

**Entrance Examination
Christian Doctrine**

**Your Name:
Telford Work**

*“Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward.”
– Vernon Law, pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates*

This exam is open book, open note, open mouth, open mind. Before you answer these questions, discuss them with those around you. Have fun. Try not to get stuck on a question. Debate, agree, disagree, and make a new friend.

Choose from the following options for each question. If possible, justify your answer in one or two sentences.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1: I know it's false | |
| 2: I think it's false | + I know the reason for my answer. |
| 3: I am unsure or don't know | |
| 4: I think it's true | – I can't explain my answer. |
| 5: I know it's true | |

Example: 5- Christians believe in only one God.

I know Christians are monotheists, but I guess that's just because it's in the Bible.

God

1. Our prayers can really change God's mind.
2. Christians believe God is three-in-one as water, ice, and steam are three-in-one.
3. Only God is holy.
4. People in other religious traditions experience God too.
5. God is so beyond our conception that trying to describe God is useless or idolatrous.
6. Before creation there was no God the Son, only God the Father.

Creation

7. Evidence that the universe has some kind of design or is the result of some kind of intelligence proves the existence of God.

8. God made all things in the universe, including sin.
9. If human beings evolved from other species (see Genesis 1:24-30 and 2:7-22), then the Bible is wrong.
10. If the earth revolves around the sun (see Matthew 5:45), then the Bible is wrong.
11. Relationship with God is the only important human relationship.

Sin and Grace

12. People have the power to keep themselves from sinning.
13. Human sin began when Satan, a fallen angel, deceived Eve.
14. Some sins are more grave than others.
15. To become more and more holy is also to become less and less human.
16. Out of respect for our freedom, God waits until people ask for help to begin saving them.
17. People are born sinful and deserving of punishment.
18. The future is predestined.

Jesus Christ

19. Jesus always knew he was God.
20. Jesus only came, lived, died, and rose again because the Law of Moses had failed as a way to salvation.
21. Christian belief in the divinity of Jesus developed only many years after Jesus' death.

22. Jesus is concerned about people's hearts and actions, not their theologies.

23. Jesus is God the redeemer, not God the creator.

Salvation

24. The world's religious traditions all teach the same basic truth.

25. Jesus paid for the sins of everyone, even those who are never saved.

26. Converting to Christianity is more than embracing a set of ideas; it's a whole life.

27. Christian belief in the resurrection developed only many years after Jesus' death.

28. People today cannot be saved unless they hear and believe the good news of Jesus Christ before they die.

29. Infants who die without having heard the good news of Jesus Christ might still be saved.

30. 'Mormons' are Christians.

31. Being a healthy disciple requires more than just a personal relationship with Jesus Christ: namely active participation in worship, service, prayer, study, mission, etc.

Eternity

32. The Kingdom of God has come and gone, and we are waiting for it to come back.

33. Hell describes the coming eternal destruction of unbelievers, not a place where they 'live' forever.

34. After Jesus comes again, people will live in heaven rather than on earth.

35. At any time, believers could be “raptured” to heaven while the earth undergoes a seven-year tribulation, after which Jesus will return and establish a millennial kingdom.
36. We are already living in the last days.

Church

37. The church went fundamentally wrong shortly after the apostles died, and was only restored many centuries later.
38. Biblical prophecies concerning “Israel” refer to the present nation-state of Israel.
39. The Roman Catholic Church teaches worship of Mary and other “saints.”
40. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that people are made right before God by God’s grace through faith.
41. There is really only one true church.
42. Baptism is a significant event in a person’s salvation.
43. You are obligated to leave a church if the pastor sins and will not repent or leave.
44. You are obligated to leave a church that fails to meet your needs.
45. For women to lead churches is unbiblical.
46. The main point of the church is to make the world a better place.
47. The main point of the church is to save souls.
48. Belonging to a church is more important than your national citizenship.

B. See if you can answer these puzzling questions about scripture.

49. “Of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come” (Mark 13:32-33). If Jesus is God, how is it that he doesn’t know the hour of his return?
50. “Now I [Paul] rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister” (Colossians 1:24-25). What is lacking in Jesus’ sufferings that Paul’s sufferings are compensating for?
51. Jesus distinguishes himself from his Father: “You know neither me nor my Father; if you knew me, you would know my Father also.” (John 8:19). Later in John’s Gospel he says, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). How is Jesus one with the Father yet also distinct from him?

C. Answer the following questions.

52. What is the most compelling reason for either your belief in God, or your disbelief in God?
53. If you had to describe the Christian faith in only two or three sentences to someone who was only somewhat familiar with it, what would you say?
54. A significant part of this course is an ‘applied theology project’ that involves drawing on course materials. Prayerfully formulate and ponder three big questions you have, one or more of which might drive such a project. (Bear in mind that Jesus often doesn’t answer just the questions we ask.) These might take time to form, and may change over the course of the semester, but try to offer a few here:
A:
B:
C:
55. What do you hope to come away with at the conclusion of this course? And what is that outcome worth to you in terms of time, energy, and other sacrifices?