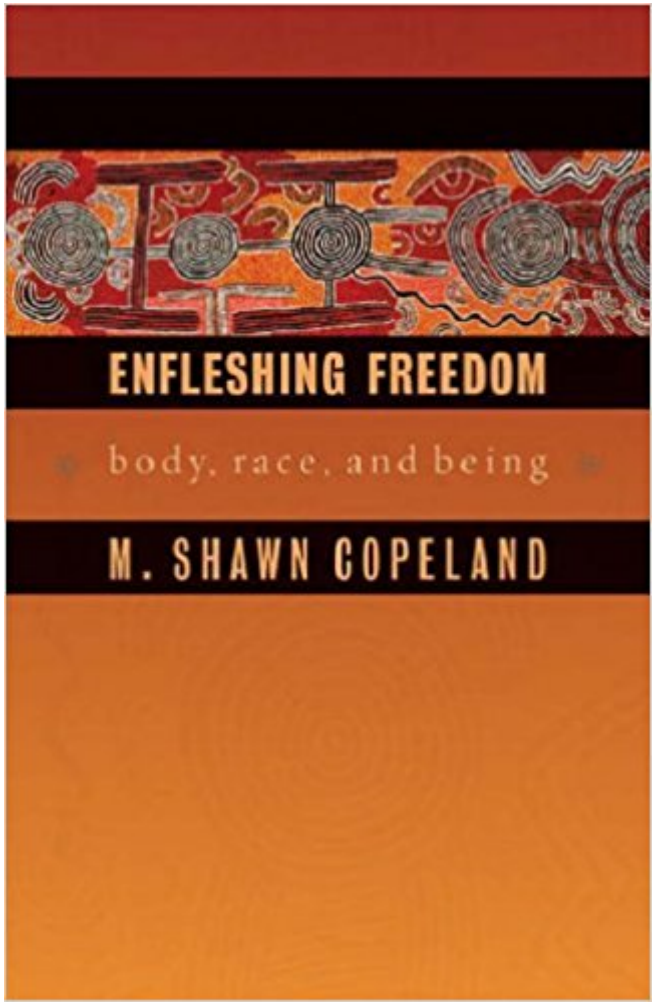
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Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, And Being (Intersections In African American Theology) (Innovations, African American Religious Thought)



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Synopsis

Being human is neither abstract nor hypothetical. It is concrete, visceral, and embodied in the everyday experience and relationships that determine who we are. In that case, argues distinguished theologian Shawn Copeland, we have much to learn from the embodied experience of black women who, for centuries, have borne in their bodies the identities and pathologies of those in power.With rare insight and conviction, Copeland demonstrates how black women's experience and oppression cast a completely different light on our theological theorems and pious platitudes and reveal them as a kind of mental colonization that still operates powerfully in our economic and political configurations today. Further, Copeland argues, race and embodiment and relations of power not only reframe theological anthropology but also our notions of discipleship, church, and Christ as well. In fact, she argues, our postmodern situation - marked decidedly by the realities of race, conflict, the remains of colonizing myths, and the health of bodies - affords an opportunity to be human (and to be the body of Christ) with new clarity and effect.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

M. Shawn Copeland is Associate Professor of Theology, Boston College, and Past President of the Catholic Theological Society of America. From 1994 to 2003 Copeland was Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Marquette University and from 1989 to 1994, she taught at Yale University Divinity School. She serves as adjunct Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans.

Enfleshing Freedom is not an easy read but it is an important book for those who strive to broaden their understanding of what it means to be a Catholic Christian. M. Shawn Copeland does not shy away from the truth just because it will challenge many readers to look at Christ and discipleship in a different way. Some may find Copeland's writing to be too scholarly and unapproachable. I find it to be prophetic and challenging. For the reader who is open to looking at the intersection of race and faith, I highly recommend Enfleshing Freedom.

Thanks

eye-opening and thought-provoking

This book is amazingly written, and a must have for all womanist/feminist scholars. I highly recommend it. I have read it twice now.

This book of practical engagement with theological anthropology from the perspective of racism especially seen from the prism of black womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s body in a unique and exemplary way contributes to Christian anthropology using what can be considered the singular most important and visible aspect of being human ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the body. Bearing in mind the differences of opinions, biases and ideological machinations power has made of differences in phenotype in hierarchizing human bodies, Copeland approaches Christian anthropology with a call to solidarity in the single humanum everybody shares as human beings. Copeland does not shy away from the discomfort mention of racism causes but instead using the experiences of slavery especially the suffering of black women, she calls for reimagining of the social structure and reconceiving of the flawed enlightenment induced scientific analysis that sanctioned dehumanization and denigration of black bodies considered as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœinferior ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ to the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœsuperior ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ white race as well as rethinking of theological anthropology from the experience of black women whose bodies slavery rendered ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“objects of property, of production, of reproduction, of sexual violence.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• I highly recommend Copeland's new perspective on theological anthropology.

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