



"Investing in Africa's Future"

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY,
HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

NTST 102 THEOLOGY I

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2021

LECTURER: DR. MAARAIIDZO MUTAMBARA

DURATION: 5 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not write your name on the answer sheet.
2. Choose One Case Study and answer the questions under the Case Study of your choice.
3. Each Case Study has questions which carry a total of 100 marks
4. Credit is given for neat, well written and lucid work.

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1. CASE STUDY NUMBER ONE

Assume that the representative of parliament in your area invited you to present a paper titled 'the Christian and the Environment' at a workshop organized for the residents of your political district. The majority of the residents in the district are Christian, and the majority of the members of your church live in this district. The honourable member of parliament is concerned about many issues that include littering, deforestation resulting from the cutting down of trees for sale as firewood, soil erosion, water pollution, and flooding among others. These issues are caused by human activities and are undermining the health of the people and animals. In addition, residents have different views about human beings' relationship to the environment in general. Some residents interpret Genesis 1:26 to mean that nature exists to serve the interests of human beings, while others are of the view that the same biblical text gives human beings a mandate to take care of the environment. The purpose of the workshop is to motivate residents of the district to practice good care of the environment that is grounded in their Christian faith. Prepare a presentation in which you do the following:

- a) Articulate the Christian doctrine of Creation and demonstrate how insights gained from this doctrine can be used to motivate Christians in your district to practice good care of the environment and other created beings. [50]
- b) Suggest at least four practical ways/measures that will help your church and its members to align its teaching and actions with the Christian doctrine of creation and humanity. [50]

2. CASE STUDY NUMBER TWO

Assuming a month ago, two young women, who are active youth members in the church that you pastor happily informed you that they had passed very well their high school examinations, and they were looking forward to advancing their studies. A week later, the same youths approached you for counsel because their fathers refused to support their wish to further their studies despite the fact that they were supporting their brothers who were studying at a local university. The parents' explanation was that in their culture, educating a girl child is a waste of resources because the girl child will leave their home when they marry, also the bible valued women and men differently. In addition, the young women also shared that they failed to get scholarships at a nearby college because the chair of the scholarship committee reserved them for people from her ethnic group. The parents of the young women and the chair of the scholarship committee hold leadership positions in your church. The church is divided over the position taken by the young women's parents and the chair of scholarship committee. Your superior, the District Superintendent (DS) wants you put in writing a sound Christian theological response to the issues raised in your church. In your written response you will be expected to do the following:

- a) Articulate clearly your understanding of "*the image God*" and how the Christian view of humanity that is made in the image of God compares with the African view of person. [50]

- b) Use insights gained from the Christian doctrine of creation and the doctrine of humanity, especially, and other relevant biblical texts to construct a sound theological response to the problems identified in the case study. **[50]**

3. CASE STUDY THREE.

Assume that a month ago, a young widow, Mrs Pratt, approached you, her pastor, for counsel after losing her husband and only child to COVID -19 in one month. She also shared that her entire family (parents, two brothers and three sisters) were swept away by the floods that accompanied Cyclone Idai two years ago. Mrs Pratt has been a Christian for at least five years and is beginning to question her faith in a God who is said to be all powerful and loving. She wants to know why God allowed her family to die in these tragic ways and leave her in such great pain. She also speculates that the deaths in the family maybe God's punishment for sins she may have committed but is not aware of. In addition, Mrs Pratt shared that some members of her extended family blame her ancestors who are unhappy with her because she is no longer conducting rituals in their honour. These relatives are advising her to give up her Christian faith and attend to her ancestors. She is seriously considering leaving the Christian faith. Mrs Pratt also admits that she is very confused about the right path to take after the deaths in her family. What is making the situation worse is that COVID-19 is not yet under control in her area.

- a) Explore the relevance of the Christian doctrine of theodicy and providence to an African society that is dealing with challenges presented by Climate emergency/change and COVID-19. **[40]**
- b) With reference to relevant biblical texts, construct an appropriate theological counsel for Mrs Pratt in which you clearly demonstrate your understanding of the Christian doctrine of theodicy and providence, and sin. **[60]**

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