

5-3-1 Assignment Week 9: Christ and Culture

QUESTIONS

1. Name the five models for enduring problems prescribed by H. Richard Niebuhr?
2. There is a tendency to overlook monasticism and mysticism as examples of Christian culture, mainly because they were not _____.
3. In the Christ above culture perspective, Thomas Aquinas recognizes four kinds of law. What are they?
4. According to H Richard Niebuhr what are the critical challenges to the dualist motif?
5. According to Walter Rauschenbusch, society consists of five basic components. What are they?

ANSWERS

1. Christ against culture; Christ of culture; Christ above culture, Christ and culture in paradox, and Christ the transformer of culture. (PG. 191)
2. Monolithic movements. (pg. 193)
3. Eternal, natural, civil, and divine. (pg.202)
4. Firstly, the Christian faith is generally viewed as a private belief by adherents due to the dichotomization of life into sacred and secular domains. A second characteristic of this type is its tendency to embrace a status quo mentality. There is also a third problem with the Christ and culture paradox position because it fails to incorporate redemption and holiness into believers' lives and social interactions. (pg. 207/208)
5. Family, church, education, politics, and economics. (pg. 211)

TERMS

1. Type – is a mental construct to which no individual wholly conforms. It is a broad categorization that helps us make sense of the complexity of a given field of study. (pg. 191)
2. Via Negativa – the elimination of temporal distractions. (pg. 193)
3. Ernest Troeltsch – author of the classic work “*The Social Teachings of the Christian Churches*”. He believed that religious ideas are powerless apart from cultural forms. (pg. 198)

SUMMARY

Our culture is the starting point to understanding the world. Therefore, the relationship between Christianity and culture is a perennial problem. Scripture should be the authority on how we are to relate to the culture around us. We must press beyond our cultural influences and come to know Jesus on a personal level, so we can understand his teachings and live in a way that is honorable to him. Christ, the “Man for All Cultures,” helps us to live according to God's will in the context of our respective cultural and religious traditions.