

I'm ready now to get back to the issues involved with early Christology and the question of How Jesus Became God. In this post I'll quickly review what I've covered up till now and indicate a major change in my thinking that has happened over the past six months.

In these posts I have been arguing that there were two separate streams of early Christology (this too has been a major shift in my thinking, and is closely related to the one I will be discussing momentarily). The first Christologies were almost certainly based on the idea of "exaltation." Christ, as a human being, came to be exalted to the right hand of God, where he was made to share in God's status as a reward for his faithfulness. The earliest Christians - the earthly disciples themselves (or at least some of them: we have no way of knowing if they all "converted" to believe this about Jesus) - thought that this happened at Jesus' resurrection, where God "made him" the Son of God (and thus the Lord, the messiah to come, the Son of Man, and so on). Later there were Christians who thought this exaltation occurred at his baptism, so that he was the Son of God for his entire ministry.

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