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**Beyond Separation or Synthesis: Christ and Evolution as Theodrama**

The premise of this lecture is that there is much more to be said about evolution and Christianity than simply *either* taking the path of friendship *or* hostility towards Darwin. Moreover, such debates regularly miss out or push to the background proper consideration of that central tenant in Christian theology, namely, our understanding of the place and significance of Christ, or Christology. If traditional Christologies have largely ignored evolution, those contemporary scholars who have engaged with evolutionary accounts such as Arthur Peacocke and Ian Barbour lean towards a synthetic approach influenced by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and a liberal understanding of Christ as a Spirit filled human being. This synthetic approach merely reinforces a secular approach to the evolution of humankind through grand narratives represented by evolutionary psychology. Instead, drawing on the work of the Roman Catholic theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar, I will argue for a different way of appropriating evolutionary ideas into Christological discourse using *theodrama* as a basis through which it becomes possible to link theological and evolutionary ideas, rather than *narrative*. The advantage of drama as a category is that it both retains a sense of direction, while allowing for the unexpected. I argue that this takes due account of the contingency of evolutionary processes, while giving proper scope to the importance of the Christ event in Christian theology. It also invites a greater self-understanding of humanity in terms of active agency, rather than passive recipients of biological processes. More traditional understandings of Christ as having a human and divine nature are hard to maintain alongside an evolutionary account of human origins. The category of theodrama permits an understanding of Christ as both fully human and divine without assuming a unity of substance, for his human and divine attributes are shown forth through the drama of his engagement with God, humanity and the natural world.