

Rage: Underside, Blindside, and Upperside



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3:30pm-5:00pm

10383 Bunche Hall

Both public and Christian understandings of rage do not recognize its constructive and vital side necessary for transformation to take place. This talk aims to revise current theology and the practice of Christianity by expanding its understanding of rage from a simplistic and narrow view of its destructive nature to a wider definition that encompasses its unrecognized and transformational aspects. Based on Kohut's understanding of narcissistic rage, I discuss rage in this work that pertains to dispositional rage, i.e., rage manifested in life's pattern or more likely fused into one's character.

In this presentation, I explore the underside, blindside, and upperside of rage. The underside of rage is immature rage that takes a posture of offense manifesting in a loss of control due to one's unreasonable and disproportionate (and thus unfulfilled) expectations. The blindside of rage is wounded rage that takes on a posture of resignation resulting in the loss of self-agency inflicted by others. The upperside of rage is mature rage that takes on a posture of resilience in response to a loss of justice in one's life or in the plight of those who are subject to wounded rage. I then attribute theological categories of *unrighteous rage*, *deprived rage*, and *righteous rage* respectively to these categories of rage.

I also demonstrate the underside of rage with Robert M. Grant's understanding of Jewish Apocalypticists which gave birth to Gnosticism, the blindside of rage with the silence of the Korean *comfort girls-women* who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during WW II and the upperside of rage with the courageous act of Emmett Til's mother revealing the horrendous injustice done to her son.



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