

INDIAN JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY

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The present issue is on Gospel and Culture. This is a theme the Journal wishes to pursue for the next three more years atleast, through the September Numbers. In this way we are joining hands with the World Council of Churches' study programme on Gospel and Culture being initiated in India under South Asia Theological Research Institute (SATHRI), Bangalore. Your articles and views on the theme are welcome.

The gospel is always available along with a particular cultural embodiment alone. What are the possible diverse cultural embodiments of the gospel in the Indian context is an important question we strive to answer. If the gospel is dynamic— and we believe that it is— new meanings of the gospel can emerge through the Indian cultural embodiments of it. We are keen to listen to these new voices. It is our firm conviction that India has a major contribution in this regard.

Editorial

It is a fact of history that the Christian missionary enterprise has alienated people from their cultural roots in many places. The dominant culture of those who brought the gospel has denied the right of people to their cultures. In the North-East India, for example, there has been a systematic destruction of indigenous cultures. Hence promotion of the liberation of cultures has to be conceived today as an integral part of the message of the gospel. We stand for the liberation of Indian cultures.

At the same time, we also conceive the possibility of mutual creative enrichment between gospel and particular cultures. In some cases a mutual critique between particular aspects of cultures and specific understandings of the gospel may be in order. Specific understandings of the gospel as well as particular aspects of cultures can both be ambiguous when conceived in isolation. Mutual correction and reformulation are the needs in India today and we are all for this cause as well.