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5-3-1 Assignment: Bird 8.6 - 8.6.2.9

QUESTIONS

1. According to Bird, what is the difference between sacrament and ordinance?
2. What is Bird's definition of Baptism?
3. What are the three types of baptism positions that Bird presents?
4. What is Bird's definition of the Eucharist?
5. What are the different views of the Eucharist?

Answers

1. He defines ordinance as a ritual ordained by Christ and repeated by the church that is chiefly symbolic in character. Sacrament is defined as a visible sign of an invisible grace
2. Bird defines baptism as a symbol of the gospel that marks the entry to the gospel community and creates bond of unity with all those in every place who are baptized into Jesus.
3. They are paedobaptism (infant baptism), credobaptism (baptism of persons upon a profession of faith), and dual-practice baptism (permits both views of baptism to be practiced side by side).
4. Bird proposes that the Eucharist is the gospel meal for the gospelizing community– it is the celebration of new covenant, new exodus, and new hope in Jesus by remembering His death, reinscribing His story's passion, restating the promises of the new covenant, rehearsing victory of Jesus over sin and death, and refocusing our attention towards the parousia of Jesus.
5. Albeit in agreement that it was instituted by Jesus, different views of the Eucharist emerged from their understanding of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, the profit of the Eucharist, and presidency over the Eucharist, which resulted in the Roman Catholic View, Lutheran view, Zwinglian view, and the Reformed view.

TERMS

- Paedobaptism: Baptizing of infants, which functions to initiate children into the new covenant and to incorporate them into the visible church
- Credobaptism: Baptism that is only done upon a profession of faith, upon the conviction that the church consists entirely of a regenerate membership.
- Dual-practice baptism: A view that permits both credo and paedo baptism to be practiced side by side.

In Chapters 8.6-8.6.2.9, Bird elucidates two recognized sacraments instituted by Jesus Christ himself– baptism and the Lord's Supper. For each sacrament, he defines what it is, and explains its meaning, its effect on the recipients, and its theological significance. Furthermore, he also provides all the divergent perspectives on baptism and the Eucharist to challenge his readers. Lastly, he presents his conclusion regarding his beliefs about the sacraments and encourages readers to explore and wrestle with his/her understanding of them.

