

STUDY QUESTIONS HUSTON SMITH CHAPTER ON "CHRISTIANITY"

1. Huston Smith identifies three main branches of Christianity. They are:
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
2. Christianity is founded on _____ rather than on universal principles.
3. T/F We have ample material for a biography of Jesus.
4. Among the undisputed facts about Jesus are which of the following?
 - A. He was born about 4 B.C.
 - B. His teaching-healing ministry lasted no more than three years.
 - C. He was baptized by the prophet John.
 - D. His active mission took place in his early forties.
5. T/F Jesus used compassionate miracles to prove his holiness and his relation to God.
6. T/F Jesus's working of miracles was perceived by his contemporaries as proof of his divinity.
7. T/F Huston Smith believes that the uniqueness of Jesus's teaching is not to be found in the individual sayings, but in the combined force and quality of the whole.
8. Huston Smith says Jesus's teachings can be summarized by two short statements. They are:
 - A.
 - B.
9. T/F The structure of Jesus's teaching about how humans should relate to each other

can be summarized as:

What God gives us = what we give others.

10. T/F Jesus's love was a response to need not to what a person deserved.
11. T/F Most Protestant scholars believe that Jesus knowledge was limited in some ways by the beliefs of his own time.
12. These Protestants believed that Jesus shared the _____ view of his own day about divine intervention to establish the Kingdom of God.
13. "If Jesus's knowledge was limited the validity of his ethics is questionable." How does Huston Smith respond to this challenge?

14. T/F Jesus's ethic contains no simple rule of thumb as to what overt acts are required of us.
15. T/F We have a clear idea of what Jesus thought about himself.
16. T/F Jesus tended to ignore conventional barriers between person and person.
17. Jesus hated hypocrisy because it --
 - A. Precludes genuine fellowship
 - B. Hides one person from another and even from oneself.
 - C. Because the Old Testament forbids it.
 - D. Because it makes it impossible to tell who ought to be a member of the church and who shouldn't.
18. Why did the earliest Christians feel that in watching Jesus they were watching what God would be like if he had human form?

19. Jesus's death was by _____.
20. Huston Smith claims that the resurrection of Jesus showed the joining of two characteristics and that it is the joining of these two that gives the message of the resurrected Christ its dynamic power. These two characteristics are _____ and _____.
21. How do modernist and traditional Christians differ in their views of the resurrection?
22. How are modernist and traditional Christians alike in their views of the resurrection?
23. T/F Paul frequently quotes Jesus.
24. Why was the fish a popular early Christian symbol?
25. Huston Smith accounts for the joy of the early Christians by saying that three burdens had been lifted from them. These three burdens were:
- A.
 - B.
 - C.

26. The power that lifted these burdens was an absolute conviction on the part of the early Christians that they were _____ by _____.
27. "Ekklesia" is the Greek word for _____ and it means those who are _____.
28. Huston Smith uses the image of the _____ and its _____ to discuss the way the early Christians thought of the relationship between themselves and the church.
29. Paul discussed the same idea as that of #28 by using the image of the _____.
30. T/F The advantage of Paul's metaphor over that mentioned in #28 is that it makes room for a greater diversity in the members of the church.
31. According to Huston Smith, the soul of the church is the _____.
32. Most Christians believe that the church has a double aspect: In so far as it represents the divine persuasion it is _____. In so far as it is made up of human material it is subject to _____.
33. The distinction between the Church Visible and the Church Invisible is used to answer what question concerning salvation?
34. T/F Huston Smith believes that ethics is the primary core of Christianity.
35. T/F Creeds are statements by the early church that are attempts to grapple intellectually with the changes produced in people's lives by the experience of Jesus.
36. The Christian doctrine that asserts that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine is

called the _____ .

37. T/F The doctrine of the incarnation means that Christ was human in his physical body but divine in his knowledge, power and spirit.

38. The Nicene Creed describes Jesus as "of one _____ with the Father."

39. T/F The main problem with the Nicene Creed's understanding of God is that he appeared on earth in human form.

40. T/F The point in the early Christian understanding of God that would have struck pagans most forcibly was the idea that God could or would suffer for human beings.

41. For the early Christian to know God meant to look at _____

42. It proved harder for the early church to maintain the humanity/divinity of Jesus.

Circle the word that makes the above sentence true.

43. The life of Christ has to possess two characteristics to be religiously relevant. It must be both

A. _____, that is, there are no other ways superior to God,

and

B. _____, that is, a realistic stance for human beings to use, to aim for.

44. The root meaning of the word atonement is _____

45. T/F The basic Protestant understanding of sin is that it is _____ from God.

46. T/F The fundamental Protestant understanding of sin is that it is disobedience to specific concrete moral rules.

47. The fact of sin, for the Protestant thinker, implies that human beings are fundamentally _____ one from the other.

48. Of the two basic sorts of images for explaining the doctrine of the trinity, Huston Smith

seems to prefer the Physical/Psychological.

Circle the word that makes the above sentence true.

49. In Dorothy Sayers's play the basic image of the trinity is:

A. The creative act

B. The process of seeing

C. The three states of water (frozen, liquid, gas)

50. T/F A person may play three roles at one time and remain the same person. For instance, one person may be mother, wife and daughter at the same time. The Christian Church has always accepted this as a useful model of the doctrine of the trinity.

51. T/F The doctrine of the trinity is a careful working out of what it means to say "God is love."

52. Place the following geographic areas under the heading that best describes the form of Christianity held by the majority of Christian inhabitants of the area.

Scotland, Greece, South American, Ireland, North America, U.S.S.R, Northern Europe, Slavic Countries

Roman Catholic

Eastern Orthodox

Protestant

53. The persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire ceased in the year _____
_____.

54. 1054 Marked the first major split in the Church; the split was between the _____
_____ in the Eastern Mediterranean and the _____
_____ in the West.

55. The split in Western Christianity which occurred during the 16th century is called the _____ (Two words.)

56. Protestantism split into four main thrusts or directions. Which of the following groups are among the four Smith identifies?

- A. Presbyterians B. Methodists C. Latter Day Saints
D. United Brethren E. Lutheran F. Pentecostal

57. Smith identifies two major thrusts in the Roman Catholic understanding of the church. These two are:

The Church as _____

and

The Church as _____.

58. The idea of papal infallibility is an extension of which of the understandings mentioned in #57?

59. In Roman Catholicism, how many sacraments are there?

- A. 2 B. 5 C. 7 D. 9 E. Many

60. Match the sacrament with the corresponding stage of human development or essential human action.

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| Baptism | eating |
| Confirmation | marrying |
| Holy Matrimony | birth |

Holy Orders	Moral failure and re-integration into society
Unction	Entering adulthood
Confession/Absolution	Sickness/death
Mass, The Holy Eucharist	Dedicating oneself to a major life purpose

61. The Mass re-enacts the _____ .
62. T/F The Catholic concept of the Mass is that of a memorial in which Christ's death is powerfully remembered by means of symbols.
63. In the Roman Catholic concept of the mass Christ's person is present in the bread and wine--
- A. Symbolically B. Actually C. Vicariously D. By faith alone
64. To Eastern Orthodoxy the church has used her authority as universal teacher only _ _____ times. These events are called _____ .
65. Which body, Eastern Orthodox or Roman Catholic, holds the fewer doctrines as necessary articles of faith.
66. T/F The Eastern Orthodox, in defining essential Christian doctrines, hold it unnecessary to go beyond the creeds.
67. In Eastern Orthodoxy, the "conscience of the church" discloses what?
68. T/F For the Eastern Orthodox Church the Holy Spirit's truth enters the world through the hierarchy of the church.
69. T/F In general, laity in Eastern Orthodoxy hold more authority than in Roman Catholicism.
70. The Eastern Orthodox Church discourages its lay people from leading the mystical life.
71. In Eastern Orthodoxy, the proper human destiny is to enter creatively into the life of the _____ .
72. Give a one sentence presentation of the Protestant understanding of faith.

