



Fundamentals –Year 12 Developments in Christian Thought

Key knowledge by the end of Year 12

INSIGHT:

AUGUSTINE'S TEACHING ON HUMAN NATURE:

- Human relationships pre- and post-Fall - Augustine's interpretation of Genesis 3 (the Fall) including:
 - o the state of perfection before the Fall and Adam and Eve's relationship as friends
 - o lust and selfish desires after the Fall
- Original Sin and its effects on the will and human societies - Augustine's teaching that Original Sin is passed on through sexual intercourse and is the cause of:
 - o human selfishness and lack of free will
 - o lack of stability and corruption in all human societies
- God's grace - Augustine's teaching that only God's grace, his generous love, can overcome sin and the rebellious will to achieve the greatest good (summum bonum)
 - whether or not Augustine's teaching on a historical Fall and Original Sin is wrong
 - whether or not Augustine is right that sin means that humans can never be morally good
 - whether or not Augustine's view of human nature is pessimistic or optimistic
 - whether or not there is a distinctive human nature

DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE:

Christian teaching on:

Heaven, hell and purgatory - different interpretations including:

- o heaven, hell and purgatory are actual places where a person may go after death and experience physical and emotional happiness, punishment or purification
- o heaven, hell and purgatory are not places but spiritual states that a person experiences as part of their spiritual journey after death
- o heaven, hell and purgatory are symbols of a person's spiritual and moral life on Earth and not places or states after death

Election - different Christian views of who will be saved, including:

- o limited election
- o unlimited election
- o universalist belief
- the above to be studied with reference to the key ideas in Jesus' parable on Final Judgement, 'The Sheep and the Goats' (Matthew 25:31–46)
- whether or not God's judgement takes place immediately after death or at the end of time
- whether or not hell and heaven are eternal
- whether or not heaven is the transformation and perfection of the whole of creation
- whether or not purgatory is a state through which everyone goes



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FOUNDATIONS:

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S EXISTENCE:

Natural knowledge of God's existence:

o as an innate human sense of the divine - as all humans are made in God's image they have an inbuilt capacity and desire to know God, including:

- o human openness to beauty and goodness as aspects of God
- o human intellectual ability to reflect on and recognize God's existence
- o as seen in the order of creation - what can be known of God can be seen in the apparent design and purpose of nature

Revealed knowledge of God's existence:

o through faith and God's grace - as humans are sinful and have finite minds, natural knowledge is not sufficient to gain full knowledge of God; knowledge of God is possible through:

- o faith
- o grace as God's gift of knowledge of himself through the Holy Spirit

Revealed knowledge of God in Jesus Christ

Full and perfect knowledge of God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and through:

- o the life of the Church
- o the Bible
- whether or not God can be known through reason alone
- whether or not faith is sufficient reason for belief in God's existence
- whether or not the Fall has completely removed all natural human knowledge of God
- whether or not natural knowledge of God is the same as revealed knowledge of God
- whether or not belief in God's existence is sufficient to put one's trust in him

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST:

Jesus Christ's authority as:

o the Son of God - Jesus' divinity as expressed in his:

knowledge of God, miracles, resurrection with reference to Mark 6:47–52 and John 9:1–41

o a teacher of wisdom - Jesus' moral teaching on:

repentance and forgiveness, inner purity and moral motivation with reference to Matthew 5:17–48 and Luke 15:11–32

o a liberator - Jesus' role as liberator of the marginalised and the poor, as expressed in his challenge to political authority and challenge to religious authority with reference to Mark 5:24–34 and Luke 10:25–37

- whether or not Jesus was only a teacher of wisdom
- whether or not Jesus was more than a political liberator
- whether or not Jesus' relationship with God was very special or truly unique
- whether or not Jesus thought he was divine

LIVING:

CHRISTIAN MORAL PRINCIPLES:

The diversity of Christian moral reasoning and practices and sources of ethics, including:

- o the Bible as the only authority for Christian ethical practices - as the Bible reveals God's will, then only biblical ethical commands must be followed



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o Bible, Church and reason as the sources of Christian ethical practices - Christian ethics must be a combination of biblical teaching, Church teaching and human reason
o love (agape) as the only Christian ethical principle which governs Christian practices - Jesus' only command was to love and that human reason must decide how best to apply this.

- whether or not Christian ethics are distinctive
- whether or not Christian ethics are personal or communal
- whether or not the principle of love is sufficient to live a good life
- whether or not the Bible is a comprehensive moral guide

CHRISTIAN MORAL ACTION:

The teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on:

o duty to God and duty to the State - Bonhoeffer's teaching on the relationship of Church and State including:

- o obedience, leadership and doing God's will
- o justification of civil disobedience

o Church as community and source of spiritual discipline - Bonhoeffer's role in the Confessing Church and his own religious community at Finkenwalde

o the cost of discipleship - Bonhoeffer's teaching on ethics as action, including: 'costly grace', sacrifice and suffering and solidarity

- whether or not Christians should practice civil disobedience
- whether or not it is possible always to know God's will
- whether or not Bonhoeffer puts too much emphasis on suffering
- whether or not Bonhoeffer's theology has relevance today

SKILLS

KEY SKILLS DEVELOPED IN YEARS 12 AND 13

- critical analysis of key texts and religious (Christian) views
- evaluation of different viewpoints
- analysis of theological outlooks
- essay writing skills
- advanced literacy skills including the use of technical language
- the use of quotes to support statements