

# THE KNOW SERIES

**Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience**

## LESSON # 20

### CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN JUSTICE, DIVERSITY & EQUALITY



**OBJECTIVE:** "Christianity and the Origins of Equality, Diversity, and Justice" explores fundamental concepts in the context of Christian beliefs. The class delves into the essence of Christianity, which centers around a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, addressing profound questions about existence, identity, purpose, and the afterlife.

The class then discusses the origins of various concepts, starting with the concept of origins itself. It contrasts the belief in a purposeful creation by God with the idea of randomness and chance as the source of order and meaning. This section highlights Christianity's emphasis on design and intelligence in the universe's creation.

Equality, diversity, and justice are subsequently examined. Christianity's teaching that all humans are created in God's image is presented as the foundation for the inherent equality and value of every individual. Diversity is celebrated as part of God's creative design, reflecting uniqueness within a unified order. The class further delves into the idea of justice, tying it to morality and universal principles.

Throughout, the class encourages self-reflection and engagement with these concepts. Each section prompts readers to jot down their thoughts, feelings, responses, and questions, fostering a deeper exploration of the themes presented. Overall, the class provides a thought-provoking exploration of the philosophical and theological underpinnings of these fundamental concepts.



Calvary Chapel Youth Leaders Edition 2022

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## CHRISTIANITY & THE ORIGINS OF EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE

### (I) WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

A) It is about “Christ” which the dictionary describes as: (1) “The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament (2) Jesus.”

B) It is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ whereby God is speaking directly to us through Jesus Christ and His Word (the Bible)

C) It answers all the big questions (1) Where did I come from? (2) Who Am I? (3) Why Am I Here? (4) Why Do Bad Things Happen/ (5) What Happens When I Die?

NOTES, FEELINGS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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### (II) WHAT ARE ORIGINS

A) The point at which something comes into existence or from which it derives or is derived. Ancestry.

B) “In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth.”

C) Christianity teaches an origin of thought and order. The choices:

(1) Time plus nothing, plus nothing, plus nothing created order beauty, purpose and meaning

(2) God created by design and intelligence the universe and everything in it, of which show the fingerprints of a Common Creator / Maker

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### (III) WHAT IS EQUALITY AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- A) Having the same quantity, measure, or value as another. Being the same or identical to in value. Having the same privileges, status, or rights:
- B) Genesis 1:27 “So God created humans (humanity) in his own image, in the image of God he created; male and female he created them.”

1) Being made in God’s image means characteristics we share with God that the rest of the creation does not share

- a) The ability to love long-term by decision
- b) The ability to appreciate art, creativity and beauty for it’s own sake
- c) The ability to connect to our past in a meaningful way
- d) The ability to look to the future with forward thinking and hope
- e) The Book of Genesis teaches that God mandated that humanity search out the secrets of creation, to use, subdue and replenish

C) With all of humanity having a common ancestral state, our value and equality is derived from the One that created us

NOTES, FEELINGS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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### (IV) WHAT IS DIVERSITY AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- A) The fingerprint / signature style of the Artist / Creator of the Universe is full of diversity set within an order of unity. God is the author of diversity. Those that honor Him, accept, celebrate and honor diversity.
- B) No two fingerprints, snowflakes, leaves or human personalities are exactly alike. Yet they are very much the same
- C) It appears in the universe that all electrons are alike, as an elementary building blocks. But everything that is made is made exists in diversity, though unified.

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## **(V) WHAT IS JUSTICE? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?**

### **A) What is Justice? (Dictionary Definitions)**

- 1) The principle of moral rightness; equity.
- 2) Conformity to moral rightness in action or attitude; righteousness.
- 3) The upholding of what is just, especially fair treatment and due reward in accordance with honor, standards, or law.
- 4) *Law*: The administration and procedure of law.
- 5) Conformity to truth, fact, or sound reason.

### **B) OK. SO where does “morality” “rightness of attitude and action” come from?**

### **C) Basics of universal morality exist in everyone of us.**

- 1) “I was in line first.”
- 2) “That’s my seat.”
- 3) “Hey let me have one of those apples, I gave you one of mine.”

### **D) Finally what ‘is’ truth? Jesus is the only person of historical significance that claimed to be “The Truth.”**

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**NOTES, FEELINGS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_**

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