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#### Abstract

## Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Anthropology

### Jun Kikuchi

When we attempt to understand Martin Luther King, Jr.'s thought and actions, it is paramount to clearly comprehend his view of anthropology, as this is central to both his thinking and his social action. There are primarily three characteristics of King's anthropology. First, it is based upon biblical anthropology, in which the image of God in man is of primary importance. For King, this is the basis for the freedom of man. Second, King fully understands the nature of man. He teaches that a perfect life for man is only realized by completely fulfilling the three dimensions of life: length (love of self), breadth (love for others), and height (love for God). Third, King's anthropology emphasizes human personality. He understands personality in a positive sense as the subject of dignity and freedom, and in a negative sense as the collapse of personality that African-Americans often experience (e.g., when parents of African-Americans must convey the fact of segregation in America to their little children). Consequently, human personality for King is also the criterion for which just laws are distinguished from unjust.