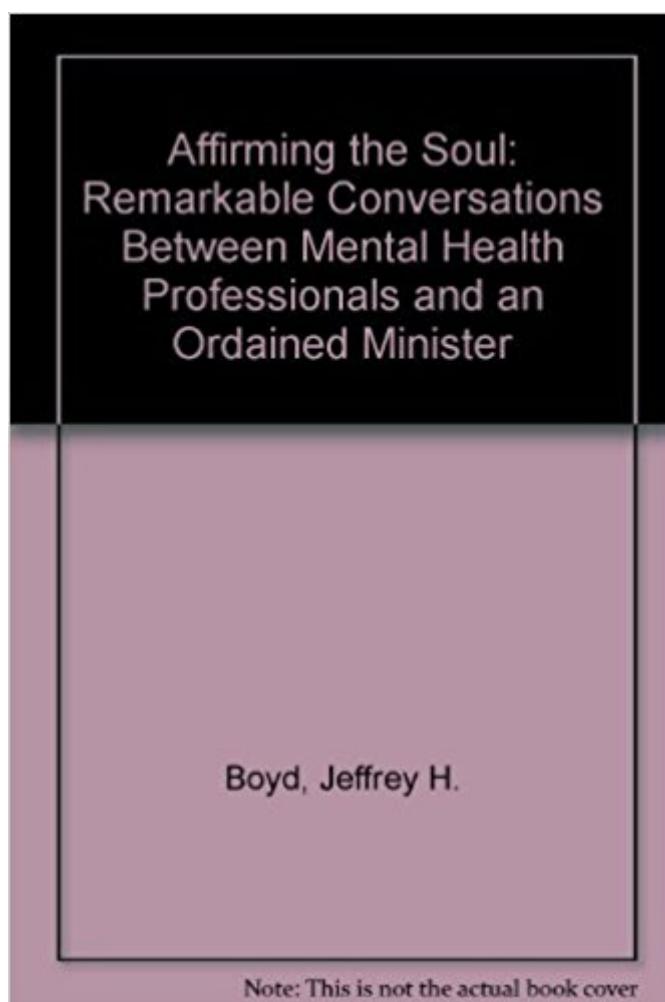


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# Affirming The Soul: Remarkable Conversations Between Mental Health Professionals And An Ordained Minister



## **Synopsis**

Book by Boyd, Jeffrey H.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Boyd, a psychiatrist and Episcopal priest, felt called early in his ministry to write a book about the soul, then spent 25 years preparing himself through medical and psychiatric training and practice. Boyd believes that recent Bible translation and theology have lost the word soul and that it needs to be reclaimed: soul being "Who I am" as "expressed through my physical life, my emotional life, and my prayer life." His interviews with mental health professionals of faith, his survey of biblical scholars' views of soul, his five chapters of comment by leading New Testament scholar Krister Stendahl, and his own reflections on the relationship between religion and mental health will challenge lay readers, therapists, and clergy alike. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

As both a psychiatrist and an Episcopal minister, Boyd recognizes the bias of the psychiatric community against religion. Psychiatrists claim to treat the "whole person," which generally means the body, mind, and emotions. Boyd, however, believes a major area of neglect is the soul, which he defines as a person's true identity. Years ago, when Boyd noticed that modern translations of the Bible replaced the word soul with terms such as being and life, he was concerned that the idea of the soul had become obsolete in both religion and psychiatry. Relating a series of his discussions with mental-health professionals and Krister Stendahl, a leading New Testament scholar, Boyd here articulates a concept of the soul that encompasses a person's aspirations, emotions, and

personality. A relevant addition to both mental-health and theological collections, *Affirming the Soul* is an attempt to reclaim the idea that a person does not have a soul, a person is a soul. Also included in this work is an unprecedented English translation of *Illusion of a Future*, Oskar Pfister's rebuttal of Freud's *Future of an Illusion*. Patty O'Connell

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