

A Pan-African Theology: Reclaiming Liberation, Identity, and Global Solidarity in the 21st Century

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Abstract

The emergence of a Pan-African theology is both a historical necessity and a contemporary imperative. Across Africa and the global African diaspora, communities continue to confront the enduring legacies of colonialism, enslavement, racial oppression, economic exploitation, and cultural displacement. While Christianity has profoundly shaped African spiritual life, dominant Eurocentric theological frameworks have often marginalized African experiences, identities, and ways of knowing. Rooted in shared histories of resistance and survival, Pan-African theology emerges as a response to these realities.

This paper argues that Pan-African theology functions as a vital spiritual and political framework for liberation, cultural reclamation, and global African solidarity. Drawing upon liberation theology, postcolonial theory, Black hermeneutics, and the African philosophy of Ubuntu, the study examines how theological reflection can be re-centred within African worldviews and historical experiences.

The paper demonstrates how Pan-African theology dismantles colonial religious hierarchies by affirming African epistemologies, histories, and spiritual traditions. It bridges historical and geographical divides between continental Africans and diasporic communities, fostering a shared identity grounded in dignity, mutuality, and collective responsibility. Furthermore, it provides practical resources to confront systemic racism, economic inequality, political fragmentation, and social exclusion through prophetic, faith-based engagement.

As a theology concerned with power, justice, liberation, and social transformation, Pan-African theology properly resides within the field of political theology. It offers a theological blueprint for the global solidarity, collective empowerment, and transformative action envisioned by the ICPAGS-26 conference.

Index Terms

Pan-African Theology; Liberation Hermeneutics; Decolonization; African Diaspora; Ubuntu; Global Solidarity