

Religion, Social Inequality, and the Moral Imagination: Constructing a Justice-Oriented Civic Vision

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Abstract

In a world increasingly characterized by social inequality, political polarization, and moral fragmentation, the role of religion in shaping public ethics remains both debated and vital. The objective of this paper is to argue that Christianity, through its theological stories, ethical principles, and community practices, offers resources for developing a moral imagination capable of envisioning and supporting a justice-centered civic vision. The research methodology for this study is secondary research (desk research), analyzing materials from relevant books and journal articles on the subject and issues to be addressed to gain insights. Drawing on biblical themes, historical Christian engagement with justice, and contemporary theological discussions, the paper will explore how Christian faith can transform civic awareness and inspire meaningful responses to inequality. The study will argue that religion's moral imagination functions through three key mechanisms: expanding the moral horizon to recognize the dignity of the marginalized, promoting virtues essential for social change, and creating alternative symbolic worlds that challenge dominant ideologies of individualism and consumerism. Ultimately, this work will present a renewed Christian civic vision rooted in love, justice, and the hope of the Kingdom of God. This vision can energize collective efforts toward a more equitable and compassionate society.

Keywords

Religion. Social Inequality. Moral Imagination. Justice. Civic Vision.