STANLEY J. GRENZ’S THEOLOGICAL METHOD: A POSTFOUNDATIONAL EPISTEMOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

In the present article, I have examined the communitarian theological method of Stanley J. Grenz. The article was dedicated to outlining Grenz’s overall proposal for reshaping evangelical theology along communitarian lines due to a major cultural shift from modernity to postmodernity. To his mind, evangelical scholars can benefit the most in their theologizing from this communitarian methodological orientation. Drawing on the works of other postfoundational scholars and my personal research in the Eastern European context, I have suggested revising certain aspects of Grenz method (in particular the structure of epistemology, the question of language and truth). Taking my conclusions as a starting point, I tried to put Grenz’s communitarian methodology into practice in order to present the contours of revisited communitarian method. I have demonstrated that contemporary evangelical theology, indeed, requires the notion of community due to biblical, theological, sociological, hermeneutical and apologetic reasons. While Grenz did not dedicate much writing to such questions as relationship between theology and Tradition (an exception is his work on the role of Tradition in postfoundational epistemology, unto which I drew), I have expanded them following his overall emphases. Therefore, I have concluded that Grenz’s communitarian methodology can be applied well to theology if certain aspects could be revised.

Key words: Stanley J. Grenz, theological method, evangelical theology, postfoundational epistemology, concept of community.

FULL TEXT:

REFERENCES


Stanley James Grenz was born in Alpena, Michigan on January 7, 1950. He was the youngest of three children born to Richard and Clara Grenz, a brother to Lyle and Jan. His dad was a Baptist pastor for 30 years before he passed away in 1971. Growing up as a “pastor’s kid” meant that he moved several times in his life, from Michigan, to South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Colorado. After high scho Stanley James Grenz was born in Alpena, Michigan on January 7, 1950. He was the youngest of three children...
born to Richard and Clara Grenz, a brother to Lyle and Jan. His dad was a Baptist pastor fo This article is a critical but appreciative response to the emerging theology and proposed theological method of Stanley J. Grenz. It is appreciative of the way that Grenz is helping evangelicals face the fact that they should be more engaging of the broader theological discussions regarding method if it is to avoid becoming hopelessly irrelevant, both within and beyond evangelicalism. At the same time it is critical of the apparent ambiguity in Grenz’s proposals for a revised theological method and its resulting theology. The article reflects on the prior work of Grenz but employs his mo