

THE MANY FACES OF
JESUS CHRIST

Intercultural Christology

Revised Edition

VOLKER KÜSTER

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2000, 2023 by Volker Küster

Originally published as *Die vielen Gesichter Jesu Christi: Christologie interkulturell* by Volker Küster in 1999 by Neukirchener Verlag, Neukirchen-Vluyn. Copyright © Neukirchener Verlag 1999; second revised German edition: *Interkulturelle Christologie. Die vielen Gesichter Jesu Christi*, überarbeitete und erweiterte Jubiläumsausgabe 2021 by Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt. Copyright © Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft 2021.

Originally published in English as *The Many Faces of Jesus Christ* in Great Britain (SCM Press, 2001) and in the United States (Orbis Books, 2001). Original English translation copyright © 2001 by John Bowden.

This revised edition published in 2023 by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302, USA.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Küster, Volker, 1962– author.

Title: The many faces of Jesus Christ : intercultural Christology / Volker Küster.

Other titles: *Vielen Gesichter Jesu Christi*. English

Description: Revised edition. | Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, 2023. |

Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: “Updated version of an Orbis classic”— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022051219 (print) | LCCN 2022051220 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626985148 (print) | ISBN 9781608339761

Subjects: LCSH: Jesus Christ—Person and offices. | Christianity and culture—Developing countries.

Classification: LCC BT205 .K8413 2023 (print) | LCC BT205 (ebook) | DDC 232.9—dc23/eng/20230109

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022051219>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022051220>

CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments of Illustrations</i>	x
<i>Foreword to the First Edition by Robert J. Schreier</i>	xi
<i>Introduction to the First Edition</i>	xv
<i>Introduction to the Revised Edition</i>	xxi

I. Contextual Christology in Intercultural Perspective

<i>Prologue: Jesus and Culture</i>	3
1. Christology and Culture	10
Christ and Culture	10
Gospel and Culture	13
2. Christology in Context—Intercultural Christology	28

II. Christology in a Diversity of Contexts

“To Proclaim the Gospel to the Poor”

Christology in the Context of Poverty and Oppression in Latin America

3. Historical Reconstruction:	
Christological Discourse at the Time of the Conquista	41
The Spanish Christ	41
The Indios as the Poor of Jesus Christ	43
4. Christopraxis in the Discipleship of Jesus.	48
<i>Leonardo Boff (Brazil) and Jon Sobrino (El Salvador)</i>	
Toward a Liberating Christology	49
The Christ Present in the Poor	56

“But You, Who Do You Africans Say that I Am?”

Christology in the Context of African Tribal Cultures and Religions

5. Models of African Christology	61
Jesus Christ, the Chief	63
Jesus Christ, the Master of Initiation	66

Jesus Christ, the Ancestor	68
Jesus Christ, the Healer	70
A Comparison of Models: Commonalities and Divergences.	71
6. Christology in the Context of African Ancestor Worship	75
<i>Charles Nyamiti (Tanzania) and Bénézet Bujo (Zaire)</i>	
Jesus Christ, the Brother-ancestor (Charles Nyamiti)	76
Jesus Christ, the Proto-ancestor (Bénézet Bujo)	79
<i>“I and the Father are One”</i>	
Christology in the Context of Pluralism of Asian Cultures and Religions	
7. Christology in the Context of Hinduism.	85
<i>M. M. Thomas and Stanley Samartha (India)</i>	
Theological Existence in the New India	85
Christ-Centered Humanism and Syncretism (M. M. Thomas)	90
Theocentric Christology (Stanley J. Samartha)	95
8. Christology in the Context of Buddhism	100
<i>Katsumi Takizawa and Seiichi Yagi (Japan)</i>	
Conversions on the Boundary of Buddhism and Christianity	100
Christology as The-anthropology (Katsumi Takizawa)	106
The I in Jesus (Seiichi Yagi)	113
Interreligious Christology as an Intellectual Borderline Experience	124
9. Christology in the Overall Asian Context	128
<i>Kosuke Koyama and Choan-Seng Song</i>	
Telling the Stories of the Gospel in Asia	128
No Handle on the Cross (Kosuke Koyama)	135
Theology of Incarnation in Asia (Choan-Seng Song)	140
Models of Asian Christology.	144
<i>“What You Have Done to the Least of These My Brothers . . .”</i>	
Christology in the Context of Poverty and Oppression in Africa and Asia	
10. The Black Messiah: Christology in the Context of Racism	149
<i>James H. Cone (United States) and Allan A. Boesak (South Africa)</i>	
Jesus Is Black (James H. Cone)	150
Black and White Reconciled in Jesus Christ (Allan A. Boesak)	157
11. Encountering Jesus Christ in the Minjung: Christology in the Context of a Developmental Dictatorship	165

Ahn Byung-Mu and the Minjung Theology of South Korea 165

Jesus and Minjung 169

12. Jesus with Us:

**Christology in the Context of New Departures
in Liberation Theology in the 1980s 176**

Arvind P. Nirmal (India) and Teruo Kuribayashi (Japan)

From the Dalit Movement to Dalit Theology 176

Jesus Was a Dalit (Arvind P. Nirmal) 182

The Burakumin Wear Jesus’s Crown of Thorns (Teruo Kuribayashi) . . . 187

“We now see through a mirror”
Christology of Women from Africa,
Asia, and Latin America and Their Diaspora

13. Jesus and Women—The Feminine Faces of Christ:

Christology in the Context of Sexism, Racism, and Classism 195

Generative Themes from the Perspective of the Context 196

Christology in the Contexts of African Women
(Mercy Amba Oduyoye and Musa Dube) 198

Christology in the Contexts of Asian Women
(Chung Hyun-Kyung and Kwok Pui-Lan) 208

Christology in the Contexts of Latin American Women
(Elsa Támez and Ivone Gebara) 218

Christology in the Contexts of Women in Diaspora:
Womanist, Mujerista, Asian American Christology 223
(Jacquelyn Grant, Kelly Brown Douglas, Delores Williams,
Ada María Isasi-Díaz, Rita Nakashima Brock and
Wonhee Anne Joh, Marcella Althaus-Reid)

Generative Themes from the Perspective of the Text. 233

III. The Forms Taken by Jesus Christ

**14. Models of Contextual Christology:
Commonalities, Divergences, and Opportunities for
Ecumenical Learning 239**

Epilogue: Paul and Culture 247

Index of Authors 259