

Week 4 Development of Christology

1. Overview

- 1) Understand the definition and importance of Christology
 - 2) Explore the background of early church Christological debates
 - 3) Learn the formation of orthodox doctrine against heresies
 - 4) Examine how church councils established Christology
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2. Key Topics

- 1) Definition of Christology
 - (1) Christology: The study of the person of Jesus Christ, focusing on His divinity and humanity
 - (2) Central questions:
 - ① Who is Jesus Christ?
 - ② Is He God, man, or both?
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2) Early Church Christological Controversies

- (1) Various interpretations emerged:
 - (2) Gnosticism
 - (3) Adoptionism
 - (4) Arianism
 - (5) Monophysitism
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3) Major Debates and Figures

- (1) Arius vs Athanasius
 - (2) Nestorius vs Cyril
 - (3) Key issues:
 - ① Divinity of Christ
 - ② Humanity of Christ
 - ③ Relationship between the two natures
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4) Councils and Doctrinal Formation

- (1) Council of Nicaea (325)
- (2) Affirmed the divinity of Christ
- (3) Council of Constantinople (381)
- (4) Council of Ephesus (431)
- (5) Council of Chalcedon (451)

(6) Established the doctrine of “one person, two natures”

5) Chalcedonian Definition

(1) Jesus Christ is:

- ① Fully God
- ② Fully man

(2) Two natures:

- ① Without confusion
 - ② Without change
 - ③ Without division
 - ④ Without separation
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3. Theological Significance

- 1) True salvation depends on correct Christology
 - 2) False Christology leads to false gospel
 - 3) Strong connection with Pauline theology
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4. Discussion Questions

- 1) Why are both the divinity and humanity of Christ essential?
 - 2) What modern forms of heresy exist today?
 - 3) How does correct Christology impact Christian life?
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5. Assignment

- 1) Summarize the Chalcedonian Definition
- 2) Compare Arianism with orthodox doctrine