

Cong Zhou

Questions

1. According to Bird, what do Eucharist and Baptism share in their functionality?
2. How does the book view the ransom mode?
3. What does Anselm say about the satisfaction mode and why does it matter?
4. What is the significance of penal substitution?
5. Why does the author choose Christus Victor as the most essential theory of the atonement?

Answers

1. Eucharists and baptisms are two sacred rituals of the universal Christian churches and they all actively remind the congregation of the death of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. The book negatively reviews the ransom mode. Because the author does not believe the evil has real power to hold humanity captive, and also the demon does not deserve the ransom from the highest God, especially when the ransom is the blood of Christ. Instead, the author offers "liberation" as the alternative for ransom.
3. Anselm thinks that people owe God a debt of honor by living a sinful life even when they don't have the ability to control their behaviors. That's debt Jesus pays with his death. This mode offers an alternative to the ransom mode.
4. Evangelical theology highlights penal substitution as the center of the atonement because this mode explains the necessity of the incarnation and also bridges the atonement story across the Old Testament to the New Testament.
5. Because the author claims that although penal substitution is traditionally viewed as the central theory, it was not emphasized either by Acts and the early church fathers. But Acts emphasizes Christus Victor. Christus Victor is also supported by both Genesis and Revelation. In conclusion, Christus Victor is simply the "choice of the history."

Terms

1. Crucicentric. Crucicentric means evaluating and centering all elements of faith based on the crucifixion of Christ.
2. Recapitulation. When Christ was crucified and resurrected, he summed up and saved all humanity in himself.
3. Christus Victor. Christus Victor means "victory of Christ."

Summary

Since Christ has saved us by his death and resurrection, it is important to look into what does the crucifixion achieved. There are many achievements and the most essential one is Christ is victorious over sin, death and demon.