

At a first glance, the two topics in the title: “African Christian Theologies and the Reformation Legacy” may seem to have very little to do with each other. But, on closer reflection, there are indeed a great many shared perspectives. One of the many legacies of the Reformation on Christianity worldwide and last but not least on African Christian theologies was to return to the central role given to the Bible, translated in local dialects. Christianity expanded thanks to the translation and distribution of the Bible in vernacular languages. Most importantly, the people who had been victims of prejudices of race supremacy could now have access to God in their own language, culture and idioms without intermediaries. It is largely thanks to Bible translations in local languages that the majority of those churches in Africa born of European mission activities continued to develop positively, even after the end of the colonial age, and that many independent African churches emerged.

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