

**Entrance Examination
Contemporary Christian Thought**

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. Debate, agree, disagree, and make a new friend.

A. Answer “true” or “false.” If possible, justify your answer in one or two sentences.

1. ___ Christianity is a religion of peace.
2. ___ Christians today believe basically what they have always believed.
3. ___ It is unspiritual to recite prayers written in a book.
4. ___ Most of the world’s Christians live in Europe and North America.
5. ___ Being baptized is important to salvation.
6. ___ Belonging to the Church is unimportant to salvation.
7. ___ Women should not be eligible for some church offices.
8. ___ Christianity is really just a set of ideas about God and the world.
9. ___ The Enlightenment in modern Europe rejected traditional Christianity.
10. ___ Most Christians believe that after the Rapture and the second coming of Jesus, there will be one thousand years of peace on earth, then the last judgment.
11. ___ After Jesus comes again, people will live in heaven and the earth will be depopulated.
12. ___ The world’s religions basically teach the same basic truth.

13. ___ The world's religions basically offer the same spiritual experience.
14. ___ A civil governments and the Christian Church should work together to make society orderly and faithful.
15. ___ God offers saving grace through "sacraments" such as baptism and communion.
16. ___ Both Catholics and Protestants believe this.
17. ___ Everything in the Bible is the Word of God.
18. ___ God is male.
19. ___ At first there was no God the Son, only God the Father.
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, then the Bible is wrong.
22. ___ If the earth revolves around the sun, then the Bible is wrong.
23. ___ Jews have lost their special place in God's plan of salvation.
24. ___ Jesus is concerned about people's hearts and actions, not their theologies.
25. ___ Because Jesus came, the Law of Moses is no longer in force.
26. ___ People today cannot be saved unless they hear and believe the good news of Jesus Christ before they die.

27. ___ Infants who die without having heard the good news of Jesus Christ might still be saved.
28. ___ Hell describes the coming eternal destruction of unbelievers, not a place where they 'live' forever.
29. ___ The Roman Catholic Church teaches that people are made right before God only by God's grace through faith.
30. ___ Liberal Christians are people who no longer believe the whole Bible.
31. ___ Mormons are Christians.

B. Choose the best answer and briefly explain why it is the best.

32. ___ The best measure of a church's integrity is:
- A. How its members feel about Jesus.
 - B. Its dedication to evangelism.
 - C. Its involvement in helping the wider society.
 - D. How biblical its preaching is.
 - E. Whether it has bishops.
 - F. Whether it obeys the Pope.
 - G. Whether the Holy Spirit is working powerfully there.
 - H. Whether it has specific creeds or statements of faith.
 - I. Whether its people are Christlike.
 - J. The moral integrity of its leaders.
 - K. Something else: _____.
 - L. Some combination of these: _____.

C. Briefly answer as many of the following questions as you like.

33. Name three events that occurred since 1900 AD with important consequences for Christians.
34. Name a current or recent teaching of a Christian tradition that you consider unimportant, and explain why.

35. Name a current or recent teaching of a Christian tradition that you consider wrong, and explain why.

36. What is the most important teaching of the Christian faith, and why?

37. What is the most compelling reason for either your belief in God, or your disbelief in God?

38. If you had to describe what Christians believe today in only two or three sentences to someone who was only somewhat familiar with Christianity, what would you say?