1996 Payton Lectures: Christianity and Western Values

Fuller Theological Seminary

Jurgen Moltmann

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Christianity and Western Values

Featuring

Jürgen Moltmann

With

Ellen T. Charry
D. Lyle Dabney
Winston E. Gooden
James W. Mc Cleland, Jr.
Nancy Bedford Stutz
Nicholas Wolterstorff

April 19 and 20

Travis Auditorium
Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, California

Cosponsored by
The Lowell W. Berry Institute for Continuing Education in Ministry and the School of Theology, in cooperation with Eerdmans Publishing Company

Fuller
Theological Seminary
JÜRGEN MOLTMANN, Dr. Theol, Dr. Theol. habil., professor emeritus of systematic theology in the Evangelical Theological Faculty of the University of Tübingen, Germany, is one of the most influential theologians of the second half of the twentieth century. His early works, *Theology of Hope* (1964), *The Crucified God* (1972), and *The Church in the Power of the Spirit* (1975), earned him worldwide acclaim. He has contributed to the formation of liberation theology, black theology, and minjung theology, and remained in dialogue with these theologies in his subsequent work. In addition, he has published a series of contributions to systematic theology under the titles *The Trinity and the Kingdom of God* (1980), *God in Creation* (1985), *The Way of Jesus Christ* (1989) and *The Spirit of Life* (1991), which established him as one of the world's leading theologians.
**Christianity and Western Values**

What do Western values have to do with Christianity? Some would answer: Everything. It is Christianity that gave rise to the Western world as we know it, with its superior technology, democratic institutions, efficient economy, and with its values, most notable of which are human rights. Christianity and Western values are inseparable. Attack one and the other will have to go too. We need to retrieve a robust Christian faith in order to sustain crumbling Western values.

What do Western values have to do with Christianity? Others would say: Very little. Western values and the institutions to which they correspond are more the outgrowth of Christendom and of the Industrial Revolution than of genuine Christian faith. Christianity and Western values are incompatible. To place individual rights and the pursuit of economic self-interest over the good of community is positively anti-Christian. We need to free ourselves from the dominance of Western values in order to rediscover authentic Christian faith.

What do Western values have to do with Christianity? Still others would answer: Everything—adding that this is why we need to abandon both Christianity and Western values. Western ways are on a triumphant march over the globe, but what they leave behind is an army of destitute people and acres of scorched land. For the good of the oppressed poor and the suffering environment, for the good of future generations, we need to look beyond Christianity and Western values.

These are some of the vital issues that Professor Jürgen Moltmann, along with distinguished respondents and panelists, will seek to address during this conference.

**RESPONDENTS**

- **NICHOLAS WOLTERSTORFF**, Ph.D., Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology at the Divinity School of Yale University, is one of the most distinguished Christian philosophers today. The bulk of his career was in the fields of ontology and aesthetics. More recently, he has been working and publishing in epistemology and the philosophy of religion. His recent Divine Discourse (Cambridge University Press, 1995) is based on his Wilde Lectures. His most recent book is John Locke and the Ethics of Belief (Cambridge University Press, 1996). His 1995 Gifford Lectures will be published as Presence and Practice: Mind, World, and Entitlement to Believe.

- **ELLEN T. CHARRY**, Ph.D., one of the emerging powerful voices in Christian theology, teaches systematic and historical theology in the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. She has been awarded a Henry Luce Fellowship in Theology from the Association of Theological Schools for 1995-96 to work on a reconsideration of the Christian self in conversation with the modern self. She is currently completing By the Renewing of Your Mind: The Salutarity of Christian Doctrine (to be published by Oxford Press). Her previous work includes Franz Rosenweig on the Freedom of God (1987).

**GUEST PANELISTS**

- **JAMES W. MCCLONDON, JR.**, Th.D., is distinguished scholar-in-residence at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has taught in theological seminaries for 34 years of his 40-year teaching career. An ordained Southern Baptist minister, he has lectured as a visiting professor at Notre Dame, Temple University, Stanford, St. Mary's, and the University of Pennsylvania. His theological writings include Biography as Theology (Abingdon Press, 1974), as well as several theological works celebrating the Radical Reformation heritage. His series on systematic theology is now in progress. Volume One, Ethics and Volume Two, Doctrine have been published by Abingdon Press.

- **WINSTON E. GOODEN**, Ph.D., is associate dean for clinical psychology and professor of psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. A licensed psychologist, he received his doctorate from Yale University in 1980. At Yale Divinity School he received the Richard Allen Achievement Award and the Walcott Calkins Prize. A member of the American Psychological Association, he has written extensively on clinical and community psychology, including articles published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology.

- **D. LYLE DABNEY**, Dr. Theol., is assistant professor of theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received his Doctor of Theology degree from Eberhard-Karls Universität in Tübingen, Germany. His areas of expertise are systematic theology, Christian ethics, the history of Christian theology, and the philosophy of religion. He is associated with the American Academy of Religion and Gesellschaft für Evangelische Theologie in Germany.

- **NANCY BEDFORD STUTZ**, Ph.D., is associate dean for students and colleagues. Please make reservations early as there is limited seating. (The $19 per person banquet reservation is not included in the lectureship registration fee.)

**HOSTS**

- **RICHARD J. MOUW**, Ph.D., is president and professor of Christian philosophy and ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary.

- **MIROSLAV VOLF**, Dr. Theol., Dr. Theol. habil., is associate professor of systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.

**BANQUET INFORMATION**

A banquet honoring the seventieth birthday of Jürgen Moltmann, hosted by Fuller Seminary, will be held on Friday evening, April 19, at 6:30 in Payton Hall in the Fireside Room. Reminiscences will be presented by his former students and colleagues. Please make reservations early as there is limited seating. (The $19 per person banquet reservation is not included in the lectureship registration fee.)
LECTURESHIP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

1:00 p.m. Introduction ........................................... Richard J. Mouw
          Miroslav Volf

1:15 p.m. Christianity and Western Values ..................... Jürgen Moltmann

2:15 p.m. Coffee Break

2:30 p.m. Response .............................................. Ellen T. Charry

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. Panel Discussion ...................................... Ellen T. Charry,
          Winston E. Gooden, Jürgen Moltmann,
          and Nancy Bedford Stutz

5:00 p.m. First lectureship session adjourned

6:30 p.m. Banquet in Payton Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

8:30 a.m. Introduction ........................................... Nicholas Wolterstorff

8:40 a.m. Theology, Church, and the Kingdom .................. Jürgen Moltmann

9:40 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. Response ............................................. Nicholas Wolterstorff

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Panel Discussion ...................................... D. Lyle Dabney,
          James W. McClendon, Jr., Jürgen Moltmann,
          and Nicholas Wolterstorff

12:30 p.m. Second lectureship session adjourned

TRAVIS AUDITORIUM is located in the Psychology Building,
180 N. Oakland Avenue (corner of E. Walnut), Pasadena.