

Pop Quiz Answers

1. What is St Augustine famous for?

A, B, C, D – St Augustine has been a very influential bishop of Church history. Whether you agree his views or not his licentious lifestyle before his salvation was, and is, an inspiration of God's grace to us all. His book *The City of God* influenced not only popes to attempt to build heaven on earth in the form of Christendom but was also an influence upon the Puritans that sailed to America to accomplish a similar vision. His teaching on predestination was lost, or maybe forgotten, for centuries by the Church and was foundational to the Reformation in 16th Century Europe.

2. Is the doctrine of the Trinity really found in scripture?

A – Many say that the doctrine of the Trinity is not explicitly taught in scripture, some think that the teaching is ambiguous, but the Church has always taught that the concept is clearly in scripture in both the Old and New Testaments (Genesis 1:2, 26; Proverbs 30:4; Daniel 3:25; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 9:14). The reality is that the Apostles were convicted of this truth because the facts were incontrovertible and established the 1st Century practices of worship to reflect the Trinity (nearly 300 years before its official formulation).

3. In what books of the Old Testament can we find the precursors of Christian Mission?

C, E – Mission was seen mostly as a passive activity in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 14:2 and Exodus 19:6). Like the New Testament teaching of Christians being set apart for their conduct to be read like a book by unbelievers (1 Peter 2:9-12). But we also see active mission in Jonah, Abraham (father of many nations) and Joseph (conscripted by God to save Egypt).

4. Do those people called 'Apologist' and 'Confessor' mean that they apologise for being a Christian or confess that they are not?

B – The terms Apologist and Confessor are given to believers who defend and proclaim the faith. Famous early examples of the former are Justin Martyr, Athenagoras and Tertullian. The term Confessor was coined after the great persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Decius in the 3rd Century. Despite physical torture and emotional anguish they refused to renounce Jesus Christ as LORD.

5. What is Martin Luther famous for?

C, D – Martin Luther is generally considered to be the father of the Reformation (the desire to reform the Catholic Church) in 1517, but not its architect. Paradoxically and regrettably, after re-discovering St. Augustine's teachings of God's grace in predestination, he also wrote scathing and inflammatory articles condemning the Jewish people.

6. Has the Christian Church ever claimed more than one presiding Pope during the same period of time? If so, how many?

B, C – During the Great Schism (1378 – 1417) the Catholic Church was divided by

one alleged pope in Avignon, France and another in Rome. In 1410 the Church tried to resolve this conflict by voting for another third pope to displace them but the other two refused to abdicate. So from 1410 there were three.

7. Could Martin Luther and Jacobus Arminius have had a friendly discussion down the pub over a pint?

C, D – Luther taught that we are saved by God’s grace in the form of predestination (that we were ordained and chosen by God before Adam). Arminius on the other hand taught in opposition that we choose to accept God's offered gift of grace. Luther died before Arminius was born so they would never have been able to meet in a pub and Luther, being a rather rough and course man, would probably have initiated a voracious verbal fight with Arminius.

8. What terms were initially used to insult religious followers?

A, B, C, D, F -

Ranters – applied to a group of religious zealots around 1600 that believed God's grace took them beyond and outside of moral law. They were said to have rejected the authority of the Bible and pretty much embraced an “anything goes” approach.

Lollards – applied to John Wyclif's followers from the 1310's who were said to always be muttering or mumbling the scriptures as worship (from Middle Dutch ‘*lollaert*’).

Shakers – applied to a sect where the leader Ann Lee was regarded as the female personification of God in being the second incarnation of Christ. They are thought to engage in ritual practices of shaking, shouting, dancing, whirling, and singing in tongues.

Quakers – applied to the Religious Society of Friends (or Friends) formed in the 1640's by George Fox after failing to reform the Church of England. The term emerged as a derisive nickname for Fox and others who shared his belief in the biblical passage that people should "tremble at the Word of the Lord."

Christians – first coined for believers of The Way in Antioch (Acts 11:26). Some people hold that the term was used to reflect a derisive element to refer to followers of Christ who did not acknowledge the emperor of Rome.

9. What title(s) has Mary Magdalene been commonly referred to as?

C – Mother of God and Christ-bearer are terms that are and have been used to refer to Mary the mother of Jesus Christ, but not for Mary Magdalene.

10. What nationality was John Calvin?

C – Born 10th July 1509 in France he fled the persecution of the Protestants to Geneva (in modern-day Switzerland) and became the reforming leader of the city's religious affairs.

11. What is considered by experts to be the birth of the modern Pentecostal and Charismatic movements?

D – some claim that Wesley's teaching of the 'second blessing' in the 18th Century was

to become known as the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit'. However since this 'baptism' is generally considered to be recognisable through the speaking of tongues which is a 20th Century teaching this seems very unlikely to be the birth of the movements in question. Many within these movements attest to answers B) and C) in 1905 and 1901 respectively but it is clear that these movements must have been birthed in the teachings of Edward Irving in the 1820's that specified that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will return and the prophecies and visions of his young congregational member Margaret Macdonald in 1830.

12. What is the period known as when there were more than one simultaneous Popes?

E – As explained in the answer to question 6 this is known as the Great Schism, although some may think that all the other suggested answers could be justified in being valid as well.

13. What are generally quoted to be purposes of the Counter-Reformation?

B, D, E – Various reasons behind the Counter-Reformation were behind the instigation of the Council at Trent, held between 1545 and 1563. These three reasons are among some of those that are commonly cited. No doubt there were some in the Catholic Church at the time (known as the Roman Catholic Church since the Reformation) that had hoped the genuine criticisms levelled against it would result in a, just as genuine, reforming of the Church's practises. However they were to be disappointed by the Council of Trent which entrenched many traditions that could not be found in the Canon of scripture.

14. What was particular about the English Reformation?

C, D – Because Henry VIII's wife Catherine of Aragon failed to give birth to a son he wanted to find a way to divorce her. He did this by annulling the Pope's authority over him and his kingdom and set himself up as the head of his new Church of England. This is known as the first part of the complex English Reformation. The following century king James I used similar arguments to claim his right to complete authority over the state and dismantled parliament. This inflamed the Parliamentarians and led to the the English Civil War and his beheading by Oliver Cromwell.

15. Which of these people are known as contemporary or recent theologians?

A, D – Karl Barth (10th May 1886 – 10th December 1968) can be considered as a contemporary theologian because he died with living memory of some of us. And of course our own dear Dr Mike Burgess is the current Bible College's theology lecturer a distance lecturer of theology at the University of Zimbabwe.