**Christian teaching**

**All questions on Christian teaching should include the following format:**

* **Church teachings**
* **Bible reference**
* **Words / Deeds of Jesus (Parables and Good deeds)**
* **Ten Commandments (Especially “ Do not murder” and “Do not commit adultery”)**

**All questions on Bible teaching should include following format**

* **Old Testament**
* **New Testament**
* **Word of Jesus (Parables / Sermon on the Plain)**
* **Deeds of Jesus (Healing miracles and mixing with outcasts forgiveness of sin)**
* **Ten Commandments (Especially “ Do not murder” and “Do not commit adultery”)**

**1. Personal and Family Matters**

**(a) Outline Christian teaching on marriage.**

**AVAILABLE**

Marriage is sacred and ordained by God;

Jesus taught ‘The two will become one’ (**Mark 10:8)**

Jesus is reinforcing God’s words from **Genesis** ***“What God has put together let no man draw apart”***

Marriage is a commitment and the couple should stay together no matter what happens;

Jesus spoke against divorce **(Matthew 5:32).**

Marriage should be permanent and last a lifetime; Jesus taught **‘Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together’** **(Mark 10:9).**

**Paul** taught that wives are to submit to their husbands, who are to love their wives as much as Christ loves the church **(Ephesians 5:22-25).**

**What the Bible says about marriage**

* Marriage is sacred and ordained by God; Jesus taught ‘The two will become one’ **(Mark 10:8**) repeating God’s words from Genesis.
* Marriage is a commitment and the couple should stay together no matter what happens; Jesus spoke against divorce **(Matthew 5:32).**
* Marriage should be permanent and last a lifetime; Jesus taught ‘Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together’ **(Mark 10:9).**

Paul taught that wives are to submit to their husbands, who are to love their wives as much as Christ loves the church **(Ephesians 5:22-25).**

**Outline Christian teaching on divorce**

• In the Old Testament, God’s standard for marriage was for it to be viewed as a permanent relationship (**Malachi 2:16)**

• Jesus reinforced this idea: “No human being must separate, then, what God has joined together” **(Matthew 19:6)**

• Jesus may have appeared to allow divorce if there had been unfaithfulness in the marriage **(Matthew 19:9)**

• Paul was not in favour of divorce; if a couple separated they were not to remarry **(1 Corinthians 7:10–11)**

**Sexual Relationships**

Biblical and Church teaching emphasises that a **sexual relationship should not take place until a couple are married.**

‘That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they became one’ **(Genesis 2:24).**

The Bible also teaches that a married couple are to remain faithful to each other

**‘Do not commit adultery’** **(Exodus 20:14).**

**2. Matters of life and death**

Explain biblical and church teaching about the sanctity of human - Abortion life.

Humans are the only species created in the image of God **(Genesis**

**1:28)**

Human life must be respected and not disposed of in the way animal life might be treated. **(Genesis)**

Only God has the right to decide when a life should end.

The Bible teaches that human life is special to God even when a baby is in the womb. **Jeremiah** was called to be a prophet before he was born **(Jeremiah 1:5)**

**Luke** recognised he was in the presence of someone greater, when **Mary visited**

**Elizabeth***41When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.***(Luke 1:41).**

Candidates may also refer to the teaching of specific churches.

**Euthanasia**

**Explain why some Christians are not in favour of euthanasia**

• The Bible teaches that taking the life of another person is wrong

**(Exodus 20:13)**

The idea of the **sanctity of human life** – only God has the right to decide when a person’s life should end

Following the example of Jesus, Christians should support Measures to care for the sick and dying. **Give Examples Jesus healing miracles Jesus** raised Lazarus from the dead ([John 11:1-46](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+11:1-46)). Jesus opened the eyes of a blind man ([Mark 8:22-26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mr+8:22-26)).

**3. Justice and Punishment**

What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?

Jesus taught his followers that they must be prepared to forgive others

God is willing to forgive those people who are genuine about repentance

**Our father** when teaching about prayer, Jesus taught **“Forgive the wrongs we have done as we forgive the wrongs that have been done to us”**

**Lord’s Prayer “forgive our Trespassers”**

The message of the Parable of the **Unforgiving Servant** reinforces the idea of the importance of forgiving others after receiving God’s forgiveness

A similar message is taught in the **Parable of the Lost Son.**

**Explain what the Bible teaches about repentance.**

**Answers may include**:

* Everyone deserves a second chance;
* The Bible teaches that God will forgive those who repent

**Matthew 18:21–35** – Jesus taught in the Parable of theUnforgiving Servant that a person who is genuinely sorry can be forgiven

**Luke 15:11–32** – **Jesus’ Parable of the Lost Son** teaching that although the son did wrong, when he repented his father forgave him

Repentance and forgiveness are key teachings associated with the death and resurrection of Jesus…Jesus forgave two criminals crucified with him Jesus, **Luke 23:32-43**

**4. Care for the environment**

**Explain what the Bible teaches about caring for the environment.**

God created people to look after the planet, not to destroy it – this is the idea of **stewardship**

This idea is reinforced in the **Psalms (Psalm 8:6)** “You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,”

In **Exodus 23:10**, the Israelites are told to let their agricultural land rest every seventh year

Christians can follow the example of Jesus who took an active interest in issues concerning the society of his day.

At creation, God put humankind “in charge” of the other things he had created **(Genesis 1:26–28)**

God created people to look after the planet, not to destroy it – this is the idea of **stewardship**

Christians can follow the example of Jesus who took an active interest in issues concerning the society of his day.

**What did the bible say about care for animals?**

The Bible teaches that animals are to be cared for: “A good man takes care of his animals but wicked men are cruel to theirs” **(Proverbs 12:10)**

Experiments on animals are cruel and unnecessary and go against the biblical idea of **stewardship (Genesis 1:26–28)**

Animals have the right not to be treated cruelly and animal testing involves suffering and pain

**5. Equality**

**Explain what the Bible teaches about prejudice.**

**In Genesis**, humankind is created in the image of God; all humans share a spiritual likeness to God

**In the New Testament**, **Paul** taught that race, colour and national identity were irrelevant to the church

**Jesus seemed to be in favour of racial equality**;

* in the parable of the **Good Samaritan**, a member of the hated race helps a man in need
* Jesus broke the barriers of sex and race by talking to a Samaritan woman
* Jesus showed no prejudice when he healed the servant of the Roman Centurion.

**Describe what the Bible teaches about prejudice.**

**In Genesis**, humankind is created in the image of God; all humans share a spiritual likeness to God.

**In the New Testament**, Paul taught that race, colour and national identity were irrelevant to the church.

* Jesus cured the outcaste’s **lepers**
* Jesus mixed with sinner’s marginalised **tax collector**
* Jesus showed no prejudice when he healed the servant of the **Roman Centurion.**

**6. War and peace**

**Explain what the Bible teaches about war and peace.**

**Old Testament**

The idea of a **‘holy war’** carried out on the authority of God is prominent in the **Old Testament**.

**The Israelites** had to fight their way into the Promised Land to take possession of the country God had given to them.

**The Old Testament** also speaks of how war is inevitable;

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 8 states:** ‘Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses…the time for war and the time for peace.’

**The Old Testament** “A tooth for a tooth an eye for an eye”

**New Testament**

However, in the **Sermon on the Mount, tells us to love our neighbour** and **Blessed are the peace makers**

**Jesus taught** that violence should not be repaid with more violence and replaced with a higher standard – that violence should never be returned.

**Jesus said “Love Your Enemies” “Turn the other cheek”**

38"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' 39"But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40"If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.… **Matthew 5:39**

**At his arrest, Jesus** said ‘**All who take the sword will die by the sword’** **(Matthew 26:52).**