



Theologies of Liberation

Study Guide

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Lecture Outlines

Lecture I

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE; INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OVERVIEW OF LIBERATION THEOLOGY



- I. The Importance of Liberation Theologies**
- II. The Classification of Liberation Theologies**
 - A. Two Currents according to Samuel Escobar
 - 1. Pastoral
 - 2. Academic
 - B. Four Tendencies According to Segundo Galilea
 - 1. Biblical Liberation
 - 2. Latin American history and culture
 - 3. Economics and class struggle
 - 4. Ideology
- III. The Requirements for a Study of Liberation Theologies**
 - A. Know the Context of Latin America
 - B. Know the Developments within Contemporary Roman Catholicism
 - C. Know the Intellectual Roots of Liberation Theologies
 - D. Know the Writings of Liberation Theologians
- IV. The Self-Characterization of Liberation Theologies**
 - A. Theological
 - B. Scriptural
 - C. Christian

Lecture Outlines

D. Contextual

E. Scientific

V. The Content of Liberation Theologies

A. Definitions and Distinctives

B. Background

C. Methodology

D. Themes

E. Evaluation



Lecture II

DEFINITIONS AND DISTINCTIVES

I. Definitions

A. Gustavo Gutiérrez

B. Emilio Antonio Núñez

C. Philip Berryman

II. Distinctives

A. Concentric Circles

1. Central core held by all
 - a. Liberation from all forms of oppression
 - b. Indigenous theological expression
2. Convictions common to most
 - a. Liberation as the fundamental salvific category
 - b. Preferential option for the poor
 - c. Socialism necessary for justice

Lecture Outlines

- d. Situational point of departure
- e. Incorporation of Marxist categories
- 3. Areas of divergence
 - a. Place of armed revolution
 - b. Accuracy of biblical history
 - c. Choice of socialist models
 - d. Church structure
 - e. Relationship of Creator to creation
- B. Constellation of Themes
 - 1. Fundamental propositions: Peter Cotterrel
 - a. The institutional church has taken sides.
 - b. God is on the side of the poor.
 - c. The domain of sin must be enlarged.
 - d. The Exodus is paradigmatic.
 - e. A new epistemology is needed.
 - f. Hermeneutics that start from the Bible must be replaced.
 - g. The passion narrative must be reinterpreted.
 - 2. Eight fundamental themes: Roger Haight
 - a. Poverty is against the will of God.
 - b. Human beings are responsible for history.
 - c. This world is important.
 - d. Theology is contextual.
 - e. Marxist social analysis is compatible with Christianity.



Lecture Outlines

- f. The social sciences are useful for Christianity.
- g. Human beings are radically interdependent.
- h. God's grace is universally available.



Lecture III

THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

I. The Geographical Context

- A. Mexico
- B. South America
- C. Central America
- D. Hispanic Caribbean

II. The Topographical Context

- A. Magnitude
- B. Variety

III. The Demographic Context

- A. Urbanization: Increasingly Urban
- B. Youthfulness: Increasingly Youthful

IV. The Racial Context

- A. Iberians
 - 1. Spanish
 - 2. Portuguese
- B. Mestizos
- C. Native Indians

Lecture Outlines

- D. Africans
- E. Central and Southern Europeans
- F. Asians

V. The Historical Context

- A. Periodization
- B. Pre-Columbian Times
 - 1. Aztecs
 - 2. Incas
 - 3. Mayas
- C. The Colonial Epoch (1492-1825)
 - 1. The exportation of medieval Catholicism
 - a. The Islamization of Catholicism
 - b. The extermination of Protestantism



Lecture IV

THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

- 2. The experience of colonialism
 - a. Duration
 - (1) North America
 - (2) Latin America
 - b. Purpose
 - (1) Two continents
 - (2) Two legends

Lecture Outlines

c. Protest

- (1) Antonio de Montesinos
- (2) Bartolomé de las Casas
 - (a) Distinguished between Spanish culture, and Christian faith.
 - (b) Insisted on non-violent evangelization
 - (c) Anticipated liberation theologies

D. The Wars of Independence (1810-1825)

1. The principal revolutionaries
 - a. Simon Bolívar in the north
 - b. José de San Martín in the south
2. The reasons for success
 - a. European wars
 - b. North American example
3. Resulting structures

E. The Modern Era (1825-1910)

1. The search for new allies
2. The rise of new political philosophies
 - a. Conservatives
 - b. Liberals
3. The development of new dependencies

F. The Contemporary Era (1910-)

1. Four major revolutions
2. A new kinds of revolution



Lecture Outlines

Lecture V

EUROPEAN ROOTS OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

I. Continuity and Discontinuity

II. Theological Influence

A. Early Antecedents

1. Classic liberal theology
2. Barth
3. Bultman
4. Bonhoeffer

B. Recent Antecedents

1. Secular Theology
 - a. Development
 - b. Critique
2. Political Theology
 - a. Development
 - (1) Moltman
 - (2) Metz
 - b. Critique

III. Marxist Influence

- A. View of Knowledge
- B. Emphasis upon Class Conflict
- C. Emphasis on Economics
- D. View of Humankind & Future



Lecture Outlines

Lecture VI

ROMAN CATHOLIC ROOTS OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES



I. The Social Doctrine of the Church

- A. Rerum Novarum (1891)
- B. Quadragesimo Anno (1931)
- C. Mater et Magistra (1961)
- D. Pacem en Terris (1963)
- E. Popularum Progressio (1967)

II. The Second Vatican Council

- A. Convenir: John XXIII
- B. Purpose: Modernize the Church
 - 1. Establish Roman Catholic solidarity
 - 2. Promote Christian unity
 - 3. Encourage Church renewal
- C. Results: Nurtured Liberation Theologies
 - 1. New relations formed
 - 2. New documents produced
 - 3. New attitudes developed
 - a. Toward ecumenism
 - b. Toward social involvement

Lecture Outlines

Lecture VII

PROTESTANT ROOTS OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

- I. **The Birth of the Church and Society Movements in Latin America (ISAL)**
 - A. Father
 - B. Siblings
- II. **The Ingredients of ISAL**
 - A. European Theology
 - B. Christian-Marxist Dialogue
 - C. Freirean Educational Theory
 - D. Conciliar Involvement
- III. **The Assemblies of ISAL**
- IV. **The Radicalization of ISAL**
- V. **The Demise of ISAL**
- VI. **The Challenge of ISAL**

Lecture VIII

THE EMERGENCE OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

- I. **The Birth of Liberation Theologies**
 - A. Place: Medellín, Columbia
 - 1. Beautiful
 - 2. Violent
 - 3. Catholic
 - 4. Symbolic



Lecture Outlines

B. Meeting: CELAM II

1. Relationship with CELAM I
2. Relationship with Vatican II

C. Theme

D. Significance

1. Created a new language of liberation
2. Condemned colonial domination
3. Castigated capitalist exploitation
4. Called for a new social order

E. Achievements

F. Documents: A Case Study of the Document on Peace

1. Analysis of the actual situation
2. Doctrinal reflection
 - a. Peace
 - b. Violence
3. Pastoral Conclusions
 - a. Defend rights of poor
 - b. Diagnose social situation
 - c. Develop base communities
 - d. Demand just prices
 - e. Denounce unjust actions

II. The Conception and Gestation of Liberation Theologies

A. Conception: Latin American Professors Study in Europe.



Lecture Outlines

B. Gestation: Study Courses Organized in Latin America

1. Rio Bamba, Ecuador
2. Petropolis, Brazil
3. Montevideo, Uruguay
4. Chimbote, Peru

III. Infancy of Liberation Theologies

- A. A Book: *A Theology of Liberation*
- B. A Meeting: Christians for Socialism

Lecture IX

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

I. The Importance of Methodology

A. The Tasks of Theology

1. Theology as wisdom
2. Theology as rational knowledge
3. Theology as critical reflection on praxis

B. The Factors Influencing the Development of Liberationist Methodology

1. The rediscovery of love
2. The development of spirituality
3. The anthropological aspects of revelation
4. The life of the church
5. The signs of the times
6. The philosophical issues



Lecture Outlines

7. The Marxist influence
 8. The eschatological dimension
- C. The Issue Regarding Methodology in Liberation Theologies
1. Is it theological?
 2. Is it sociological?



Lecture X

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

II. Liberationist Methodology as a Two-Act Play

A. Act 1: Praxis

1. The priority of praxis
2. The definition of praxis
3. The use of praxis
4. The origin of praxis
5. The purpose of praxis
 - a. Transformation
 - b. The historical situation
 - (1) Described
 - (a) Poverty in terms of statistics
 - (b) Poverty in terms of people
 - (2) Analyzed
 - (a) The rejection of developmentalism
 - i. Inadequate
 - ii. Exploitative

Lecture Outlines

- iii. Paternalistic
- (b) The acceptance of dependency theory
 - i. Center and periphery
 - ii. Development and underdevelopment
- 1. The tools for praxis
 - a. The social sciences
 - b. Ideology



Lecture XI

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (3)

- B. Act 2, Scene 1: Critical Reflection
 - 1. Contextual
 - a. The context of dominance
 - b. The context of oppression
 - 2. Preferential
 - 3. Spiritual
 - a. Previously neglected
 - b. Increasingly prominent
- C. Act 2, Scene 2: The Word of God
 - 1. The extent of the Word
 - a. Amplifies the canon
 - b. Incorporates ecclesiastical tradition
 - c. Accepts “higher” criticism

Lecture Outlines

2. The value of the Word
 - a. Relativizes historical accomplishments
 - b. Guides pastoral action



Lecture XII

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (4)

III. The Implications of Liberationist Methodology

- A. Historical Situation is the Starting Point.
- B. Understanding Historical Reality is Essential.
- C. Historical Praxis is the *Sine Qua Non* for Doing Theology.
- D. Historical Reflection Takes on Ideological Forms.

IV. The Critique of Liberationist Methodology

- A. Liberation Theology Rightly Emphasizes the Importance of Obedience or Praxis for an Understanding of Truth, but is in Danger of Lapsing into Mere Pragmatism.
- B. Liberation Theology Rightly Emphasizes the Importance of the Historical Situation, but there is Danger of Succumbing to Historical Reductionism.
- C. Liberation Theology Has Rightly Emphasized the Importance of the Social Sciences, but is in Danger of Becoming Exclusively Sociological.
- D. Liberation Theology Has Rightly Emphasized the Ideological Conditioning of Theology, but is in Danger of Reducing the Gospel to Ideology.

Lecture Outlines

Lecture XIII

THE BIBLE IN LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

- I. The Definition of Hermeneutics
- II. The Characteristics of Liberationist Hermeneutics
 - A. A Hermeneutics of Suspicion
 - 1. The definition of ideology
 - a. Juan Luis Segundo
 - b. William Dyrness
 - 2. The function of ideology
 - 3. The hermeneutical circle
 - a. Four steps
 - b. Four examples
 - B. A Hermeneutics of Hope
 - C. A Hermeneutics of Engagement



Lecture XIV

THE BIBLE IN LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

- III. The Contribution of Liberationist Hermeneutics
 - A. Perspective on Poverty: Hanks
 - B. Definition of Poverty: Gutiérrez
 - 1. Poverty as a virtue
 - a. Material poverty
 - b. Spiritual poverty

Lecture Outlines

2. Poverty as a scandalous condition
 3. Poverty as spiritual childhood
 4. Poverty as a commitment
 - a. To solidarity
 - b. To protest
- C. Causes of Poverty
1. Tamez
 2. Hanks

IV. The Criteria for Liberationist Hermeneutics

V. The Conclusion Regarding Liberationist Hermeneutics

Lecture XV

LIBERATION AND SALVATION (1)

I. Liberation

A. From

1. Unjust social structures
2. The power of fate
3. Personal sin and guilt

B. For

1. Participation in the creation of a just society
2. Responsible action
3. A grace-filled life



Lecture Outlines

II. Salvation

- A. Central
- B. Holistic
- C. Christological
- D. Qualitative
- E. Universal
 - 1. The influence of Karl Rahner
 - a. God's universal salvific will
 - b. Humanity's essential social nature



Lecture XVI

LIBERATION AND SALVATION (2)

- 2. The influence of Hans Kung
 - a. The church not necessary for salvation
 - (1) Religions the common way
 - (2) Christianity the special way
 - b. Salvation not tied to Christ
- F. Intra-historical
 - 1. The linkage of creation to salvation
 - 2. The paradigm of the Exodus
 - a. Politization of salvation
 - b. The elimination of the miraculous
 - 3. The eschaton within history

Lecture Outlines

Lecture XVII

LIBERATION AND SALVATION (3)

G. Eschatological

1. The future kingdom as present
2. The character of the kingdom
3. The implication of the kingdom
 - a. Subverts the existing order
 - b. Articulates the political dimension of the gospel
 - c. Relates the gospel to human utopias
 - (1) Definition
 - (2) Differentiation
 - (a) Program
 - (b) Project
 - (c) Utopia



Lecture XVIII

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

I. A Survey of Christological Writings

A. Adolfo Ham

B. Gustavo Gutiérrez

1. Jesus is the Christ
2. Jesus is the liberator
3. Jesus is the new covenant

Lecture Outlines

C. José Porfirio Miranda

D. Juan Luis Segundo

E. José Comblin

F. Leonardo Boff

1. Characteristics of a Latin American Christology
 - a. Primacy of the anthropological over the ecclesiastical
 - b. Primacy of the utopian over the factual
 - c. Primacy of the critical over the dogmatic
 - d. Primacy of the social over the personal
 - e. Primacy of orthopraxis over orthodoxy
2. Ingredients for a Latin American Christology
 - a. The kingdom message
 - b. Death and resurrection
 - c. Birth and Life
 - (1) Luke: The Messiah and the marginalized
 - (2) Matthew: Moses and Jesus
3. Summary and synthesis

Lecture XIX

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

G. John Sobrino

1. Points to a parallel
 - a. Contemporary Latin American Context
 - b. First Century Palestinian Context



Lecture Outlines

2. Critiques Christologies of descent
3. Defines Christological starting point
4. Emphasizes mission of Jesus

II. The Point of Departure

- A. The Jesus of History
- B. The Christ of Liberating Historical Praxis

III. The Person of Christ

- A. Christology of Descent
- B. Christology of Ascent

IV. The Work of Christ

- A. The Centrality of the Kingdom of God
 1. According to Boff
 2. According to Sobrino

Lecture XX

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (3)

- B. The Death and Resurrection of Christ
 1. According to Sobrino
 2. According to Boff

V. An Evaluation of Liberation Christology

- A. A Critique of Costas
- B. The Model of Núñez



Lecture Outlines

Lecture XXI

THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

I. Introduction

- A. The Relationship Between Nature and Mission
- B. The Most Important Ecclesiological Question

II. Nature of the Church

- A. The Universality of the Church
- B. The Unity of the Church

III. Mission of the Church

- A. Preferential Option for the Poor
- B. Public Denunciation of the Oppressors
 - 1. Global
 - 2. Radical
 - 3. Praxeological
- C. Public Announcement of the Kingdom of God
 - 1. Conscientizing
 - 2. Politicizing
- D. Political Option for Socialism
 - 1. The choice of a model
 - 2. The place of violence



Lecture Outlines

Lecture XXII

THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

IV. Christian Base Communities

A. A New Way of Being Church

1. Characteristics
 - a. Communities
 - b. Ecclesial
 - c. Basic
2. Origin
3. Function
 - a. Seeing reality
 - b. Being church
 - c. Approaching Scripture
 - d. Understanding Mission

B. A New Challenge to the Church

1. To Roman Catholicism
 - a. Internal procedures
 - b. Relation to the world
2. To Protestantism



Lecture Outlines

Lecture XXIII

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION (1)

- I. The Spread of Liberation Theologies**
 - A. CWME Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand
 - B. Orbis Books
 - C. International Conferences
 - D. Kairos Documents
- II. Recent Changes in Liberation Theologies**
 - A. Decreasing Dependence of Marxist Thought
 - B. Increasing Openness to Participatory Democracy
 - C. Growing Emphasis on Spirituality
- III. A Critique of Liberation Theologies: Medellín Consultation**
 - A. Historical Setting
 - B. Dialogical Spirit
 - C. Content Analysis
 1. Confession
 2. Commitment



Lecture XXIV

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION (2)

3. Concerns
 - a. Doctrine of the Bible
 - b. Ideological imposition

Lecture Outlines

- c. Classist interpretation of the gospel
- d. Non-Biblical anthropocentrism
- e. Prioritization of structural sin
- f. Insufficient attention to personal regeneration
- g. Glorification of the poor
- h. Intra-historical salvation
- i. Indiscriminate support of revolutionary movements
- j. Anthropophagic expectation

D. Dedication Renewal

IV. Evaluation of Liberation Theologies

A. Theological: Ratzinger Report

- 1. A tendency toward reductionism
- 2. An uncritical borrowing from Marxism
 - a. Consequences for ethics
 - b. Consequences for doctrine

B. Economic: Michael Novak

- 1. A crucial question: Will it liberate?
- 2. Erroneous assumptions
 - a. Latin America is capitalist.
 - b. Centralized economies are best.
 - c. Dependency theory is correct.
 - d. Utopian idealism is sufficient.
 - e. Wealth is static.



Lecture Outlines

3. Questionable theories
 - a. Gap Theory
 - b. Exploitation Theory
 - c. Dualist Theory
- C. Hermeneutic Aspect: Alan Neely
 1. A selective and exclusory hermeneutics
 2. A predilection toward partisanship





Study Questions

Lecture I

INTRODUCTION

1. Why is the study of liberation theologies important?
2. Distinguish among the various currents of liberation theologies mentioned by Samuel Escobar.
3. Why is knowledge of the context of Latin America an important requirement for the study of liberation theologies?

Lecture II

DEFINITIONS AND DISTINCTIVES

1. List five convictions held by most liberation theologians.
2. What do liberation theologians mean by poverty?
3. Why will this course confine itself largely to the study of the writings of Latin American liberation theologians?

Lecture III

THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

1. Mention two aspects of the demographic context of Latin America.
2. Describe the chronological scheme used by liberationist historian Enrique Dussell to divide Latin American history.
3. Characterize the nature of the Iberian Christianity that was exported to Latin America during colonial times.



Study Questions

Lecture IV

THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

1. Contrast the duration of the Colonial period in the United States with that of Hispanic Latin America.
2. Contrast the purposes for which North America and Latin America were colonized.
3. Explain the difference between the “black” and “white” legends.
4. How do the Mexican Revolution of 1910, the Bolivian Revolution of 1952, the Cuban Revolution of 1959, and the Nicaraguan Revolution of 1979 differ from previous revolutions?

Lecture V

EUROPEAN ROOTS OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

1. Characterize secular theology.
2. Describe the liberationist critique of secular theology.
3. Mention four of the ideas current in European political theology which have been incorporated into liberation theology.
4. Describe, according to J. Andrew Kirk, on what five grounds liberation theologians critique political theology.
5. What is the Marxist view of man which is evident in liberation theologies?

Lecture VI

ROMAN CATHOLIC ROOTS OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

1. What major change regarding poverty is observable in the social doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church as expressed in the papal encyclicals during the eighty years following the publication of *Rerum Novarum* in 1891?
2. For what purpose was the Second Vatican Council called?
3. What happened as a result of Vatican II that served to create the environment for the emergence of liberation theologies?



Study Questions

Lecture VII

PROTESTANT ROOTS OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

1. What does the acronym “ISAL” mean in English?
2. What was the purpose of ISAL?
3. Identify Richard Shaull.
4. Identify Paulo Freire.
5. Identify Rubem Alvez.
6. What finally happened to ISAL?
7. In what two ways was ISAL significant for the development of liberation theologies?

Lecture VIII

THE EMERGENCE OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES

1. Where and when was Latin American Liberation theology born?
2. How does Enrique Dussell sum up the achievements of CELAM II in Medellín?
3. Describe the concept of institutional violence as developed in the documents in CELAM II.

Lecture IX

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

1. According to Gustavo Gutiérrez, what makes liberation theology distinctive?
2. What does Gutiérrez consider to be the three ongoing functions of the theological task?
3. According to Gutiérrez, how does Marxist thought contribute to the methodology of the liberation theologies?
4. In what sense can the ideas advocated by liberationist thinkers be termed “theology” rather than “sociology” in theological language?



Study Questions

Lecture X

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

1. Identify the “two acts” in liberationist methodology when it is interpreted as a two-act play.
2. What is “praxis”?
3. Explain the liberationist critique of developmentalism.

Lecture XI

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (3)

1. How does Robert McAfee Brown characterize theologies which have been worked out among people who are sociologically, economically, and politically dominant in the world?
2. How does Brown contrast this with liberation theologies which emerge from a context of oppression?
3. How does the extent of the Word of God as understood by Roman Catholic liberation theologians differ from the understanding of Protestant evangelicals?

Lecture XII

THE METHODOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (4)

1. Characterize the spirit with which René Padilla evaluates the methodology of liberation theologies?
2. List the four implications which Padilla finds in the statements of Gutiérrez that theology is critical reflection on praxis in the light of the Word of God.
3. List four emphases in the methodology of liberation theology which Padilla deems as accurate.
4. List four dangers which Padilla discerns in the methodology of liberation theology.



Study Questions

Lecture XIII

THE BIBLE IN LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

1. To what does the word “hermeneutics” refer?
2. According to liberation theologians, what function does ideology serve?
3. List the four steps, according to Juan Luis Segundo, which are essential to the proper exercise of the hermeneutical circle.
4. List the persons to whom Juan Luis Segundo refers to illustrate the use of the hermeneutical circle.

Lecture XIV

THE BIBLE IN LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

1. What is probably the principle contribution made by liberation theologians to our understanding of the Bible apart from their challenging methodology?
2. How does your experience of the existence of poverty compare with that of Dr. Tom Hanks?
3. How does Gustavo Gutiérrez view material poverty?
4. How does Gutiérrez understand the Biblical meaning of poverty?
5. What does Hanks believe that the Bible teaches about the basic cause of poverty?
6. According to Emilio Antonio Núñez, what is the hermeneutical criteria of liberation theologians?

Lecture XV

LIBERATION AND SALVATION (1)

1. List the three levels which, according to Gustavo Gutiérrez, are embodied in the meaning of “liberation.”
2. Distinguish between the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of salvation.
3. What are the two main ingredients of Karl Rahner’s optimistic assessment of other religions?



Study Questions

Lecture XVI

LIBERATION AND SALVATION (2)

1. Describe the shift in Roman Catholic thought concerning non-Christian religions as expressed in the documents of Vatican II.
2. According to Gutiérrez, what is the first act of salvation?
3. How do liberation theologians understand the Exodus event?

Lecture XVII

LIBERATION AND SALVATION (3)

1. In his recent book, *Eternal Life*, what three affirmations does Hans Kung make about the relationship of Christianity to other religions?
2. How does José Miguez Bonino, in his book, *Doing Theology in a Revolutionary Situation*, differentiate between a program, a historical project, and a utopia?
3. How does Gutiérrez understand these terms?

Lecture XVIII

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

1. Contrast the Christological understanding of Adolfo Ham with that of Gustavo Gutiérrez.
2. List five characteristics of an authentic Latin American Christology according to Leonardo Boff.
3. How does Boff view the doctrine of Christ's death as a vicarious, substitutionary atonement for sins of the world?
4. What significance does Boff see in the Lukan emphasis upon the shepherds in the birth narrative of Christ?
5. According to Boff, what is the significance of the parallels which Matthew traces between the infancy of Jesus and that of Moses?



Study Questions

Lecture XIX

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

1. What is the starting point, or point of departure, for the Christology of liberation theologians?
2. Explain the difference between the terms “Christology of descent” and “Christology of ascent.”
3. For Boff, as for most liberation theologians, what is the central message of Jesus?

Lecture XX

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (3)

1. In what does Jon Sobrino believe the scandal of the cross consists?
2. How do Boff and Sobrino view the resurrection?
3. What is the principal critique of liberationist Christology made by the late Orlando Costas?
4. Compare and contrast the Latin American Christology articulated in Núñez’ address to CLADE II to the liberationist Christologies of Boff and Sobrino.

Lecture XXI

THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (1)

1. In liberation theologies, how is the church defined?
2. According to liberation theologians, what is the most important ecclesiological question?
3. What do liberation theologians mean when they speak of the universality of the church?
4. How do liberation theologies reconcile their emphasis on class struggle with their emphasis on the unity of the church?
5. According to liberation theologians, what are four necessary steps in order for the church to accomplish its mission?



Study Questions

Lecture XXII

THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF LIBERATION THEOLOGIES (2)

1. What are Christian Base Communities?
2. What is the relationship between Base Community Movement and liberation theologies?
3. With what movements in Protestant history can the Base Community Movement be compared?
4. According to Cook, what four orientations describe how Base Communities function?
5. According to Boff, how are the marks of the true church (one, holy, apostolic, universal) embodied in Base Communities?

Lecture XXIII

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION (1)

1. List four mechanisms that account for the spread of liberation theologies.
2. What changes have taken place in liberationist thinking in recent years?
3. According to its organizers, what was the true purpose of the 1988 Medellín consultation?

Lecture XXIV

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION (2)

1. Mention five of the concerns about the teaching of liberation theologies as expressed in the Declaration of Medellín.
2. What two criticisms does Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) make of liberation theologies?
3. What crucial question does Michael Novak raise concerning the claims of liberation theologians? At what conclusion does he arrive?
4. What five socio-economic tenets of liberation theologians does Novak attack?
5. What three questionable economic theories, adopted by most liberation theologians, does Ron Blue mention in his doctoral dissertation?
6. Summarize Alan Neely's critique of the hermeneutics of liberation theologies.



Study Questions

This is a highly selective bibliography broken down into the areas of introduction, background, major works of liberation theologians, and critiques of liberation theology. A great deal of literature relating to this has been published in the past twenty years, mostly in Spanish and Portuguese. Most of this finds its way into English by way of Orbis Books. Related to the Maryknoll fathers, a Roman Catholic missionary order, Orbis Books specializes in the translation and publication of Third World Theology – Mostly Roman Catholic – and related missiological themes.

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