

Cong Zhou

Questions

1. Why does the book address the extent of the atonement?
2. What is the main disagreement between Reformed theology and the Arminian theology on the issue of the extent of the atonement?
3. What is the author's opinion about deliberate redemption?
4. What is one argument to support universal atonement according to the author?
5. How does the resurrection of Christ move us towards a new Christian life?

Answers

1. Because the extent of the atonement will determine whom his death avails (in theological discussion).
2. The main disagreement on the issue of the atonement is the extent of the atonement. This is a historical disagreement that lasts a few hundred years. Reformed theology, in general, has claimed that the atonement of Christ is solely for the elect. Arminian theology, on the other hand, has insisted that the atonement made possible for all people to obtain salvation.
3. The author agrees with the claim that Jesus has died for the elect. But he disagrees the interpretation that deliberate redemption theory gives to John 3:16 – that “*all*” means all kinds of people, which is not the most appropriate interpretation to him.
4. The author claims that the early church fathers supported universal atonement in their writings.
5. The resurrection is the ultimate victory of Christ that grants every Christ follower new life over sin and death. We are experiencing the power of new life as we are united to the risen Christ.

Terms

1. Amyraldian. Amyraldian, also known as hypothetical universal atonement, means that Jesus died conditionally for the world and unconditionally for the elect.
2. Universalism. A school of thought that believes Jesus has died for all people's sins so everyone that was ever created would be saved.
3. Anastasis. Anastasis comes from the Greek word *anastasis*, which means resurrection. The word refers to the power of the new life that flows in a believer's life.

Summary

The selected reading discusses the extent of the atonement. The author, through much discussion, explains that the atonement is effective towards the salvation of the elect and remains sufficient for the salvation of all people.