

Faith, Tradition or Culture?

A. The Questions

Every now and again it is good to stop and reflect on one's progress in the Christian faith. It's also good to take a step back and to check that the things that we believe (and practice) have not been adopted from elsewhere.

As a consequence, I have raised nine issues, all of which relate to things that many people assume to be part of the teachings of the Christian faith. And I'm hoping that you—with me—will look at them, and decide which of three classifications fit them best.

And the three options are:

1. Is this an issue which is basic to the Christian Faith?
2. Is this an issue which is part of Christian Tradition? or
3. Is this an issue which is neither, but rather part of our Inherited Culture?

Nine questions, then, to which we need to decide which is the best option. Is it basic to the Christian Faith? Is it part of Christian Tradition? Or is simply part of our Inherited Culture?

The answers to all nine issues will be the subject of the next two issues—December 2021 and January 2022.

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Questionnaire: Christian Faith, Christian Tradition, or Inherited Culture?

For each issue listed below, please indicate whether you think that the belief or practice has its origins in either: our Christian Faith; our Christian Tradition; or our Inherited Culture.
(please circle one only)

1. Monogamy

Monogamy (the marriage of one man and one woman) as the basis of the family unit

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

2. Democracy

Democracy (government by the masses or by their duly elected representatives) as a system of government

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

3. Discipleship

Discipleship as the basis of the Christian faith

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

4. Holy Communion

The practice of having Holy Communion as part of a worship service

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

5. Regular Worship

Regular weekly worship and attendance at all major festivals

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

6. Weddings and Funerals

The conducting of weddings and funerals by the Church

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

7. Baptism

The baptism of children

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

8. Good Works

The belief that doing good deeds is sufficient to earn one's salvation

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

9. The Beginning of Life

The belief that human life begins at (or before) conception

Christian Faith/Christian Tradition/Inherited Culture

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