James Cone, *A Black Theology of Liberation,*

Read the Passage from James Cone, *A Black Theology of Liberation,*“The Human Being in Black Theology”

*"This is the paradox of human existence. Freedom is the opposite of oppression, but only the oppressed are truly free. How can this be? On the one hand, the concreteness of human existence reveals that human beings are not (fully) human when their creativity is enslaved by alien powers. To be (fully) human is to be separated from everything that is evil, everything that is against the “extension of the limits of humanity.” But on the other hand, human existence also discloses that the reality of evil is an ever-present possibility in our finite world, and to be (fully) human means to be identified with those who are enslaved as they fight against human evil. Being human means being against evil by joining sides with those who are the victims of evil. Quite literally, it means becoming oppressed with the oppressed, making their cause one’s own cause by involving oneself in the liberation struggle. No one is free until all are free"*(p. 46 of the PDF)

**Answer the Question Prompt:**

Explain how the passage helps you to think about the possibility of "becoming Black with God," and in particular whether and how this is possible for white people. You must connect the passage back to the central passage (pp. 37-38 of the PDF).

Be sure to include at least 2 direct quotations from Cone in your comment in order to explain your point of view.

750 words

**Required readings:**

* James Cone, *A Black Theology of Liberation,*“The Human Being in Black Theology”
* The famous central passage about "becoming Black with God" pp 37-38

**PS:** It may be that you are skeptical about whether this is possible at all, and that is OK! (You are allowed to disagree with Cone, but of course explain why if this is the case for you.) You are also allowed to be hopeful about the possibility of "becoming Black with God," and you should explain yourself in this case too.