



Confronting the “Blood at the Root”: Critical Race Theology and the Black Lives Matter Movement

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Prompted by the current debate and cognitive dissonances surrounding the #BlackLivesMatter protest campaign's desired goals of securing freedom, justice, equality, and human dignity for people of African descent in the United States, Juan Floyd-Thomas addresses this presumably secular social protest movement as an extension of Black religion. This claim is a direct response to notions that the #BlackLivesMatter movement's origin was either *sui generis* or *ex nihilo* but rather an evolution of numerous Black theological trajectories culminating in the largest protest movement of the 21st century.

Juan Floyd-Thomas' critical race theology project is influenced in equal measure by the prolific work not only of critical race theorists but also infused with the pioneering efforts of Black liberationist, womanist, feminist, and queer theologians. As such, critical race theology is concerned with the ways in which the scriptural interpretation, theological doctrines, and social praxis within our churches have been responsible for perpetuating oppression, exclusion, and dehumanization in our contemporary era.

Juan M. Floyd-Thomas Ph.D. is Associate Professor of African American Religious History in the Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion and Affiliated Faculty in Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. His research and teaching focus on the intersections of racial / ethnic identity, religious thought, popular culture, and sociopolitical activism in modern American society.



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