

Nature of God; The Trinity Assignment

Read:

Christian Beliefs by Grudem & Grudem Ch. 2 - 3

Apostles' Creed

Nicene Creed

Questions:

1. Choose 3 of God's attributes from ch. 2. Write at least one sentence on how each of these should change the way you relate to God in prayer, Bible reading, church, etc. (3-4 sentences).
2. Some of God's attributes are incommunicable (we cannot share in the attribute), and some of them are communicable (we can share in the attribute). Which of God's attributes from ch. 2 are incommunicable? Which of God's attributes from ch. 2 are communicable? Which of his communicable attributes do you wish to imitate? Write a short prayer asking God to help you grow to be more like him. (4-6 sentences)
3. Read the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed (pg. 153-155). In your own words, what are three important ideas/concepts from the Creeds? What are three questions you have about something that was said in the Creeds? (6-8 sentences)

Creation Assignment

Read:

Welcome to the Story by Stephen Nicholas Ch. 2

Christian Beliefs by Grudem & Grudem Ch. 4 & 7

Questions:

1. What does it mean for human beings to be created in God's image? What implications does this have for how we live and how we ought to treat others? (3-4 sentences)
2. From Grudem, "Why were we created? What are some specific examples of ways we can fulfill the purpose for which we were created?" (2-3 sentences)
3. What do you think Grudem means when he says, "In Jesus we see God's likeness as it was intended to be. And because of Jesus, we will eventually be changed to reflect God's image as we were intended to do"? How does Christ enable us to be the image of God? (3-4 sentences)
4. How might someone's view of humanity change if they didn't think all people were made in the image of God? (2-3 sentences)

The Fall Assignment

Read:

Welcome to the Story by Stephen Nicholas Ch. 3

Christian Beliefs by Grudem & Grudem Ch. 8

Questions:

1. Why is it important for our understanding of sin to be “theological,” that is, in relation to God and his character?
2. Read Romans 5:12-19. How did sin enter the world? What does Paul compare the entrance of sin to? (2-3 sentences)
3. What should our response be when we sin? How can we be sure God forgives us? (2-3 sentences)
4. Read Romans 6:1-23. Write a short prayer asking God to help you fight against sin and live righteously. (2-3 sentences)

World of Narnia Video Assignment

Watch the video and answer the following questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWY2ujVeAsM&list=PLRgREWf4NFWYkdjziCtk-Gws5YIdN0Fi&index=20>

1. Where is the city of “Narni” located? (1 sentence)
2. How did Lewis come up with the Aslan character? What function does he play in the Narnia stories? (2-3 sentences)
3. What does the speaker say is the main theme of “The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe?” (1-2 sentences)
4. What is “the rubric for understanding Narnia itself?” Do you think this is accurate? (2-3 sentences)
5. What are some of the themes of “The Horse and His Boy?” (2-3 sentences)
6. What are some of the themes of “The Magician’s Nephew?” (2-3 sentences)

Redemption and Restoration Assignment

Read:

Welcome to the Story by Stephen Nicholas Ch. 4-5

Questions:

1. In chapter 4, Nichols talks about various terms related to redemption. In your own words, define the following concepts: Justification (pp 57-58); Reconciliation (59-60). (2-3 sentences)
2. Read Romans 3:21-26. According to these verses, how does justification happen?
3. Nichols writes about how Americans tend to be “individualistic.” (P 64) Why is it important to think about more than just ourselves when we think about the gospel?
4. After reading chapter 5, write a reflection paragraph (4-6 sentences) on the idea of heaven. Here are a few questions that may help you think through what to write: (You do not necessarily have to answer all of these) What do you understand heaven to be like? Did this chapter help clear up some ideas about heaven? What questions do you still have about heaven? How does a vision of heaven give us hope for living now?

Discipleship in the Land of Narnia Assignment

Read the article and answer the following questions.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/discipleship-in-the-land-of-narnia/>

1. What does Rigney say stories do to us as readers? How did Lewis harness stories to accomplish that goal? (2-3 sentences)
2. What peculiar value do fairy stories have? What can they do that other books can't? (2-3 sentences)
3. How the author think that Lewis 'own background shaped the way he portrays the characters of Shasta and Digory? (2-3 sentences)
4. In a few sentences, what are at least three virtues or Christian truths that are portrayed in the *Chronicles of Narnia* books? Or, in other words, how has reading the *Narnia* books helped you be a better Christian or understand some truth about God, Christ, Scripture, etc.? (6-10 sentences)

Christology Assignment

Read:

Christian Beliefs by Grudem & Grudem Ch. 9
Chalcedonian Creed

Questions:

1. Why is it important that Jesus is fully human? How is this encouraging? (2-3 sentences)
2. Why is it important that Jesus is fully God? How is this encouraging? (2-3 sentences)
3. What are some things that people say about Jesus that do not capture his being fully God and fully man? (2-3 sentences)
4. Read the Chalcedonian Creed (pg. 155). In your own words, what are two important ideas/concepts from the Creed? What are two questions you have about something that was said in the Creed? (4-6 sentences)
5. Read John 1:1-18. According to this passage, what did the Word do? How did the world react to him? Who do you think the Word is? (2-3 sentences)

Atonement and Salvation Pt. 1 Assignment

Read:

Christian Beliefs by Grudem & Grudem Ch. 10 - 12

Questions:

1. Why must God punish sin? (1-2 sentences)
2. Why was it necessary for Christ to live a perfect life? (1-2 sentences)
3. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be truly, physically resurrected? (2-3 sentences)
4. How do the New Testament authors present election? How should this influence the way we understand it? (2-3 sentences)
5. How does the doctrine of election affect the way we think about evangelism? Should we evangelize? Does election encourage or discourage you from sharing your faith? (3-4 sentences)
6. Reflect on ch. 12. Is this teaching new to you? What do you think about it? Do you think it reflects what the Bible teaches? Why or why not? (3-4 sentences)
7. Read the poem "Accepted In The Beloved."
(<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/a/c/c/e/accepted.htm>). Write a short prayer of thanks to God for saving you in Christ. (2-3 sentences)

Atonement and Salvation Pt. 2 Assignment

Read:

Christian Beliefs by Grudem & Grudem Ch. 13 - 14

Questions:

1. What are the two types of “calling” and how are they different? Include an example of a verse that describes each type of calling. (2-3 sentences)
2. What are “the facts concerning salvation?” Why isn’t it enough to just affirm these facts? (3-4 sentences)
3. What are two aspects of trusting that God will save you? Define them. (2-3 sentences)
4. What is justification? How are we justified? (3-4 sentences)
5. What do we contribute to our salvation? Does God expect us to earn it? If that’s the case, do you think we can lose our salvation? (more on this in ch. 15) (3-4 sentences)
6. Read the following passages: John 16:13; John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-7; John 3:5, 8; Romans 8:11; John 14:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 3:24; Romans 8:26. What do we see the Holy Spirit doing in the life of the believer? (at least 5 examples)
7. Read Romans 8. Write a prayer of reflection and thanksgiving based on it. (2-3 sentences).

The Mission of God's People Assignment

Read:

Welcome to the Story by Stephen Nicholas Ch. 6 - 7

Questions:

1. What do you think of when you hear the word, "mission?"
2. List the "three elements of a good story" that Nichols discusses on pages 92-93 and write one sentence on how each are developed in the Bible.
3. Pick the character you most identify with discussed by Nichols on pages 98-100 (Peter, Paul, Mary). In what ways are you similar or different from the character you picked? What can you learn from them in what it means to follow Jesus and join his mission? (4-6 sentences)
4. Nichols begins chapter 7 with a quote from C.S. Lewis. Write 3-4 sentences on what that quote means. (Here is the quote: "A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word "darkness" on the walls of his cell.")
5. What is "the belly button syndrome" and how does that relate to God's people living on mission? (See page 110) (2-3 sentences)
6. Look at the two lists of questions on page 116. Pick 4 questions (2 from each list) and then read John 3:1-15. Answer the questions you have picked about that passage of scripture.

Living In the Story Assignment

Read:

Welcome to the Story by Stephen Nicholas Ch. 8 - 10

Questions:

1. Nichols says “obeying and following God flows from love for God.” (121) What does this statement mean and why is important for Christian’s to understand this concept? (2-3 sentences)
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13. How does the biblical idea of love differ from popular ideas about love? (2-3 sentences)
3. On pages 134, Nichols talks about how everything we do matters to God, “even flipping burgers.” Write 2-3 sentences on what type of job or career you would like to have one day and how you can participate in God’s plan through your work.
4. In chapter 10, Nichols gives a number of practical helps for engaging in God’s Word. After reading this chapter, write a plan for how you could personally engage in God’s Word. (3-4 sentences)

Glory Story Extra Credit Assignment

To go along with the extra credit sheet I handed out today, below is the link to the sermon that will allow you to fill in the blanks. This will parallel the "Welcome to the Story" book we read in Q1 and it will be helpful to see the entire Bible laid out - remember, this is God's glory story that we all get to be a part of.

Sermon Link: <https://vimeo.com/1053019774>

Bring your completed handout to class on our 1st Tuesday in Q2 and I'll grade the assignment and add 50 pts. to your grade.

While not required, my hope is you'll take the 40-45 mins to watch the video and see all the pieces brought together. If you have any questions, please let me know - I will be checking emails during the break.