

Questions

1. How is the Christ against culture theology reflected in the Anabaptist movement?
 - a. In the Anabaptist movement, a complete separation from society is prioritized in attempt to draw closer to God reflecting a theology of Christ against culture.
2. What is one critique of Christ of culture theology?
 - a. Hollinger elaborates on the massive issue of this theology in that the Christian faith is distorted and room for idolatry based on worldly ideas is made.
3. What is the core theology of Christ above culture?
 - a. Christ above culture theology is centered in recognizing culture as a good thing that God created but also creates a dichotomy of kingdoms as heaven and earth.
4. What is one strength of the Christ and culture in paradox theology?
 - a. Hollinger gives credit to the Christ and culture in paradox theology for understanding the severity of sin and its impact in separating the earth from the kingdom of heaven as a result.
5. What is the Christ the transformer of culture approach?
 - a. This approach sees the earth and culture as malleable through Christ the transformer of lives and societies.

Terms

mysticism: the belief that complete unity with God can be attained through elimination of temporal distractions

paradox: a seeming contradiction as exemplified by Christ and Culture coexisting

social gospel: a movement which sought to apply Christian thinking to social issues as a transforming agent

Summary

The chapter speaks on several approaches to how Christ and culture correlate. First, the Christ against culture is discussed as the theology focusing solely on the conflict between the two. Movements such as mysticism and the anabaptist movement have their own takes on how far this conflict is taken but both prioritize Christ over the cultures of this world. Next, Christ in culture is discussed as a more liberal manner of seeing Christ in the ways of the world always. Hollinger provides critique on this approach as not taking sin as seriously as it should or taking the faith too lightly. The Christ above culture approach, primarily seen in Catholicism, depicts culture as a good thing but also creates a divide between the kingdom of God and the world. Christ and culture in paradox places an emphasis on sin but also on being just and sinful simultaneously. Luther's theology elaborates on the seeming paradox of being just and sinful through a message of grace. Lastly, Christ as the transformer of culture takes the previous approach a step further by acknowledging the sin but also allowing room for the transforming power of Christ. It sees hope in the world as able to be changed.