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Theology I Midterm Essays

**List the 5 proofs for the existence of God. Briefly explain one proof. With which proof can you best relate? Why?**

The Five Intellectual Proofs for the Existence of God

1. The Unmoved Mover – the motion in the world must ultimately be caused by God
2. First Cause – nothing causes itself, but God is uncaused, and the cause of everything else
3. Everything Comes from Something - there is only one being who always was and who brought all things into existence; God always was and always will be, He had no beginning and has no end
4. Supreme Model - we see everything with degrees of quality by comparing them to the "Supreme Model", who is perfect: God
5. **Grand Designer - things in the world (spiderweb, sunrise/sunset, baby) help us know there is a "grand designer": God**

**Choose one line from the Creed that we have studied. Explain it, and tell what it means to you as a Christian.**

First Line: “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth.”

**What are the 4 types of miracles? Explain each and give an example from scripture to show the miracle in action.**

1. Healing – “Cure of the leper”: Jesus cured a leper who begged Him to by saying, “Be made clean”.
2. Exorcism – “Cure of the demoniac”: Jesus drove a demon out of a man; God is more powerful than any demon.
3. Nature Miracles – “Calming of the storm”: Jesus was napping on a fishing boat when a storm hit, so one of His disciples awoke Him and He calmed the storm by saying, “Quiet! Be still!”
4. Raising of the Dead – “Jairus’s daughter”: Jairus’s young daughter and only child died of an illness, but Jesus brought her back to life by awakening her, saying she had only been asleep.

**Draw, label, and explain the parts of the liturgical calendar. Be sure to mention the major feasts that come in the various seasons and what they celebrate in Jesus’s life.**

****Advent – “coming”, start of church year, prep time for Christmas, starts 4 Sundays before Christmas, ends on Christmas Eve, purple = prepare, pink = rejoice

Feast: Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) – Mary conceived w/o original sin

Christmas – celebrate birth of Jesus

Feast: Solemnity of Mary (Jan. 1) – we honor Mary

3 Sundays after Christmas:

Feast of the Holy Family

Epiphany

The Baptism of Jesus

Ordinary Time – celebrate Jesus’ life & teaching, starts on day after baptism of Jesus

Lent – preparation time for Easter, lasts 40 days, starts on Ash Wednesday, ends on Holy Thursday night

3 practices encouraged to do: Prayer, Penance, Almsgiving (PPA)

The Triduum – 3 most holy days of Church year

Holy Thursday – Christ celebrated Passover w/ Apostles, Last Supper

Good Friday – Jesus died & was put in tomb

Holy Saturday – Jesus was in the tomb

Easter – Jesus rose from the dead, lasts 50 days, ends w/ (feast of) Pentecost, comes on 1st Sunday after 1st full moon in spring

Feast: Ascension (40 days after Easter) – Jesus taken into Heaven

Ordinary Time - celebrate Jesus’ life & teaching, starts on day after Pentecost

Feasts:

Assumption (Aug. 15) – Mary taken into Heaven

All Saints Day (Nov. 1) – we honor all saints

**Identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit. How would you apply 3 of them to your daily life? Be specific.**

1. Wisdom
	1. Looking at reality from God’s point of view
	2. “Common sense”
	3. Comes with experience, not always with age (better or bitter)

Examples:

1. When I see a homeless person on the street, I think to myself, “Wow, that life must be tough. I wonder how he/she got to be there. I hope that person’s life gets better.” I have/show sympathy for others.
2. I am able to speak confidently and know that countless people could use my help.
3. I see with eyes unclouded by appearance, beliefs, or social standing; it is the heart of a person that matters most.
4. Understanding
	1. Taking time to uncover the deeper meaning of faith and of God’s mysteries
	2. Actively trying to understand
	3. God gives us the tools we need

Examples:

1. I have a great curiosity about the Lord, Heaven, and other such divine topics. I am always thinking, always wondering, always wanting to know more.
2. I feel that I sometimes think in unusual ways. I think very deeply and tend to wonder about topics far beyond me. The universe is so vast; I want to learn about it all!
3. Knowledge
	1. The grace to see God working in our lives
		1. We know the difference between right and wrong (how to act)
		2. We know that God is working in our lives

Examples:

1. I am able to distinguish between right and wrong, and request God’s guidance when the line between the two is blurred.
2. I have hope for better and greater things; for Heaven, for God. I see God everywhere all around me all the time! How could I not know of what is to come?
3. Counsel/Right Judgment
	1. Helps us form our conscience in light of church teaching
		1. Respect all life, honesty, integrity
	2. Follow (live according to) church teachings

Examples:

1. I think about things long-term and consider the consequences of my actions. I am an obsessive planner.
2. I am constantly asking God for guidance in my life, since I am only a mortal and don’t always know which path to take or where to go next.
3. Fortitude
	1. The strength to follow our convictions in the face of peer pressure
	2. Stick to what you believe in

Examples:

1. I have gone through many difficult situations in which my faith was tried. Life wouldn’t be all that great; times were tough. However, I continued moving forward and do so to this very day. I am reminded of a certain phrase “Just keep swimming, just keep swimming” as said by Dory the fish (*Finding Nemo*).
2. I have goals in life, and I pursue those goals. They are how I keep going, how I will succeed. I don’t give up when I know something must be done.
3. Piety/Reverence
	1. Respect we show to God through praise and worship
		1. Be respectful in church (no cell phones, talking, gum)
		2. Don’t take God’s name in vain

Examples:

1. I have a general respect and love for all people; every life is precious and unique.
2. I make it a point to treat my neighbor as I would myself.
3. Fear of the Lord/Wonder & Awe
	1. Helps us to show concern about sin and to avoid anything that might separate us from God and others
	2. We don’t want to sin and hurt God, just as we wouldn’t want to do something bad and hurt our parents
	3. He is greater than we could possibly imagine

Examples:

1. I am very aware of the fact that there is sin in the world and in my own life, but I try not to sin in order to be closer to God and to ultimately reach Heaven.
2. God is my Father; I hold Him above all things and have more respect for Him than words could ever tell.