

Becoming Beloved Community: The Incarnation in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Theology

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Outline

- Links with previous work
 - Bishop Charles C. J. Carpenter and Gradualism
 - Expanding Views of MLK's Christian Theology
- Things known and unknown about MLK the theologian
 - Many people's knowledge about MLK is limited to a select number of his famous speeches and his gifted oratory.
 - MLK's Christian faith formed the very foundation of his civil rights philosophy.
 - Jesus of Nazareth, for MLK, was the very Source of Christian theology, bringing its various dogmas to life.
 - The Person of Jesus encouraged Jesus to keep to the work of social justice for all people.
- MLK's incarnational theology rooted within the Black Church context
 - Differences between majority white and majority Black Christian Churches
 - Majority white churches as products of historic European Christianity
 - Majority black churches, while related to historic European Christianity, emphasizes something beyond individualistic thinking.
 - MLK's life in the Black Church fueled his civil rights philosophy.
 - Concerned with the whole instead of just one group.
- An interpretation of the Incarnation of Jesus.
 - Genesis 1:26-27
 - The goodness of God in humanity
 - Race is a foreign concept in God's Master Plan
 - John 1:1-3, 14 and Galatians 3:28
 - Jesus came for the whole, not a select few
 - 2 Corinthians 6:2
 - Equality in Jesus NOW, not later.

- The Incarnation in MLK's speeches.
 - Despite the death threats, King remains committed to the goal of full equality.
 - King's dreams of a fully equal America at odds with America itself.
- MLK's advocacy of civil disobedience and radical love
 - King's advocacy born from the commandments of God acted out and fulfilled in the Person of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- MLK's legacy as continually relevant