

How Christian is your spirituality? Answers & Explanations

1. The world is divided between good and evil. **False.** A good God made all things good. Evil is an absence or defect of the good; it has no independent power vs. God.
2. My body is a gift designed to give me desire, sensation, and pleasure. **True.** The body and its sensations are good as long as we use them as God intends.
3. If I had more faith in God, bad things wouldn't happen to me. **False.** Bad things may happen to good people. Faith is how a believer lives in response to both good and bad.
4. The main reason to keep the Ten Commandments is to avoid hell and to merit heaven. **False.** Human beings are created to share God's own life and love. To fear punishment and expect reward is a childish level of faith.
5. God is the first of all beings. **False.** Although we may speak of God as the "supreme being," God is really existence itself. Nothing has being apart from God. Every blade of grass draws life from God.
6. God and Satan are engaged in a cosmic struggle. **False.** Between God and evil there is no contest, no doubt who will triumph. The only battle with evil is within ourselves.
7. Angels are closer to God because they don't have bodies. **False.** Angels are close to God because they are loyal, obedient, faithful servants of God.
8. We should shun the things of this world because they turn us away from God. **False.** All things are good. Many things, in fact, turn us *toward* God. It is a question of attachment to things that may turn us from God.
9. When we die, our souls happily separate from our bodies. **False.** The key word here is *happily*. The human body and soul are intended for union. The departed soul longs for the ultimate resurrection of the body.
10. Despite the appearance of suffering on the cross, Jesus was certain what the outcome would be. **True & False.** This is a mystery. A low Christology emphasizes Jesus' humanity: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Mk 15:34). A high Christology (Gospel of John) portrays Jesus as fully in charge of his own "hour."
11. Jesus reveals to us the true face and character of God. **True.** "He is the image of the invisible God."
12. Pre-born or young children who die do not become angels. **True.** Angels are another order of existence. Human beings do not become angels.
13. Souls pre-exist until God inserts them in a human being. **False.** God creates both body and soul.

10-13 **You are a mainline Christian**

5-10 **You are tainted by New Age thinking.**

0-5 **You are a Gnostic, but we love you!**

