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**Inculturation and Liberation in Africa:
A Form of Religious Diplomacy with a Push to Reclaiming the African Identity**

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ABSTRACT

Inculturation and Liberation are theologies which have seasonably preserved the African identity. The former expresses the inherent nobleness of Christian message in concrete African cultural forms while the latter holds together for the Gospel and experiences of men and women loyal to the course of liberation in a wounded world with a push to build a freer and more human African society. These two theologies were, essentially, meant to birth a holistic mode of evangelization that would inspire and empower Africans towards fulfilment of their potentialities and ideals. A discourse on a number of substantive issues relating to Africans, ousted the culture of contest which had accelerated the dismissal of African worldviews and knowledge systems, as irrelevant and unnecessary, for the true salvation of the Africans. The study encapsulates religious diplomacy as the necessary foundation for Inculturation and Liberation efforts through which different African cultures embraced the Christian message. Christian Mission, today, needs a renewed commitment to diverse and participatory evangelization practices of inclusive decision- making that value the distinctness of each culture to the extent that people come together to order their common life according to their needs, mentality, anxiety, thought-forms, and aspirations. Based on the above, the study will explore reflections on Why the necessity of exercising power justly and fairly form a basis for mission in a wounded world; Why justice, as the only true principle for humanity, is protection and kindness in a wounded world; and When mission has fancied itself most wise in human vulnerabilities.

Key Words: Inculturation, Liberation, Religious Diplomacy

The paper will follow the following sequence: It will commence with some introductory reflections accompanied with explanation and operationalizing of the above key concepts. After that it will examine the theories that guided the study. This will be followed by a brief historical theological setting of the subject. It will then elaborate Inculturation approach. The next step is that of explicating liberation approach and a discussion on religious diplomacy will follow. The paper will then end with the study's implications, recommendations and conclusion together with references.