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**The Ministry of Reconciliation**

**I. The Incarnation**

*A. A Unique Event*

*B. The Virginal Conception*

*C. Revelation and Reconciliation*

**II. Mission**

*A. Humiliation and Exaltation* (the *status duplex*, “two states”)

*B. Prophet, Priest, and King* (the *munus triplex*, “three offices”)

*C. Healing and Liberation*

**III. The Passion**

*A. Atonement*

Historical Models

* “Classical”: victory over sin, death, the devil
* “Objective”: satisfaction of God’s honor or holiness
* “Subjective”: moral influence upon humanity from the extent or example of God’s love

Contemporary Concerns

* Biblical metaphors
* The Bible’s relational, rather than legal or contractual, emphasis
* Immoral consequences
* Popular misunderstandings

Biblical Holism

* Historically, the contrast above between “classical” and “objective” is misleading.
* Biblically, sacrifice “for us” is integral to the various metaphors.
* Ethically, we must guard against popular misunderstandings but biblical teaching about Christ’s unique sacrifice for us should not be rejected because of them.
* Theologically, there is need for a properly Trinitarian understanding of substitutionary atonement.
* Relationally, substitutionary atonement is a prominent but not exclusive biblical model.

*B. Descent into Hell*

**IV. Exaltation**

*A. Resurrection*

*B. Ascension*