

## Theologies of Engagement

### A. Why engage? Contexts for engagement

1. Faith, attentiveness, and incarnation: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself"
  - a. Is faith a hiding place?
  - b. A spiritual exercise: takeaways
    - i. Rationale for incarnation
    - ii. Motive for engagement
    - iii. Response to dysfunction.
2. Creation, justice, and the common good
  - a. Justice: disposition of the will/rational appetite to give each person what is their due with a view to the common good of society
    - i. Dimensions
      1. Concept/principle of action
      2. Settled disposition
    - ii. Presumptions
      1. Based on right(s)
        - a. what's due to others
        - b. human dignity
      2. Solidarity
      3. Common good
    - iii. Forms of justice
      1. Commutative justice
      2. Distributive justice
      3. Legal/social justice
  - b. No love without justice/respect
3. Distortions of faith: taking responsibility for the (Christian) past

### B. Models of Engagement

1. Service and almsgiving: What do Christians have to offer?
  - a. Christ the Servant
  - b. Examples
  - c. Response
    - i. to incarnation
    - ii. to justice
  - d. Limitations
2. Christian rule: How can Christians shape society?
  - a. Christ the King
  - b. Historical moments
    - i. Constantine and the Christianization of the Roman Empire
    - ii. Medieval debates about temporal and spiritual powers
    - iii. Reformation and post-reformation developments
    - iv. Social gospel
    - v. Christian right
  - c. Ambiguities
3. Hospitality: How can the church welcome? What kind of people ought we to be?

- a. Christ the Host
  - b. Examples
    - i. Monasteries
    - ii. Hospitals
    - iii. Anabaptist communities
    - iv. Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement
4. Spiritual Education: To whom is the church sent? How can we shape hearts and minds?
- a. Christ the Teacher
  - b. Examples
    - i. St. Francis
    - ii. St. Dominic
    - iii. St. Ignatius
5. Power building: How can the church listen and empower people for the common good?
- a. Christus Pantocrator: Christ All-Powerful
  - b. Three realms
    - i. Public
    - ii. Private
    - iii. Social/civil society
  - c. Broad-based, power building in civil society
  - d. Problem/issue distinction
  - e. Examples:
    - i. Labor organizing
    - ii. Civil rights movement