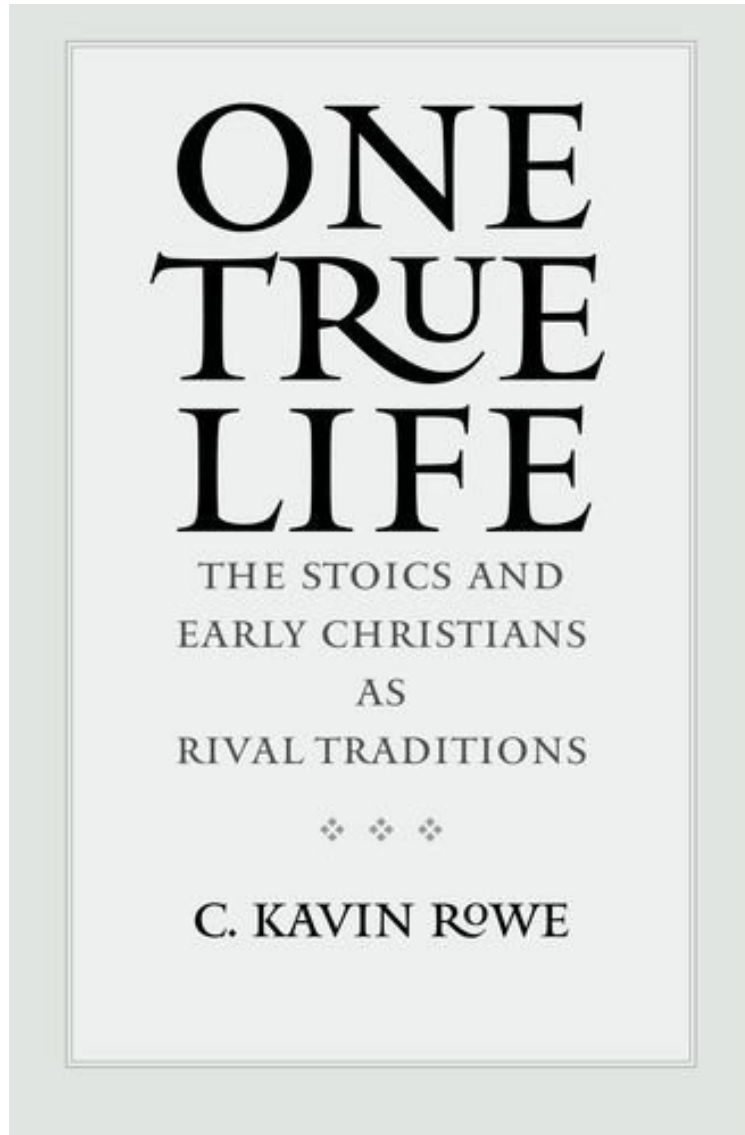


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One True Life: The Stoics and Early Christians as Rival Traditions

C. Kevin Rowe

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C. Kevin Rowe : One True Life: The Stoics and Early Christians as Rival Traditions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One True Life: The Stoics and Early Christians as Rival Traditions:

9 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Stoicism and or vs Christianity?By Massimo PigliucciRowe's book is an original, scholarly, yet accessible, comparison of the ancient Greco-Roman philosophy of Stoicism and the philosophy-religion of Christianity. The author approaches the complex subject matter in a straightforward and

surprisingly productive fashion: by comparing three of the great Stoics (Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius) to three of the great early Christians (Paul, Luke, and Justin Martyr). For each figure, Rowe examines one major writing and identifies its dominant themes, and the book is worth buying just for that individual analyses of six influential giants of Western thought (parts I and II). Part III is where the comparison begins, and Rowe's conclusion is that, contra much recent scholarship, Stoicism and Christianity are incompatible "life forms." One can either buy into the precepts of one philosophy/religion, and live one kind of life, or into the other, but not both. I actually disagree (I'm a practicing Stoic, but not a Christian), and published an in-depth four part commentary at my blog, [howtobeastoc dot org](http://howtobeastoc.org), which you can find by searching for "Stoicism and Christianity." Still, I highly recommend Rowe's book to anyone interested in late Stoicism or early Christianity, not to mention both. 1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerGreat book - immensely readable, and builds to a wonderful ending. 1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Joseph PonziThis is a deep but provocative book written by a preeminent new testament scholar.

In this groundbreaking, cross-disciplinary work of philosophy and biblical studies, New Testament scholar C. Kevin Rowe explores the promise and problems inherent in engaging rival philosophical claims to what is true. Juxtaposing the Roman Stoics Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius with the Christian saints Paul, Luke, and Justin Martyr, and incorporating the contemporary views of Jeffrey Stout, Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, Martha Nussbaum, Pierre Hadot, and others, the author suggests that in a world of religious pluralism there is negligible gain in sampling from separate belief systems. This thought-provoking volume reconceives the relationship between ancient philosophy and emergent Christianity as a rivalry between strong traditions of life and offers powerful arguments for the exclusive commitment to a community of belief and a particular form of philosophical life as the path to existential truth.

With this elegant exposition, Kevin Rowe compels us to revisit not only what we thought we knew about the early Christians and their Stoic contemporaries but also in good philosophical style the way we might know it. This revolutionary treatment offers a sharp challenge to those who suppose that what people believe can be separated from the whole life they lead. All those interested in early Christianity and its Greco-Roman context should ponder this book very carefully. Rt Revd Professor N. T. Wright, University of St. Andrews