

Thomas Torrance's theology: from incarnation to redemption

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1. Background

As the problems and conflicts in the world are getting intensified, people pledged to find the solutions in spiritual, social and political aspects. Incarnation, redemption and atonement are sometimes used as religious slogan to advocate for different socio-political stance, while the essence of incarnation are being overlooked. For instance, in modern protestant theology, Jesus is viewed as a kind of moral, religious leader and teacher who exerts a powerful and transforming influence on humanity. Therefore, Christ's death on the cross is the model of suffering love or solidarity in the struggle for justice. ^[1]

This inspires the writer to reflect on the deeper implication of Jesus' s incarnation, redemption and atonement. The study below will explore the interwoven concepts mentioned above in an increasingly level up perspective, from revelation, sharing of human experience, wonderful exchange to hypostatic union, internal relations and reconciliation in view of time and space.

Torrance's theological approach involves digging into the essential connections embodied in the Christ's atoning incarnational redemption itself, while the incarnation and the atonement are intimately interconnected throughout the earthly life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. ^[2] Incarnation refers to a continuous vicarious sacrifice, that his incarnate life and his redeeming activity are completely interwoven in a way that his Persons, his Word, and his Act are one and undivided.

^[2]

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It also means taking an intensely personal journey into the reality and character of the love of the Triune God manifested in the cross.

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2. Revelation and Incarnation

2.1 Internal relations

Without Christ's atoning reconciliation transforming our lives and our minds, we cannot know God in a personal manner. — Jesus Christ is the God who eternally became man in our person, with his divine and human natures fully united in his person, so that his human nature was always united to the Father. Everything else accomplished by us in atoning reconciliation (which is made Christ).

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