

Name: _____

ESM PRE TEST

Date: _____

Instructions: Answer honestly. "I don't know" or leaving something blank is a perfectly acceptable answer! This test covers things we will learn about over the course of ESM, so there's absolutely no expectation to have them mastered now.

SECTION 1: BIBLICAL LITERACY (BIG PICTURE)

1. Write the books of the Bible in order as far as you can go.

2. Choose any 5 books of the Bible and write one sentence describing what each book is about.

3. In 5-7 sentences, tell the story of the Bible from beginning to end.

4. Answer briefly:

a. What do you think it means to “interpret Scripture responsibly”?

b. What are 1-2 mistakes people commonly make when reading the Bible?

5. Give an example of a biblical passage or story that's easily misunderstood through "western eyes." Explain the misunderstanding and then write the correct interpretation of the passage.

6. Explain how an awareness of Church history can guard against misreading Scripture and help Christians interpret the Bible more wisely and responsibly. Give an example in your response.

SECTION 2: CORE THEOLOGY

7. In your own words, define as many as you can (1-2 sentences each):

Trinity: _____

Justification: _____

Sanctification: _____

Hypostatic Union: _____

Christus Victor: _____

Ecclesiology: _____

Original Sin: _____

8. Choose one of the theological concepts on page 4 and answer in a few sentences, "Why does this matter for everyday Christian life?"

9. List one Bible passage, story, or verse you associate with any of those theological concepts and explain the connection in a few sentences.

10. Write a brief, but biblically sound argument for any of the following atonement theories: Christus Victor, Moral Influence Theory, Substitutionary Atonement, Penal Substitution, Ransom Theory, or Satisfaction Theory.

11. List the three main views of hell that have been held by Christians throughout Church history. Briefly describe each one, then explain which view you find most biblically faithful and why.

SECTION 4: ENGAGING CONTEMPORARY ISSUES & APOLOGETICS

12. Write down one question or objection about Christianity that you have heard in real life. Then, write a 3-4 sentence response to that objection.

13.. In 3-5 sentences, describe how the Bible should guide a Christian's perspective on one of these current cultural issues: gender, sexuality, abortion, divorce, immigration, environmental care and policy, wealth and poverty, or mental health. Include any relevant verses or Bible passages.

14. How would you respond to the claim that Mormonism (the LDS Church) is simply another Christian denomination? Identify three theological reasons that distinguish it from historic Christianity.

15. How would you respond to the claim that Jews, Christians, and Muslims all worship the same God from a Christian theological perspective?

SECTION 5: LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER

16. What does Jesus model about leadership that challenges common cultural ideas of leadership?

17. Give 3 examples of how a leader's weaknesses in character affect the way they lead. How can spiritual formation help correct these weaknesses?

18. Based on Matthew 18:15-17, write a step-by-step plan for resolving conflict with someone.