

Moltmann's Theology of Immanence in the use of Pastoral Practice

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Abstract

Moltmann's Theology of Immanence in the use of Pastoral Practice applies systematic and biblical concepts of Imago Dei and impassibility to a case study. This case study is characteristic of many who experience distance from God in their distress, wondering where is God? In the process the person begins to experience more than distance; it shifts to a lack of self-worth. The individual creates a false perspective of themselves, constructing the belief that God does not love them as they are, which in turn diminishes their view point on the God of love, who appears to be absent in the inaction of change in the individuals circumstance – creating a vicious circle.

It is here that Jürgen Moltmann's systematic theology will be the main focus (with fellow contemporaries) in assisting the individual to reconnect them with God, and enable them to grasp the most important of biblical truths: that God is love. This truth, aided by scripture, given a practical advancement, will demonstrate how church needs to engage with individual narratives. It seeks to survey latent theological teaching that has sought to subvert the God of the Bible and as a consequence whether intentionally or ignorantly, profoundly distorts the God of Jesus Christ.

The dissertation is threefold in aim:

- It engages with the theology that would debilitate an individual's faith. It must be exposed in order that Moltmann's theology may enable the person to see God and themselves through a different lens.
- It examines key areas of relationship, image and God's involvement in the individual's narrative. Each of these themes weave together to allow transformation in the person's narrative to occur.
- In the synthesis of themes, a practical implementation will be developed that engages with personal narrative in relation to God.