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Karl Barth on Humanity's Adoption

We're sometimes asked "Are you sure the adoption of humanity is the gospel? I've never heard it before." In this light we find it helpful to look at the writings of other Christians who have expressed the gospel clearly.

Many people regard Karl Barth as one of the greatest theologians of the Twentieth Century. His work emphasized God's freedom and his free grace to enter into relationship with humanity, specifically by uniting himself to the human condition when the Son became human as the man Jesus Christ. Writing in 1960 about the incarnation of the Son, he said in his book *The Humanity of God*:

On the basis of the eternal will of God we have to think of every human being, even the oddest, most villainous or miserable, as one to whom Jesus Christ is Brother and God is Father; and we have to deal with him on this assumption. If the other person knows that already, then we have to strengthen him in that knowledge. If he does not know it yet, or no longer knows it, our business is to transmit this knowledge to him. On the basis of the knowledge of the humanity of God no other attitude to any kind of fellow man is possible. It is identical with the practical acknowledgement of his human rights and his human dignity. To deny it to him would be for us to renounce having Jesus Christ as Brother and God as Father. *The Humanity of God*, p. 53. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.