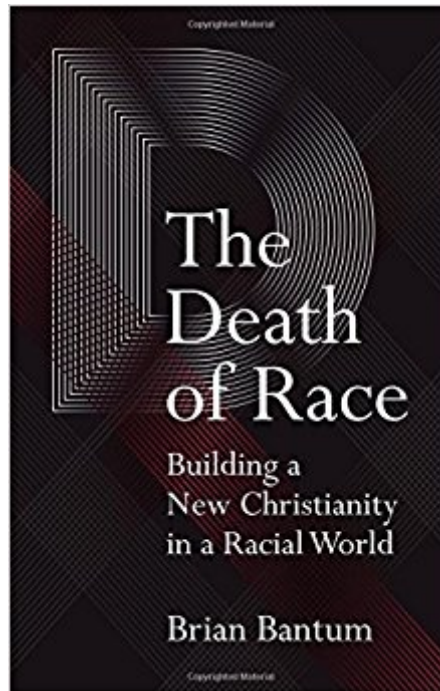


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The Death Of Race: Building A New Christianity In A Racial World



Synopsis

Brian Bantum says that race is not merely an intellectual category or a biological fact. Much like the incarnation, it is a "word made flesh," the confluence of various powers that allow some to organize and dominate the lives of others. In this way racism is a deeply theological problem, one that is central to the Christian story and one that plays out daily in the United States and throughout the world. In *The Death of Race*, Bantum argues that our attempts to heal racism will not succeed until we address what gives rise to racism in the first place: a fallen understanding of our bodies that sees difference as something to resist, defeat, or subdue. Therefore, he examines the question of race, but through the lens of our bodies and what our bodies mean in the midst of a complicated, racialized world, one that perpetually dehumanizes dark bodies, thereby rendering all of us less than God's intention.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brian Bantum is a professor of theology at Seattle Pacific University and author of *Redeeming Mulatto*. He is a sought-after speaker on the issues of Christianity and race relations.

This book by Bantum is very enlightening for all those who wish to gain insight into being mixed race and African American in the United States today. The author's challenge to re-imagine false, dangerous, and suffocating understandings of race is compelling. Built on the foundation of Christianity, Bantum invites his readers to attend to the mystery of the Incarnation and to our own blessed embodiment in contributing to a "new Christianity in a racialized world." All those who

consider themselves followers of Jesus Christ are charged to engage the author's considerations since all of our lives depend on it--especially black and brown sisters and brothers who bear the brunt of race-based exclusion and hatred.

An incredible book that lays out an accessible theology of the body. It is not a how-to book, but instead offers a new way of seeing and being in this world.

I found this book useful for me to gain the benefit of someone else's experience but the author's writing style was often difficult to follow. The book reads like a sermon, with many ideas being presented symbolically and then later recalled and represented using different symbolic language. He does an excellent job at creating these powerful metaphors but I found myself many times losing the message somewhere in the metaphor. I had to do a lot of note taking to try and track his arguments and even then found I would lose the thread. Overall, this book was valuable to me for gaining an honest perspective of life in a racial world. As a white American protestant male, I found it beneficial to hear of the author and his wife's individual struggles in coming up against a world (and church establishment) which seeks to define and limit them based on their outward appearance or gender. I haven't had this experience in my life and was introduced to several new lines of thinking in Dr. Bantum's work. As far as practical application, the author himself said that this book is not a "how-to". His purpose was primarily in shining a new light on the issue of race in our culture and then inviting us to begin the risky work of entering one another's lives and seeking each other's flourishing. Overall, I'd recommend reading this work if you are interested in the topic of race and Christianity, but I'd say this is certainly more of a jumping-off point rather than a definitive work.

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