



Basic Christian: The Inside Story of John Stott
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John Stott is the leading evangelical churchman of the twentieth century. In this engaging story of this remarkable life, Roger Sheer takes readers from Stott's lifelong association with the parish church of All Souls in London to every continent on the planet. Here is the book that tells why he is, as *Time* magazine noted in 2005, one of the hundred most influential people in the world.

Did You Know...

- The “R.W.” in John R.W. Stott stands for Robert Walmsley?
- Stott was nearly killed in an auto accident when, with his mother at the wheel, he was tossed through the windshield and sustained serious cuts. (His mother, Lilly, was sure he was dead.)
- As a precocious schoolboy, Stott once endured “twenty-five strokes of the cane” at Oakley Hall preparatory school?
- Stott worked alongside Mother Teresa on the streets of Calcutta?
- He got his love of birds from his father Arnold, an esteemed medical doctor who went to church, on average, twice a year?
- Stott’s father stood strongly against his desire to be ordained in the Church of England *and* his pacifist leanings and intention to stay in school – rather than serve in the British army - during World War II?
- Stott once got lost following birds in the Amazon rainforest?
- The Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union of which Stott was a part while in school and affiliated with throughout his life was called by its acronym, CICCUCU, or pronounced “Kick-You”?
- Stott played the cello, the piano accordion, and the piano?
- One of Stott’s two sisters, Joy, who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia, died in 1979, one day after taking an overdose of sleeping pills? She called her sister Joanna to tell her what she had done. The coroner was reluctant to call it a suicide.
- Stott once dressed up as a street urchin, fashioned a “strong Cockney accent” and lived under a bridge near the Thames in London in order to see how others lived – and whether or not the good Christians of the city reached out to them? (They did not.)
- Stott debated Bishop John Shelby Spong in Vancouver (7 July 1993) on the subject of Christian sexual ethics? More than 1,500 people crowded into the Christ Church Cathedral to hear their respective remarks.
- Longmans Publishers in the United Kingdom published Stott’s first book in 1954 under the title *Men with a Message*?
- Stott and Billy Graham met for the first time during Graham’s crusade at Wembley Stadium in 1954? (More than 120,000 people came.)

LOOK

BOOK DETAILS

"A young boy perched on a church balcony, dropping paper pellets into the hats of the ladies beneath him, grows into the greatest Anglican of the last 100 years--with warmth, perception and sympathy, Roger Steer describes the lifelong journey of John Stott. Scrupulously researched, vividly written, this book lights up the character of the man with the longest shadow in the modern church. "

Jeremy Vine, BBC

- Stott's first trip to the United States and Canada took place in 1956? (He would make hundreds more throughout the rest of his lifetime.)
- Leslie D. Weatherhead, author of the classic *The Christian Agnostic*, wrote to Stott upon the publication of the revised edition of *Basic Christianity* saying that his reading of it had "restored his belief in God"?
- Stott and the late D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones had a major breach in their relationship over Stott's refusal to leave the Church of England?
- When the Warsaw Pact troops drove their tanks into Czechoslovakia in the Prague Spring of 1968, Stott allowed All Souls to be used as a refuge for students and others who had been stranded outside their country?
- The *Bible Speaks Today* series of expositions (Stott preferred that word over "commentaries") was conceived as a ten-year project? (It took more than 30 years to complete the New Testament!)
- Stott was once attacked *with an umbrella* after an evening session at All Souls by a woman upset "over John's unwillingness openly to confess his love for her"?
- Stott came under heavy attack in America for his answers to questions about hell, as they appeared in the IVP/UK and IVP/USA book *Evangelical Essentials?* J. I. Packer was among those who wrote critiques. But they *never* broke fellowship with one another.
- *The Cross of Christ* is the book that Stott calls the most significant of all 50 that he has written? (A tip-off to the centrality of the cross in his life, his thinking, and his writing.)