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Annotated Bibliography Part 1

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Abstract

Romero, Robert Chao, and Jeff M. Liou. *Christianity and Critical Race Theory: A Faithful and Constructive Conversation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2023. 196 pages. \$21.32. ISBN 9781540965196.

Fink, David C. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. Reformation Commentary on Scripture Old Testament IX. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2023. 516 pages. \$53.98. ISBN: 978-0-8308-2959-0.

Macchia, Frank D. *Introduction to Theology: Declaring the Wonders of God*. Foundations for Spirit-Filled Christianity. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2023. \$18.28. ISBN 9781493441617

Keywords

Baker Academic, InterVarsity Press

Cover Page Footnote

PhD Candidate (Liberty University)

Romero, Robert Chao, and Jeff M. Liou. *Christianity and Critical Race Theory: A Faithful and Constructive Conversation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2023. 196 pages. \$21.32. ISBN 9781540965196

Robert Chad Romero graduated from law school at U.C. Berkley and holds a Ph.D. in Latin American history. He currently resides in the departments of Chicana/o, Central American, and Asian American Studies at UCLA. Jeff Liou is the National Director of Theological Formation for InterVarsity Christianity Fellowship/USA and is an assistant professor at Fuller Seminary. Romero has authored the award-winning *Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity*, a watershed work concerning Latina/o justice and religious history. The main contention of *Christianity and Critical Race Theory* is that Critical Race Theory (CRT) is helpful to Christianity. Many of its basic tenets align with and can provide insight into Christian life and theological reflection. Romero and Liou outwork this thesis in six chapters: Introduction: *Critical Race Theory in Christianity*, Creation: *Community Cultural Wealth and the Glory and Honor of Nations* (exploring the cultural treasure that students of color bring to an educational environment, which corresponds to the “glory and honor” of the nations in Rev. 21:26), Fall: *Sin and Racism-the Ordinary Business of Society* (examines the normal and regular occurrence of racism and its relation to a nuanced understanding of social hamartiology), Redemption: *Critical Race Theory in Institutions* (race-consciousness and color-blindness in Christian higher education, where effort should be focused on listening to student’s professed racialized experiences and needs), Consummation: *Made to Be Image Bearers* (how Christian eschatology in relation to the beloved community can offer a unique redemptive disruption and hope to justice efforts). Romero and Liou have constructed an impressive work that should be mandatory reading for any Christian institution. Its significant contribution is to offer a sympathetic framework and method for engaging CRT, which has been unjustly lambasted within many conservative circles.

Fink, David C. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. Reformation Commentary on Scripture Old Testament IX. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2023. 516 pages. \$53.98. ISBN: 978-0-8308-2959-0

David C. Fink received his Ph.D. from Duke University and is an associate professor of religion at Furman University. He is the author of *Divided by Faith: The Protestant Doctrine of Justification and the Confessionalization of Biblical Exegesis*. The *Reformation Commentary on Scripture* desires to introduce readers to the insight generated by the exegetical milieu of Reformation scholars. It seeks to renew contemporary biblical interpretation, strengthen contemporary

preaching, deepen understanding of the Reformation, and advance Christian scholarship. In the case of the above work, such a goal is specified to Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. The work is organized by pericopes of Scripture (with a general overview), followed by topical headings about a reformer's teaching, an identification of a reformer, and an edited section of said teaching. For example, relative to the third chapter of Proverbs, Fink provides an overview of how reformers generally handle the passage, followed by the heading "Trust God Not Your Own Understanding," with related excerpts from reformers such as Michel Cop and Cardinal Cajetan. *The Reformation Commentary on Scripture* provides an excellent organizational tool for scholars seeking to implement Reformation exegesis into their work. Given the wide variety of thought during the period, thinkers who would otherwise be challenging to locate have now been made accessible. The commentary is helpful for scholars and students of all levels wishing to enrich their work with Reformation references.

Macchia, Frank D. *Introduction to Theology: Declaring the Wonders of God.*

Foundations for Spirit-Filled Christianity. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2023. \$18.28. ISBN 9781493441617

Frank Macchia received his DTheol from the University of Basel and is a professor of systematic theology at the Vanguard University of Southern California. He is also the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies associate director at Bangor University, Wales. Macchia is the author of the seminal *Baptized in the Spirit: A Global Pentecostal Theology* and is considered a leading Pentecostal theologian. *Introduction to Theology* is the latest of his works and, as indicated by the title, is an accessible introduction to systematics from a spirit-filled perspective. Macchia views theology as an ongoing, global conversation surrounding "God-talk." His approach is faithful to Scripture while utilizing the tools of tradition and bearing attention to formative contexts. The book unfolds in six chapters: (1) the norms that inform and govern theology – i.e., Scripture, tradition, creative expression, and context; (2) the subject matter of theology – God; (3) Christology and crucicentrism; (4) soteriology and pneumatology, emphasizing the role of the Holy Spirit; (5) the mission and reality of ecclesiology, and finally (6) eschatology. This book is recommended for students and scholars interested in a cohesive account of Pentecostal systematic theology.