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TH 602
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5-3-1 Assignment: Bird 4.6-4.7.4

QUESTIONS

1. What are Bird's arguments for the significance of Jesus' ascension?
2. What are the two Christological ideas the early church came to a near-immediate unity?
3. What are some reasons that the heretical Christologies were rejected?
4. According to Bird, what is the significance of Jesus' pre-existence?
5. What did the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD) ultimately affirm about Jesus' divinity and humanity?

Answers

1. He argues that through ascension, Jesus could send the Holy Spirit, it created an expectation for the worship of Jesus and the witness to Jesus by the disciples, He is exalted to God's right hand and is invested with divine authority, it demonstrates that God has placed human being as vice-regent of the universe, that the believers embryonically share in reign of Christ by virtue of their union with Christ, affirmed that Jesus's work of intercession continues in his heavenly session and that Jesus will return in the same manner he left.
2. They are about the biblical identification of Jesus of Nazareth as the risen and exalted Lord and the explicit identification of Jesus with the God of Israel.
3. They failed to commend themselves as built on apostolic foundations, lacked spiritual warrant, had questionable internal coherence, and produced dubious consequences for everyday life.
4. It is twofold, First, the incarnation and redemption merge– Jesus comes from heaven in order to redeem his people. Secondly, the incarnation was a voluntary act of the Son, or being obedient to the Father in order to execute the divine plan for salvation.
5. They affirmed Jesus' union of natures—that Christ's divine and human nature were united without confusion, change, division, and separation.

TERMS

- Hypostatic union: Based on the orthodox position, it argues that the one person of Christ consists of a union of two natures– divine & human
- An-hypostatic union: A subterm to describe that human nature by Jesus is not a person independent of the Son (no hypostasis of its own)
- Enhypostatic union: A subterm to describe that the human nature of Christ is made personal in the incarnation.

In Chapter 4.6-4.7.4, Bird elaborates on the significance of Jesus' ascension and comprehensively analyzes Jesus' identity and divinity. He provides a biblical foundation for the ascension and substantial evidence of its significance and importance, mainly as it serves as an essential transition for various aspects of Christ's work. He then transitions in to provide clarity regarding Jesus' identity and his relation to the father based on the Biblical identification of Jesus of Nazareth as the exalted Lord and the explicit identification of Jesus as God of Israel. Furthermore, he lays out various christological heresies to fortify the orthodox argument that Christ is the God-Man– He is of two natures, one person, and of the same substance with the Father.