Christian Doctrine Entrance Examination

Name: _________________________

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

This part of the exam is open book, open note, open mouth, open mind. Before you answer these questions, feel free to discuss them with those around you; but your answers should be your own. Have fun. Debate, agree, disagree, and make a new friend.

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

   A: I know it’s false
   B: I think it’s false
   C: I am undecided or don’t know
   D: I think it’s true
   E: I know it’s true

God

14. ___ Our prayers can really change God’s mind.

15. ___ Christians believe God is three-in-one as water, ice, and steam are three-in-one.

16. ___ Only God is holy.

17. ___ People in other religious traditions experience God too.

18. ___ God is so beyond our conception that trying to describe God is useless or idolatrous.

19. ___ Before creation there was no God the Son, only God the Father.

Creation

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

21. ___ If human beings evolved from other species (see Genesis 1:24-30), then the Bible is wrong.

22. ___ If the earth revolves around the sun (see Matthew 5:45), then the Bible is wrong.
23. ___ God made all things in the universe, including sin.

24. ___ Relationship with God is the only important human relationship.

Sin and Grace

25. ___ People have the power to keep themselves from sinning.

26. ___ Human sin began when Satan, a fallen angel, deceived Eve.

27. ___ Some sins are more grave than others.

28. ___ To become more and more holy is also to become less and less human.

29. ___ Because God respects human freedom, God waits until people ask for help to begin saving them.

30. ___ People are born sinful and deserving of punishment.

31. ___ The future is predestined.

Jesus Christ

32. ___ Jesus always knew he was God.

33. ___ Jesus only lived, died, and rose again because the Law of Moses failed as a way to salvation.

34. ___ Christian belief in the divinity of Jesus developed only many years after Jesus’ death.

35. ___ Jesus is concerned about people’s hearts and actions, not their theologies.

36. ___ Jesus is God the redeemer, not God the creator.
**Salvation**

37. ___ The world’s religious traditions all teach the same basic truth.

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

39. ___ Converting to Christianity basically amounts to affirming a set of ideas about Jesus.

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

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

42. ___ To be a healthy disciple requires more than accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and personal savior, namely active participation in activities such as worship, service, prayer, and study.

43. ___ Christian belief in the resurrection developed only many years after Jesus’ death.

**Eternity**

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

45. ___ Hell describes the coming eternal destruction of unbelievers, not a place where they ‘live’ forever.

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

47. ___ 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.

48. ___ We are already living in the last days.

**Church**

49. ___ There is really only one true Church.
50. ___ Baptism is a significant event in a person’s salvation.

51. ___ The Church went fundamentally wrong shortly after the apostles died, and only recovered many centuries later.

52. ___ Biblical prophecies concerning “Israel” refer to the present nation-state of Israel.

53. ___ The Roman Catholic Church teaches worship of Mary and other “saints.”

54. ___ The Roman Catholic Church teaches that people are made right before God by God’s grace through faith.

55. ___ You are obligated to leave a church if the pastor sins and will not repent or leave.

56. ___ You are obligated to leave a church that fails to meet your needs.

57. ___ The main point of the Church is to make the world a better place.

58. ___ The main point of the Church is to save souls.

59. ___ Belonging to a church is more important than your national citizenship.

60. ___ For women to lead churches is unbiblical.

61. ___ Mormons are Christians.
Supply the choice that best reflects your own opinion:

62. Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your views about the Bible?
   A: the Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word
   B: the Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything in it should be taken literally
   C: the Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by human beings
   D: don’t know

63. Would you describe yourself as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian?
   A: I would not describe myself as a Christian
   B: I would describe myself as a Christian, but not “born again” or evangelical
   C: I am ambivalent about describing myself as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian
   D: I would describe myself as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian, but I dislike the terms
   E: I would describe myself as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian, and I like the terms

Answer the following questions using the following scale:
   A: not at all
   B: I know some phrases, but not all of them
   C: I know all phrases but not their proper order
   D: I know all phrases and their proper order, but only somewhat understand them
   E: I know all phrases and their proper order, and understand their meaning

64. Can you recite the Apostles’ Creed from memory? ____

65. Can you recite the Ten Commandments from memory? ____

66. Can you recite the Lord’s Prayer from memory? ____

67. Can you recite at least one ‘hymn’ from the New Testament (e.g., Philippians 2:5-11) from memory? ____

Answer the following questions using the following scale:
   A: I don’t understand this text’s relevance to my own life
   B: This text is important to me, but otherwise it plays no substantial role in my life
   C: This text is important to me, but it only occasionally influences me
   D: I use this text actively in my life of faith
   E: This text is indispensable to my life of faith; my faith would be impaired without it

68. Can you recite the Apostles’ Creed from memory? ____

69. Can you recite the Ten Commandments from memory? ____

70. Can you recite the Lord’s Prayer from memory? ____
How often do you do the following?
A: I have never done this.
B: I have done this, but less than once per month.
C: I do this between once per week and once per month.
D: I do this several times per week.
E: I do this daily.

71. Read the Bible devotionally. ____
72. Read some other text devotionally. ____
73. Study the Bible primarily to learn it. ____
74. Speak openly about the Christian faith with other Christians. ____
75. Speak openly about the Christian faith with people you don’t know to be Christians. ____
76. Attend a worship service (besides Westmont chapel). ____
77. Pray outside the context of a worship service or Westmont chapel. ____
78. Teach elements of the Christian faith to others. ____
79. Minister to others in some other way for the sake of Jesus Christ or in his name. ____

Please supply some demographic information that can help us analyze these results in the aggregate:

80. What is your class standing?  (a) first-year student  (b) sophomore  (c) junior  (d) senior
81. What is your gender?  (a) female  (b) male
82. What is your major or intended major division?  (a) humanities  (b) natural sciences  
   (c) social or behavioral sciences  (d) double-majoring across divisions  (e) undecided
83. Are you a religious studies major or minor, or intend to become one?  (a) declared religious 
   studies major  (b) undeclared but intend to major in RS  (c) declared RS minor  
   (d) undeclared but intend to minor in RS  (e) none of the above
84. How satisfied are you at present with your Westmont education?  (a) very satisfied 
   (b) somewhat satisfied  (c) unsure/don’t know  (d) somewhat unsatisfied  (e) very unsatisfied

Here and in the space provided on your Scantron answer sheet, name (if you can) five useful theological resources (practices, books, activities, etc.) for strengthening your faith and the faith of others.