

神学信念宽容的宗教心理学阐释

——以奥古斯丁和路德的救恩论信念为例

Religious Psychology Illustration of Theological
Beliefs Tolerance: Taking Augustine's and Luther's
Salvation Beliefs as an Example

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[**Abstract**] The object of theology is ultimate reality. Since ultimate reality goes beyond human reason, all theological beliefs are necessarily based on revelation from ultimate reality. However, the process translating revelation into theological belief is inadvertently affected and restricted by human comprehension and language. Furthermore, given the absolute sovereignty of ultimate reality, revelation must possess objectivity but never completeness. The cognitive deficiencies of man and the revelatory objectivity of ultimate reality form the philosophical and theological bases of tolerance in theological belief.

Different schools of thought within religious psychology have attempted to explain the causes of the development of religious beliefs. For Freud, God's image is the internalization of the father image. Object relations theory identifies different stages in the development of religious beliefs. Attachment theory sees God as the "perfect substitute attachment figure". Capps suggests that religious beliefs originate from the

melancholy caused by the loss of intimacy with one's mother. All the religious psychological researches emphasize the impact of early life experiences on religious beliefs. Although the basic positions of these researches may have been non-religious or anti-religious, their results provided specific illustrations of human cognitive deficiencies and revelatory objectivity.

Belief in the doctrine of salvation is based on the understanding of sin. Take as example Augustine and Luther. For Augustine, the conflict between carnal pleasure and spiritual pursuit, which he experienced as a young man, made him aware of man's bondage in sinful flesh, and taught him that salvation is completely dependent on the grace of God. Luther, on the other hand, became highly introspective as a result of his austere family upbringing, and was conscious of the unbridled sinfulness of the human heart, which eventually led him to the doctrine of justification by faith. These examples testify to the profound impact the early years of life can have on one's salvation beliefs. Understanding the influence of early experiences provides a whole new perspective on how to approach, ponder and discuss theological beliefs. Furthermore, religious tolerance must be built into the foundations of orthodoxy given the varying degrees of importance in the array of theological beliefs.

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