

5-3-1 Assignment 1 on Bird 4.6 to 4.7.4

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QUESTIONS

1. What does the ascension prove?
2. What is the meaning of Jesus' pre-existence?
3. What does the New Testament emphasize about the deity of Jesus?
4. What are the theologically significant consequences of Jesus' humanity?
5. What is the orthodox position of the Christian Church about the divine and human nature?

Answers:

1. The ascension demonstrates that Jesus ascended into heaven to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples. Furthermore, it indicates the beginning of Trinitarian worship centered on God and Jesus operating in the power of the Spirit. It also proves that Jesus was exalted to the right hand of the Father, invested with divine authority, and placed as universe viceroy so believers could participate in His reign in union with Him.
2. The pre-existence significance is twofold. First, incarnation and redemption merge since Jesus always had a redemptive role. Secondly, this incarnation was a voluntary act of the Son, not a forced one. Jesus wanted to become incarnate in obedience to the Father and the power of the Spirit.
3. The New Testament emphasizes that Jesus receives God's worship, shares the seat of His throne, performs His works, participates in the divine ontology, and is part of His mission.
4. First of all, Jesus is our human representative, the new Adam. Jesus can redeem the fallen sons of Adam. Second, Jesus is the mediator, being human and divine. Also, Jesus fulfills God's purpose for humanity to rule over creation. He is an example of faithfulness to God. The human Jesus shows that God can have compassion on us.
5. The relationship between the divine and human natures of Christ is that of a hypostatic union, a personal union of the two natures of Jesus in one person. These two natures are distinct and concur or coincide in His person. The hypostatic union is the union of the divine and the human in the one person of Jesus without being confused.

TERMS

Kenotic Christology: This is a Christology that postulates that the Son/Logos left behind some divine attributes, such as His glory, omniscience, and omnipotence, to be made man.

Docetism: This position denies that Jesus had a physical body. They claim that Jesus never came in the flesh and only appeared to be human (Dokeo)

Nestorianism: This position, stemming from Nestorius, rejected the term for Mary of Theotokos (God-bearer) in favor of Christotokos (Christ-bearer). They postulated that Jesus had two natures and two persons. In Jesus, there was no divine union but a juxtaposition of divinity and humanity.

SUMMARY

Bird begins by referring to the ascension of Jesus since it is a central point that links the redemptive work of Jesus and guarantees the acceptance of believers by God. Next, he addresses the various propositions about the deity of Jesus, His human and divine nature, and how they relate to each other in the person of Jesus. After discussing some heresies, he affirms that Jesus had both natures, which allows Him to be the mediator for human redemption. In

addition, he cites some positions (Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, and Monophysitism) on these natures and introduces the hypostatic union (two natures in one person).