

What is the twofold constitutive assertion (or what are the two constitutive assertions,) of the Christian witness explicitly as such?

The twofold constitutive assertion (or the two constitutive assertions) of the Christian witness explicitly as such is (or are):

Jesus is the decisive re-presentation of the meaning of ultimate reality for us; and

God is strictly ultimate reality in its meaning for us.

In the case of both assertions, however, their existential significance comes out only when they are converted, so as to read respectively:

The decisive re-presentation of the meaning of ultimate reality for us is Jesus; and

Strictly ultimate reality in its meaning for us is God.

Presupposed by these formulations is a threefold distinction between:
(1) ultimate reality, including strictly ultimate reality, in its structure in itself;
(2) ultimate reality, including strictly ultimate reality, in its meaning for us; and
(3) the decisive re-presentation of ultimate reality, including strictly ultimate reality, in its meaning for us. Also presupposed is that, while “Jesus” refers to a particular *historical* reality, “God” refers to *transcendental, strictly ultimate* reality—in the *metaphysical* sense of the term, to strictly ultimate reality in its structure in itself; and in its *religious* sense, to strictly ultimate reality in its meaning for us.

15 June 2002