

Andrea C. Reed

TH604: Christian Ethics: OA

5-3-1 on Hollinger, Choosing the Good, Ch. 9

QUESTIONS:

1. What does “Christ against the Culture” mean?
2. What is the Anabaptist Movement?
3. What does “Christ of the Culture” mean?
4. What does “Christ above the Culture” mean?
5. What does “Christ and Culture in Paradox” mean?

ANSWERS:

1. Christ against the culture is the belief that asserts that the authority of Christ is absolute and exclusive and paramount over the Christian’s life and even culture, resulting in a separation between the those who are born again believers in Christ and those who are not as well as the culture. Hollinger states that because Christians see the world as being so evil, they must separate themselves from it in some form or fashion (p191).
2. The Anabaptist Movement has its roots in the Protestants, Baptists and the Mennonite Church during the Protestant Reformation. It was a radical movement that believed in the restoration of the primitive church which strongly identified their suffering with that of martyrs and also believed that water baptism was a sign of membership in the Christian faith and should only be for adults to make their own decision concerning faith (p194).
3. Christ of the Culture means that the message of Christ is reflected in civilization. It tends to see Christ in the culture and furthering His kingdom (p197).
4. Christ above the Culture is an approach that believe in Christ and that culture is a gift from God (p200).
5. Christ and culture in paradox has a dualistic belief system. They believe that the flesh and spirit are incompatible but are also equally necessary, that the law and the Gospel are incompatible but also equally necessary and that the obedient to the state and culture are incompatible but are also equally necessary (p204).

TERMS:

1. Mysticism- Mostly nuns and monks that believed in one having an experience where the person feels an oneness with God by observing the chanting of mantras, meditation and even prayer (192).

2. Classical Liberation- Holds to the political tradition that advocates for free market and economics. It believes that civil liberties under the law placed emphasis on individual autonomy, limited government, economic freedom, political freedom as well as freedom of speech (p198).

3. The Social Gospel-This is a social movement within the Protestantism that happens to apply to the Christian ethics of social problems such as social justice, economic inequality, poverty, alcoholism, crime, racial tensions, slums, unclean environment, child labor etc.

SUMMARY:

This chapter deals with the relationship between Christ and culture and how they coexist. This debate has gone on for years. It's an important one because it is the deciding factor as to how one lives their life on a daily basis and even coexists with others in the same culture. It would be easier if everyone accepted Christ as Lord of all and that it is through Him that we have redemption and freedom.