

Practical Liberation

Final presentation in a series on Liberation Theology by Bruce Chilton
for the Rhinebeck Reformed Church on January 24, 2021

Beginning in South and Central America after the Second Vatican Council, Liberation became a major movement within theology, contributing to efforts of national and class revolution in several parts of the world. Despite enduring systematic attempts to silence them, liberation theologians have persisted, and their approach has been embraced on an interfaith basis. This series has engaged both the thought and the practice of Liberation Theology, and the last presentation will identify practical possibilities.

The Freedoms that Liberate

Freedom of speech and expression;

Freedom of belief and faith;

Freedom from want and deprivation;

Freedom from intimidation and fear.

Powers that Liberate

The hope of moving beyond slavery: “Just as we bore the image of the person of dust, we shall also bear the image of the person of heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:49).

The memory of redemption: “And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your God brought you out with a strong hand and an outstretched arm” (Deuteronomy 5:15).

Means that Liberate

Engagement with respect (the first Freedom in practice);

Dedication to core values (the second Freedom in practice);

Production for others (the third Freedom in practice);

Addressing the sources of fear (the fourth Freedom in practice).