

## **EVASION OF GOD**

Evasion means turning away or escaping from God and against His will.

### **EVASION OF GOD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

#### **REASONS WHY PEOPLE EVADE GOD TODAY**

- God takes long to answer people's prayers hence they try other means through witch craft.
- Improved technology and science which misleads people to think that God isn't there and they believe in their own knowledge and powers to solve problems e.g. infertility.
- Modern leisure activities have dominated people's minds and they find that they do not have time for God e.g. music, movies, etc.
- Frustrations and disappointments that come in life lead to failures which make one try other fields like witch doctors.
- Bad examples from church leaders who are hypocrites and untrustworthy e.g. Kibwetere who killed almost all people in his culture.
- Influence of friends where one invades God so as to please or feel in place with his friends.
- Living in an impure life, sinful and poor background where people don't emphasize religion.
- God punishes or causes suffering to innocent people e.g. earthquake, accidents.
- Persecution of believers causes people to evade God by doubting His existence in life.
- God is invisible causing doubt in His presence.
- Hard economic conditions/poverty, cause people to try other gods who can be able to solve their problems.
- To Africans God and His angels are white while the devil and his angels are black, so people evade god in this belief.
- Influence of the modern education which has helped people to solve their problems without referring to God and many educated think that God is for the uneducated.
- Church practices like monogamy force people to run away as many want polygamy (the rigid religious laws).
- Conflicts in the church where believers end up evading God e.g. the conflict between pastors like pastor Kayanja and Male.
- Lack of benefit from religion.
- People have lust for power and they are always worried about their positions and leaving less time for God.

#### **THE EVIDENCE/WAYS/HOW PEOPLE EVADE GOD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

- By breaking His commandments coveting people's property and murder.
- By trying to use intermediaries like communicating to God through the dead.
- Most people are prayer less by working on Sundays which shows that they are more concerned with wealth than God.
- People commit suicide, poison themselves because of frustrations, disappointments and lust for power.
- Discrimination in church where they favour the rich who seat in front and the poor are told to sit outside.
- Misuse of church funds through embezzling them for their own businesses.
- Visiting and use of witch doctors to consult them or the dead.

- Suppression and oppression of people like the women and children, the sick, the needy where women are beaten and denied some meals which causes them result to witchcraft hence evading God.
- There is struggle for power which has led to death and suffering of innocent people.
- Failure to pay church dues or tithe/offertory which shows that people care less about God.
- Child abuse i.e. burning them, sacrificing them, raping them, which are done to get wealth.
- People are participating in polygamy, adultery, fornication, prostitution, lesbianism, homosexuality and bestiality which evades God.
- People have too much love for sex leading to rape, defilement.
- Watching pornographic films which show that people against God's laws.
- Cheating in examination as well as overcharging customers and selling expired goods.
- There are many marriages break ups because of violence, drunkardness and poverty.
- Formation of cults/religious sex and dominations like restoration of the 10 commandments by Kibwetere, OWobushobozi and Bishaka.
- Correcting from one church to another especially when is looking for riches and miracles.
- Exploitation of workers where employers over work the employees and pay them less money or nothing.
- Participating in worldly pleasures like over drinking, drugs, sexual immorality and nude dancing.
- Carrying out inhuman practices like human sacrifices and murder.

#### **FALSE GODS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY**

- These are people's equivalent to God and there are many items or things people worship, respect and honour as gods.
- These items are games like football as people kill each other miss meals and mass for games e.g. when they beat Arsenal, some people can cry.
- Women and men call on, people are ready to pour acid and visit witch doctors.
- Power/politics i.e. many people love politics and can spend most of their time in politics rather than God.
- Modern education i.e. people today worship education, some have reached the extent of giving up God due to education.
- Money i.e. people are ready to go underwater, marry sugar mummies/daddies for money.
- Discos/music where people dodge Godly activities.
- Alcohol and drugs where people can even spend their last earning on alcohol so as to forget problems, feel fresh.
- Food i.e. people are gluttons, greedy.
- Modern science and technology seems to make God less important as it provides solutions to real life.
- Sacred objects like shrines, big trees, fetishes.
- Novels, films and the leisure industries which can easily take up our mind from God.
- Friends can be worshipped by people as they make influence making them to forget God.

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE GAP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN CAN BE BRIDGED.**

- By preaching the word of God to others.
- By respecting the Sabbath day.
- By reading Christian literature e.g. the bible.
- Receiving sacraments e.g. baptism, Eucharist.
- By taking up religious motivations/vocations e.g. priests, nuns.
- Through obeying and observing the 10 commandments.
- By being a peace maker so as to avoid conflicts.

- Making pilgrimages to holy places e.g. Namugongo, Rome.
- Through praying in the morning and evening both personally and communally.
- Through attending conferences, festivals, retreats, etc.
- Through works of charity.
- Through joining Christian movements like x-verians.
- Through writing Christian in other languages.
- The church should be a watch dog for justice and morality i.e. they should encourage fidelity in marriage.
- Through paying tax, tithes
- By setting up projects to help the poor and encouraging them to the grass roots, generate income e.g. send a cow.
- By Africanizing services of the church and making church service more lively e.g. clapping, singing and dancing in church.
- By emphasizing religion at home.
- The church should enact laws similar to sharia laws in Islamic countries.
- The church should scrutinize the leisure industries and pornographic be abolished.
- Church services should be made compulsory in all Christian schools.
- By creating unity among Christians through commercial movements.
- By offering religious education/moral education in schools.

### **EVASION OF GOD IN ATS**

#### **WAYS IN WHICH TRADITIONAL AFRICANS EVADED GOD**

- Spirits, divinities, ancestors could become semi-independent hero gods and instead of being mediators, they became barriers to communication to God.
- Religious rituals could be misused to avoid responsibilities. These rituals then became a kind of manipulation of spiritual powers for man's purposes. People trusted these rituals so much and ended up failing to look after their welfare.
- Through practicing magic and witch craft which they trusted so much causing death and suffering.
- Africans denied God's power and supreme honour by trusting in their wisdom and strength instead of trusting in God.
- Failed to worship God by giving poor sacrifices e.g. sick, stolen and deformed animals while others failed/did not give anything at all.
- There was disobedience of the moral code which led to immorality in society e.g. some carried out incest, abusing and fighting parents.
- There were power struggles where some African leaders were war mongers instead of being peace makers.
- Some Africans took up the role of God took up the role of God by claiming divine inspiration and therefore wanted to be worshipped e.g. rain makers.
- Discrimination among people e.g. royal tribes discriminated against commoners, peasants e.g. not supposed to intermarry.
- Disabled, insane and leapers were also discriminated and chased on important occasions.
- There was disrespect for human life and this is why some tribes offered humans in case of droughts etc.
- Some rituals/shrines even religious offices were regarded as sacred/holy and people worshipped places.
- Some societies killed twins thinking that they were a bad omen.
- In some African societies, people evaded God through fatalism where events were events were decided by fate and were inevitable. This is where God/gods were believed to be acting as they like

without law of reasoning. This attitude led people to become passive and they ended up avoiding their responsibilities.

### **MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT**

- Witch craft is the use of magic powers while magic is mysterious forces to change or influence events.
- Witchcraft in ATS was associated with destruction, destabilization of harmony in a community. It was used by people to cause death, sickness, barrenness, impotence.
- It can also be used to destroy crops and domestic animals.
- It can also be used in war to destroy the enemy.
- Witchcraft may be used in business to cause loss to other competitors.
- On the other hand, it was used for protection from attacks e.g. people put on charms to the family from danger.
- Some wear charms on arms, waists while others have cuts on their bodies to protect them from witchcraft, snake bites, etc.
- Witchcraft can be used by people to fight off effect from witchcraft.
- It can be used to earn a living and whoever has it gets more clients.
- Others want to get fame, prestige, power and want to be feared.
- It can also be used to win competition e.g. athletics, soccer, rugby, etc.
- People live in constant fear of men and women who use potential means to bewitch others.

### **WAYS IN WHICH MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT LED TO EVASION OF GOD IN ATS**

- Those who used witchcraft for protection put more trust in it thinking that it is more powerful than God thus evading God.
- It led to destruction of the relationships which led to hatred and killing of one another.
- Led to death and killing which is a means of evading God.
- Brought untold suffering to the one affected and the person could lose faith in gods for failure to protect/heal him/her.
- The one affected by witchcraft could be forced to revenge to both the individual and relatives.
- It caused destruction of crops and animals leading to famine and poverty. This could cause people to steal.
- Among the married, it led to divorce if the man discovered that the woman uses witchcraft.
- Witchcraft involved sexual immorality especially by witch doctors.
- It involved desertion and manipulation of people.

## **14. EVASION OF GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY**

### **WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE EVADED GOD IN THE EARLY CENTURIES**

- In the early centuries, people misunderstood the doctrine of the trinity. This is why they came out with an easier but wrong explanation where they accepted Jesus as a spirit but not the son of God.
- The early Christians believed in one supreme God whom they called God the father but there were also less important gods and of which Jesus was the most important.
- The early Christians carried out idolatry where they concentrated on the worship of objects e.g. paintings, sculptures and decorations. Although these things were meant to help people to worship God, they turned out to be objects of worship.
- They also evaded God through the doctrine of pre-destination where God was seen as a harsh judge assigning people to hell/ heaven regardless of one's life style.

- There was also the sale of indulgences where people ended up buying God's forgiveness instead of repenting and this increased immorality among Christians.
- There was too much attention paid on the correct ways of worshipping God than the worship of God himself. This brought in conflicts, hatred and division among Christians which later led to protestant reformation.
- In Russia, people evaded God when they encouraged communism which was to discourage the spread of Christianity. Therefore, many churches were closed.
- Religion was separated from the dairy life where people believed that it was for Sundays only were people days. Life was also divided into 2 parts, religious and secular and they thought that God was needed by politicians and business men.
- Because of education people trusted in their own knowledge other than God.
- Some people found it had to drop their cultural values which conflicted with Christianity.
- There was persecution of Christians because at first Christianity was an illegal religion.
- Some people respected and honoured church leaders more than God and evading God.
- There was hypocrisy of church leaders which led to corruption in churches.
- Some people paid more attention to church hymns than God himself e.g. the hymns of St. Ambrose were thought to be destructive.
- Pieces/bones of saints and the cross of Jesus were sold to forgive people's sins instead of repenting.

#### **HOW CHRISTIANS HAVE AT TIMES TURNED TO WORSHIPPING OTHER THINGS OTHER THAN GOD**

- Very nice hymns have destructed the concentration of the believers
- Extremely good artistic work has drawn the attention of the people.
- The worship of statues is common in churches and some people have honour them very much.
- Important Christian religious days have been misused e.g. Christmas, Easter and tend to be days of showing off other than worshipping God
- Remains of Saints have at times been much honoured to a point of worshipping them like God.
- The church leaders like the pope, Bishops, Pastors etc. have been much honoured by people almost like God.
- Some people today have sacrificed to the spirit of the dead use protective charms and magic and also consult witch doctors.
- Holy places like Jerusalem, Rome and Namugongo have been are given too much importance as people make pilgrimages for their sake and forget to worship God.
- Some people have abused religious sacraments by carrying them out for the sake of it less their spiritual meaning.
- People have paid more attention to material needs/possessions more than God e.g. people worship wealth, men, and women more than god.
- Many people have worshiped education like Science and technology because they provide solutions to real life.
- Some religious leaders have given fake prophecy such as buying plots of land in heaven e.g. Nabbi Bushara in 1999 corrected money from people in Luwero for plots in heaven.

#### **RELIGIOUS PRACTICES THAT LED TO CHURCH REFORMATION**

Reformation was a change from the old order of religious doctrines and practices characterized the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The reformers were against some practices in the church which they declared to have been false as seen below;

- Emphasis was being put on religious practices and projects other than faith and God.

- There were practices like sale of indulgences where people ended up buying God's forgiveness instead of repentance.
- Idol worship was being incorporated into the church.
- Priests had started legalizing divorce and this had increased immorality among Christians.
- Some religious leaders like Bishops and pope assumed high authority and wanted people to worship them.
- Leaders put much attachment on prayers other than people's needs.
- There were doctrinal conflicts like the blessed trinity which confused many people.
- Some practices like slavery were being supported by some church leaders.
- There was disagreement as to whether bread and wine turned into the body and blood of Jesus in the ritual of Holy Communion.
- The practice of crawling the eight steps Jesus descended before death was taken to have power of saving a soul from hell.
- Arguments on the cult of the virgin where people opposed Mary's remaining a virgin after the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Some religious leaders also opposed the pope's infallible doctrine that the pope was being guided by the Holy spirit and that Christians had to abide by whatever decision he makes.
- Forced celibacy to all priests in the church.
- Contradiction on the ritual of Baptism in that to some people only the grown up would be baptized.
- The confession of sins by Christians at penance at least once a year.

## **EVASION OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

### **Evidence/How/Ways in which Israelites evaded God**

- Israelites evaded God through going against their family life by marrying more than one wife and foreign women.
- They worshiped other Gods E.g. Jezebel wife of Ahab who worshiped Baal
- Through apostasy where they turned to the belief in foreign gods e.g. at the time of king Ahab and Solomon many people worshiped Baal.
- Through idolatry where Israelites modeled and worship idols e.g. at the time of King Arab, many people worshiped Baal.
- Through idolatry where Israelites modeled and worshipped idols e.g. the molten calf during the leadership of Aaron and Jeroboam made a golden bull.
- Through exclusive respect and attention for secret objects and started worshipping them instead of God e.g. the temple, ark objects and the law.
- They evaded God through equalization where they were concerned with religious observances such as offering sacrifices, religious rituals, traditional customs and forgot being concerned, being loving to both God and neighbors.
- They evaded God by being self-centered and self-worship where they ended up denying God in their lives.
- They exploited fellow Israelites through over taxation, oppression of the poor, needy and other weaker members of the society. This was common during the time of prophet Amos.
- Some murdered innocent people e.g. King David murdered Uriah and took his wife Bathsheba and King Ahab killed Nabboth and took over his vine yard.
- There was persecution of God's prophets e.g. Jeremiah was thrown into a dry well and Elijah persecuted by Ahab.
- They carried out intermarriages which were against the family life of Israel. This was because these marriages would lead to pagan worship e.g. King Solomon accepted the building of temples to pagan gods so as to please his wives.

- There was disrespect as well as grabbing God's sacrifices because of greed e.g. during the time of Eli, his sons grabbed people's sacrifices and ate the parts that were supposed to be burnt to God.
- There was hypocrisy of religious leaders who believed that they were holy than others.
- Some offered poor sacrifices e.g. the stolen, sick and poor harvests e.g. Cain who offered poor harvests.
- Some disobeyed God's call e.g. Jonah who refused to go to Nineveh
- The Israelites sometimes ignored God completely and turned to do everything on their own.
- Sometimes, they suffered from spiritual pride and took God's protection for granted.
- They made alliance with foreign nations instead of trusting God. For example, Ahaz king of Judah made an alliance with a pagan king of Assyria.
- Divorce and adultery were common.

### **REASONS/CAUSES/WHY ISRAELITES EVADED GOD**

- God took long to answer so they resorted to other gods like Baal e.g. even led people to make golden calf when Moses delayed to come back.
- They took long to reach the Promised Land i.e. they took forty yrs. before reaching Canaan.
- They were very greedy for material things e.g. King Ahab took over Naboth's vineyard forcefully.
- Bad examples from leaders like Ahab who led people to worship other gods like Baal and even bad prophets.
- Trusting in their wisdom and power made Israelites to construct the tower of Babel. Hence, evading God.
- Lust for sex/women made David take over Uriah's wife Bathsheba's and Solomon to Marry 700 women and 300 concubines.
- Jealousy, selfishness and enmity which led to evasion of God e.g. Cain was jealous of Abel and ended up killing him.
- Messages of doom/destruction made people destructive and stubborn hence giving up on God e.g. Jeremiah was thrown into a dry well for giving bad messages.
- Suffering and discouraging experiences made people doubt the existence of God, hence evading him.
- Strict laws and commandments of God were to be followed with people just decided to evade him, e.g. Sabbath laws, 10 commandments.
- Poverty and lack of necessities led people to evade God.
- Persecution from non-believers forced the Israelites to abandon God hence evading him.
- Pagan nations seemed to be more successful than Israelites hence causing them to abandon him.
- God punished innocent people like when during Noah's time he killed everything that ever lived on earth except Noah's households.
- Infertility of the land they occupied made them to worship Baal the Canaanite god of fertility.

### **ACCORDING TO THE O.T WHAT RELIGIOUS PRACTICES BROUGHT THE ISRAELITES AWAY FROM GOD**

- Giving poor sacrifices to God e.g. stolen animals, Cain offered poor harvests
- Idolatry Like on the way to Canaan at the foot of Mt. Sinai where they muddled a golden calf and worshiped it.
- Apostasy where they worshiped other gods like Jezebel worshiped Baal.
- Worship of secret objects like the ark of the covenant and the temple.
- Fasting in prayer outwardly by putting on sacks, smearing ash etc. yet inwardly that were not really fasting.
- Insincere prayer to cover up for other sinners of oppressing the poor and orphans.
- Observance of the Sabbath laws yet failing to have proper relations of God and other men.

- Temple prostitution where women stayed themselves on the temple gates to give fertility to all.
- Celebration of the Passover feast yet they were corrupted by their sins e.g. Eli's Sons used to eat sacrifices offered by other people.
- The act of discriminating the sick especially the lepers.

## **EVASION OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE EVADED GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- They rejected Jesus having been the son of God and that is why He was ordered for His crucifixion.
- The Jews also misused God's dwelling place i.e. the temple and even sold items in there.
- Through the persecution of Christians and followers of Christ e.g. Saul persecuted Christians before he became one of them as Paul.
- They broke some of the commandments e.g. do not commit adultery like the Samaritan woman who had five husbands and the adulterous woman Jesus saved from being stoned to death.
- The Pharisees practiced hypocrisy and they believed that they were righteous people in all aspects of life.
- Through exploitation of people especially workers e.g. Zacchaeus, the tax collector who later confessed and compensated the people 4 times as much.
- Murdering and killing innocent people like Jesus and setting free guilty people like Barabbas.
- There was discrimination of women, children and gentiles, hence evasion God. They were discriminated according to age, sex and race.
- There was division in church where Christians wanted to follow those who had baptized them.
- There was corruption and bribery in society e.g. Joseph and Mary were denied a room to stay because they had little money compared to others and hence went to the manger.

### **WHY JESUS WAS REJECTED BY THE JEWS?**

- He was rejected because He preached against their way of life e.g. the Pharisees never liked Him because He preached against hypocrisy.
- Jesus was also rejected because He was from a poor family of a carpenter.
- They rejected Him because they thought and believed that God was a spirit and did not produce but Jesus called himself son of God.
- He was also friendly to the despised in society/sinners e.g. tax collectors, prostitutes and as a holy man not expected to defend such public sinners
- Jesus' interpretation of laws differed from that of Moses e.g. Moses encouraged revenge through an eye for an eye but Jesus preached reconciliation and forgiveness and even changed the Sabbath law.
- Jesus was also celibate and hence had no respect, He lived a celibate life whereas to the Jews all leaders were supposed to marry.
- Jesus also questioned the authority of religious leaders who thought they were righteous people e.g. the Pharisees.
- Jesus was of a low status and humble whereas they expected a savior of a high social status. He was poor and came from a poor family, born in a manger and had a humble origin as His father was a carpenter.
- He lived as a servant and rather than as a master and king/ruler and this is why He washed the disciples' feet.
- He had conflicting ideas/laws that differed from those of Moses e.g. He worked on the Sabbath day and women were important to Him yet they were oppressed and minimized by the Jews.
- Jesus failed to rescue Himself from the cross, pain and suffering.
- The doctrines taught by Jesus were so difficult to understand e.g. eat my body and drink my blood.



- He was a friend of Gentiles who were less considered as humans but as animals.
- He was young and therefore was ignored and disrespected by elders and conservative people.
- Others rejected Him because they say that He was using witchcraft to perform miracles. They called him a prince of demons.
- Jesus came from a very poor family which was despised and this contributed to his rejection.
- He had a despised profession that is he was a carpenter and that is why people at Nazareth rejected him.
- They doubted Jesus' source of wisdom and this contributed to his rejection.

#### **WAYS IN WHICH JESUS WAS AN ANSWER TO PEOPLE'S EVASION OF GOD**

- In His work of building the kingdom, Jesus taught people how to respond to God and each other in a human way. One of the biggest obstacles was the Jewish exclusivism and pride of Jewish leaders who considered themselves to be the only chosen people of God.
- Jesus exposed them to the false attitudes i.e. indifference Luke 16:9-31, the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man never cared for Lazarus who was too poor that even the dogs leaked his sores.
- There was also self-sacrifice/sufficiency/satisfaction Luke 12:13- the parable of the rich fool who cared more about his riches than God and his neighbor.
- Jesus often attacked their religious customs, practices, places and persons e.g. Jesus put fasting laws to their proper places and requested people to accompany fasting with pure hearts instead of showing it externally Mark 2:18, 22.
- He attacked hypocrisy of the Pharisees who believed that they were holy men and took great care to wash so that utensils used are clean, washed their hands up to the elbows but turned a blind eye to breaking of the commandments Mark: 7:1-13. He explained that Pharisees made external observances instead of trusting God.
- Jesus fully associated with non-Jews, discussing with them and healing their sickness (Mark 7:24-30). Jesus helped the Samaritan woman whose child had a demon in her, Luke 7:1-10. Jesus healed a slave of Roman soldiers without really instituting the slave.
- Jesus condemned the worship of the temple get it was a mere building. The temple was over exaggerated and instead of worshipping God, the Jews appeared to be worshipping the temple.
- He chose to live a life of politeness, offering Himself, giving service to the poor, dependence on God so as to serve God, the father and this is why He taught prayers that bring confidence.
- Jesus rejected power, wealth, food, independence as a way of fulfilling His mission. Jesus rejected Satan during his temptation Mathew 4:1-11.
- Jesus demonstrated equality by working/ loving old people equally and tax collectors, women and all public sinners.
- He preached against divorce and polygamy which were common among Israelites and educated for marriage.
- He carried out charitable activities which help people to come closer to God e.g.
- He respected the Sabbath day and encouraged people to love and respect it.
- He encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation in society.

#### **HOW JESUS RESPONDED TO THOSE WHO EVADED GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

- He was friendly to sinners e.g. tax collectors like Zacharias and Mary Magdalene.
- He condemned Pharisees who claimed to be righteous and advised them to base on the grace of God and serve all.
- He performed miracles which helped people to draw closer to God e.g. feeding the hungry.
- He changed the law of Moses and gave a new teaching where He emphasized love.
- Jesus gave a perspective of a new life for the lonely and those with a meaningless life e.g. Zacharias, Mary Magdalene the harlot.

- He discouraged revenge and encouraged forgiveness so that people leave revenge to God.
- He discouraged adultery and taught that both men and women are equally guilty and this was untrue in society.
- He discouraged divorce and advocated for permanence in marriage.
- He forgave sinners and encouraged others to do the same.
- He condemned their religious exhaustiveness and pride where they considered themselves as the chosen people of God.
- He taught prayers that bring confidence to people.

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

### **1. a) Why has it remained hard for many people to completely believe in the existence of God?**

- Church leaders lead un-exemplary lives that confuse believers due to the inability of their leaders to lead immutable lives.
- Due to the absence of miracles, people have evaded God due to the belief that God cannot solve their problems.
- Church wrangles especially those that concern money laundry have made Christians evade God due to the unfaithfulness of the church leaders.
- Discrimination in church on ground of wealth where the rich are given top priority leaving the poor to fend for themselves thus causing faithful Christians to evade God.
- Pulpits in churches have been used for campaigns, arising out personal grudges instead of preaching the word of God.
- Selfishness of believers who are expected to share part of their wealth to provide for the poor.
- People have used Christianity as a spring board i.e. Christianity is supposed to be a source of personal desires.
- The success of all evil people causing the righteous to lose faith because of the poverty status of the righteous people.
- People have used their academic knowledge to create “tools” that have eased life for example medicines, phones that offer entertainment.

### **b) Give dangers of witchcraft and magic to the people of Traditional African Society.**

- Destruction of crops
- Caused death to the people
- Poverty
- Disabilities
- Hatred and separation of families
- Bareness and importance
- Sickness and pain
- Mob justice
- Evasion of God
- Loss of business and skills because they were out competed
- Created fear among the people

### **2. a) Show how cultural heritage integration in the church has misled Christianity today?**

- Native African languages e.g. Luganda may not bring out whole message of God
- Musical instruments like drums are used in shrines and yet are used in the church
- Bride wealth acceptance has delayed many youths from church wedding
- African praise for worship songs some used in shrines and used in church
- African baptism names accepted in the church i.e. Musoke
- Africans stools allowed in church and some of them contain witchcraft.

- African back cloth is also put on by the people in church
- Respect of monarchial leaders
- African styles of dancing
- Selling offertories in form of animals.

**b) Show how Jesus' ministry is a challenge to man's evasion of God.**

- Jesus encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation
- Jesus warned the Jews against revenge in all circumstances
- Seek knowledge by reading the word of God
- Jews killed him, he challenged them when he resurrected
- He warned them about being anxious about what to eat, drink as pagans
- Jews had denied that Jesus was a son of God.
- Jesus emphasized love even to enemies
- He cleansed temple which was misused by Jews
- Encouraged them to take on baptism
- He challenged them about the proper use of the Sabbath
- Taught the lords' prayer

**3.a) Show how wealth can be the root cause of man's evasion of God.**

- It can lead to sexual immoralities like prostitution, homosexuality
- Those who trust their wealth especially the rich always fail to trust God
- It can bring about death and killing other people which is evasion of God
- It can lead to witchcraft which often bring about untold suffering hence evasion of God
- It leads to corruption in various forms like bribery, embezzlement of funds which is evasion of God
- One can be tempted to steal and commit robbery in an attempt to acquire wealth
- It involves child/human sacrifice at times which is a form of evasion of god
- The desire for wealth can lead one to overwork even on Sundays forgetting to go for prayers
- It involves deceit and at times manipulation for example use of wrong weigh scale gambling.
- It can lead to selling and dealing in drugs like marijuana which are addictive and destructive to those who consume them.

**b) How did the Israelites evade god in the Old Testament**

- They worshipped idols for example the golden calf
- Grabbing of people's property for example King Ahab grabbed Nabboth's vineyard (1Kings 21)
- The Israelites exploited and suppressed their fellow Israelites who were poor, weak for example King Solomon used forced labour.
- In 2 Samuel, King David committed adultery with Bathsheba
- King David also had Uriah killed after taking Bathsheba
- They offered poor sacrifice to God for example Eli's son.
- They disobeyed and killed God's prophets for example the Prophet Elijah time and Jeremiah
- They married foreign women for example King Solomon, King Ahab
- Overtaxing the people of Israelites for example King Solomon
- Through apostasy, the Israelites worshipped the gods of other nations e.g. Baal, Canaanite gods, gods of the Amorites etc.

## **15. INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD**

The universe was created by God and man from the beginning was given a responsibility to be in charge of God's creation.

This theme refers to the Christians active participation in all world affairs so as to make it a better place to live in.

Thus Christians are expected to actively participate in the political, social, spiritual and economic development of society.

## **HOW HAVE CHRISTIANS INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD TODAY?**

### **Political involvement**

- Participating in electing good leaders.
- Standing for different political posts for example members of parliament, etc.
- Studying law and becoming judges so as to promote justice.
- Being members of electoral commission so as to facilitate peaceful voting e.g. sir Magoba.
- Joining different security agencies e.g. Uganda police, UPDF, etc. to promote peace.
- Acting as advisers to the elected leaders.
- Consecrating/dedicating such leaders to God after election.
- Praying for political leaders in their societies.
- Supporting the army and other security agencies financially.
- Condemning political evils done by political leaders.
- Drafting proposals and taking them to authorities during the constitution amendment process.
- Christians look after those people who are in politically insecure areas.

### **Economic involvement**

- Opening up projects to provide people with employment.
- Active participation in business i.e. many Christians have shops, work in markets, etc.
- Condemning corruption and embezzlement of funds.
- Paying of taxes to the government in order to facilitate economic development.
- Applying for jobs in government and international enterprises.
- Giving soft loans to people so as to facilitate investment e.g. centenary bank.
- Collecting taxes for the government.
- Participating in both subsistence and commercial agriculture. E.g. caritas Uganda.
- Electronic media have been started by the church for economic purposes.
- Exploitation and utilization of economic resources.

### **Social involvement**

- Construction of social infrastructures like schools, entertainment centers, hospitals, etc.
- Educating the people in different fields i.e. encouraging church members to become professionals.
- Charity work is done by the Christians helping the needy in society.
- Orphanages have been constructed as well as babies' homes to help the children.
- Entering the music industry by composing songs that up lift people's morals condemning discrimination.
- Forging unity through ecumenical council (joint Christians council)
- Arranging marriage ceremonies among members of the church.
- Sensitizing people on hygiene issues to improve on their health.
- Sex education is given to the youths by the church.
- Organizing games and music, dance and drama competitions among the youth to develop their talents.

- Educating people about their talents directly fighting for the rights of the people in society. E.g. Rev. Kayiso.
- Bringing up children with in the accepted morals of the society.
- Providing counseling and guidance services to members of the community who are facing different life challenges or problems.

### **Spiritual involvement/strengthening**

- Mass preaching; different Christians organize open air crusades for the purpose of transmitting of the good news.
- Catechism; they offer Christian instruction to the young Christians where Christian doctrine is taught.
- Baptism; Christians convert and baptize people in the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit.
- Church sermons; there is regular preaching which takes place in the church so as to strengthen people's faith.
- Building of worship places; Christians contribute money for building spiritual centers in different areas.
- Living exemplary lives; church leaders live as examples in the communities where they work as shepherds and this encourages many people to turn to God.
- Organizing religious seminars and collections so as to keep the lights of Christians burning.
- Encouraging people to repent and turn to God.
- Fasting; Christians have periods when they fast with a purpose of renewing their relationship with God.
- Advocating for equality of all people regardless of age, sex, tribe, etc.
- Performing miracles in Jesus' name where many people are healed from different diseases.
- Charity work is carried out by Christians by showing love and care to the neglected in the society hence redeeming their souls.
- Composing of spiritually strengthening songs and joining church choirs to praise and worship God.
- Joining religious institutions and living a celibate life so as to serve God faithfully.
- Missionary work; different Christians go to other countries as missionaries to spread the word of God.
- Writing religious literature, handouts and translating the bible into different languages to enable people read it for themselves.
- Distributing freely the religious literature and different bible versions to the people.
- Opening up Christian Medias like radios and televisions that help in strengthening of Christian faith.
- Home to home visits are made by Christians and their leaders to encourage the backsliding Christians to have hope in Jesus.
- Encouraging monogamous marriages among members and condemning divorce and well as marital unfaithfulness.
- Administering other sacraments like confirmation and the anointing of the sick.
- Offering both individual and communal prayers so that God can change those who are spiritually sick.

### **ADVANTAGES OF A CHRISTIAN CLUB AT SCHOOL**

- Enable students to come together (unity)
- Students share testimonies about their personal lives
- It promotes discipline among the students
- It enables the school to gain a good name
- It helps students to utilize their leisure time well

- It promotes values of love, forgiveness and reconciliation
- Students fulfill their Christian obligations e.g. baptism, confirmation etc
- Students have opportunities to study the scriptures and understand
- Promotes evangelism
- Promotes talents
- Promotes works of charity
- Promotes leadership skills
- Enables them to pray

### **PROBLEMS THE CHURCH IS FACING WHEN PARTICIPATING IN THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.**

The church is finding difficulty in participating in the development of the society because of the following problems;

- Limited support from the government – government interference
- Shortage of funds, some churches are poor
- Too many areas that require solving – church can't handle all.
- Rigid African culture (marriage examples)
- Political instabilities – church wants to solve a problem in Gulu but there is war.
- Few administrators with limited authority – few priests in regions
- Opposition from non-believers, don't have faith in church, fight and don't support activities.
- Other means of solving the problems like witchcraft.
- Bad examples from religions leaders e.g. pastors accused of homosexuality
- Language barrier
- Permissive; people do what they want, don't care about evils and things like alcoholism are encouraged.
- Rivalry among/between Christian sects
- Science and technology – salves diseases, importance, sex change

### **REASONS FOR THE CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS**

- The church is the light and salt of the world; thus this will help it to guide the people in the world.
- Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and politics needs wise people.
- God is the author of politics because He is the king of kings therefore it is difficult to separate politics from God.
- Christians are also members of the world so being passive in the world activities is unfair.
- Christians are peace makers so they are expected to promote peace and freedom by participating in politics.
- God works on world affairs e.g. Exodus 3 calling Moses to liberate the Jews.
- The church has a role of spreading the gospel to all the people including politicians.
- God's people like Samuel participate and performed well.
- In the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah and Nathan acted as advisers to the kings and were not blamed.
- Man as God's creature must be guided if he goes astray which is done by the church.
- Christians are also human beings with rights to participate in politics.
- Corrupt people cannot do well except Christians.
- The church is given a responsibility to serve which it must fulfill.

- For the purpose of promoting love in the whole world, the church should participate in politics.
- It will help to unite the people in the world.
- Jesus judged cases fairly than other judges e.g. a woman caught in the act of adultery, so Christians can act as fair judges.

### **WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS?**

- The whole church stands high chances of persecution.
- This might delay the spread of the gospel because of taking much time in politics.
- Politics involves blood shed i.e. telling people which is against the law of God.
- Politicians hate the truth while Christians must profess the truth. So a Christian might become a liar.
- A Christian may be influenced and become money minded which can affect one's faith.
- In politics, hypocrisy is at the highest peak which is condemned by Christianity.
- God separated religious institutions from political institutions because of dangers He realized e.g. He appointed Saul as the first king.
- Politics divides people instead of uniting them but Christianity is only to ring people together.
- Politicians violate human rights which a Christian is expected to do.
- The church is more concerned with the spiritual welfare not physical welfare as politicians are.
- Politics leads to hatred but Christians are expected to love their enemies too.
- Jesus was persecuted and killed because the politicians feared that He had come to take up their offices.
- Sometimes politicians are oppressive
- Jesus said "No man can serve two masters at the same time", what belongs to God". So religious leaders belong to God's service
- Even if people expected Jesus to be a political leader, he refused

### **ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

This is the committee which brings together most of the recognized Christians sects.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- They have formed interdenominational organizations like scripture union, bible society, etc.
- It has translated the bible into different languages through the bible society involving priests, reverends and lay men and women.
- They have joined together in fighting corruption especially in public offices.
- They have jointly sensitized people against the dangers of AIDS.
- They have jointly welcomed international church leaders like the pope, bishop of Canterbury.
- They have formalized marriages between members of different churches.
- They have carried out joint prayers for the nation and on holy days e.g. good Friday (way of the cross).
- They have carried out joint peace talks and acted as mediators between government and rebels.
- They have solved conflicts among members arising from issues pertaining the doctrines of faith.
- They have jointly developed the syllabus of Christian religious education which is being used in the schools.
- They have been involved in joint elections monitoring under Uganda joint Christian council.
- They have jointly fought against witchcraft and witch doctors as well as the believers in African traditional religion.
- Establishing and treating patients in some hospitals without discrimination. E.g. joint medical store at Nsambya established by the joint Christian council.

## **HOW JOSHUA CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAELITE COMMUNITY**

Joshua means God saves

- Joshua Ben nun was from the tribe of Ephraim among the 12 tribes of Israel
- He was the second person to lead the Jewish people in their early history after Moses who gave him the training as his successor
- He became leader of Israelites after Moses after they had entered Canaan and up to the time of Priest Samuel, Israel had not got a leader like Joshua.
- When the Israel were attacked by the Amalekites immediately after crossing the red sea, he led the counter attacks to defeat the enemy and subsequently became Moses' assistance/military leader as well as religious leader.
- In numbers 13 – 14, he was one of the chosen member from the Ephraim clan among the twelve leaders who went to scout and spy Canaan land but on returning, the 10 members said they could not conquer Canaan but Joshua and Caleb said praise the Lord, it is possible for us to do it and after 40 years it was Joshua and Caleb remaining to see Israelites conquering Canaan up to Ai
- He captured the city of Jericho and eventually the whole land of Canaan. The Jericho City was just surrounded and Israelites walked around it and it collapsed.
- Joshua married from the family of Rahab, the harlots who housed spies in for Joshua in the city of Jericho.
- He made peace talks and treaties with those who were willing to leave the city of Jericho like the tribe of Gibeonite (Joshua 9 -10)
- He was exemplary and set his family as a model in worship Yahweh
- He presided over the convent renewal at shechem
- Served as a priest
- He prayed to God to continue manifesting himself to Israel hence it was in times of Moses
- He a partitioned land to the twelve tribes of Israel upon reaching the promised land.
- He led the people in renewing the covenant God had made with their ancestors at Mt. Sinai.

## **HOW THE PROPHETS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DAY TO DAY OF RUNNING OF THE ISRAEL**

- Through acting as mediators between God and people. Moses took people's complaints to God and returned God's response.
- Through encouraging people to repent and turn away from their sins (Jonah went Nineveh)
- Settling disputes amongst people so as to create peace and unity in society.
- Appointed leaders like kings who guided and controlled affairs of society. For example, Samuel appointed David and Elisha appointed Jehu to replace Ahab.
- Delivering them from oppression and exploitation Moses delivered Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.
- Performed miracles which increased people's faith in God Elijah showed that his God was the almighty against Baal by calling fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice, Elisha fed people with only 100 loaves of bread.
- Received instructions (laws) from God to guide people on how to live according to God's expectations. Moses received the 10 commandments
- Led people to victory in war, and challenging situations like Moses and Joshua against Amalekites at Rephidim Exodus 17:8-16
- Acted as political leaders in society.
- Interceded and pleaded with God to forgive the Israelites when they turned away from God. For example, Amos interceded for the people of Israel to be saved from disaster.
- Gave message of hope to people which encouraged them when they had given up in life



- Punished the wrong doers who misled society Elijah killed 450 prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18:1-40 page 342-343 Good News
- Warned the kings and people to enable them make proper and sound decisions. Kings 22:1-28 Prophet Micaiah warns Ahab not to go into war with the Syrians to capture Ramoth from the Syrians.

### **HOW MOSES INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF HIS SOCIETY**

- Accepting God's call to be his spokesman
- Liberating the Israel
- Miracle working
- He was involved in leadership roles
- He was a mediator between God and man
- He was a prophet, he delivered God's message
- As a priest he helped to guide and lead Israelites in their prayers
- He was an intercessor
- He was a law maker
- He was a judge, he settled cases and disputes
- He wrote the Torah
- He helped in shaping the moral conduct of the people

### **HOW JESUS GOT INVOLVED IN THE WORLD**

- Jesus preached the good news of the arrival of the kingdom of God and changed many people.
- He acted as a physician by healing the sick from different diseases e.g. the leper, the paralyzed, those with demons, etc.
- He associated with all categories of people i.e. Gentiles, Jews, tax collectors hence uniting them.
- Jesus forgave the sinners e.g. the paralyzed man in the gospel of Mark.
- He participated in community feasts and ceremonies e.g. the wedding at Cana.
- Religiously, He interpreted scriptures e.g. at the age of 12, He was found in the temple interpreting scriptures.
- He solved differences thus acting as a judge e.g. the case of adulterous woman, John 8.
- He paid temple tax thus contributing to the income of the community, Matthew 17:24-27
- He encouraged people to pay to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.
- He brought order in worshipping places e.g. Jesus cleansed the temple.
- He comforted the grieved e.g. visited Mary and Martha when their brother Lazarus had died.
- Participation in religious celebrations e.g. the Passover which He turned into the Lord's Supper.
- By involving Himself in changing the parts of the mosaic that were oppressive to the people e.g. that law of retribution.
- By getting involved in the communal and personal prayer e.g. would go to synagogues on the Sabbath and he also went to a solitary place to pray. Mark 1:35.
- He accepted to redeem the world by dying on the cross.
- He washed His disciples' feet.
- By feeding the people who were hungry. E.g. Mark 6:35-44, the feeding of 5000 men.

### **STEPS TAKEN BY THE CHURCH TO BRING UNITY AMONG CHRISTIANS**

- A common CRE syllabus which is interdenominational has been made
- Formation of joint Christian council has been encouraged and the common stand has been taken by all churches.
- Ecumenical movements have started with the aim of bringing unity among churches; they hold joint prayers and have common leadership.

- Intermarriages among Christians have been accepted.
- They make joint pilgrimages to holy places.
- The joint Christian medical center which comprises of all Christian denominations has been set up with a common goal to provide medical care.
- Churches participate in writing and translating of the scriptures and distributing them to Christians.
- All Christians do recognize all church leaders and usually come to listen to their preaching.
- All Christians provide services to the community such as banking services by centenary rural development bank.
- Use of Christian songs for different denominations during worship has been encouraged.
- Joint fundraising for social projects like helping refugees
- Set up schools which admits children from all denominations
- Exchange of preachers between different churches.

**1. a) Giving specific examples, show that the Church in the modern society supports country's economic development?**

- Setup many schools both Primary and Secondary for example Uganda Martyrs S.S Namugongo, Girls and boys Uganda Martyr's Namugongo for money making projects.
- Setup many universities for example Uganda Martyr's Nkozi, Ndejje University, Uganda Christian University Mukono all are money making projects.
- Setup banks for example Centenary bank for Catholics for making money.
- Setup book shops for example Uganda bookshop for Anglicans, St. Paul and Marianum bookshop for Catholics, Maranath Printery for the Adventists-Printer.
- Setup many hospitals for example Nsambya Hospital for the Anglicans, Lubaga Hospital for the Catholics all money making projects.
- Setup many Radios for example Radio Maria for Catholics, Impact Radio for Born Again, Prime Radio for the SDA's all are money making projects.
- Setup many Televisions for example Top Television for the Born Again, Channel 44, Rubaga Miracle Centre all are money making projects.

**b) Show how the Apostles got involved in the World after the Pentecostal day**

- They healed people/sick / miracles.
- Preached the gospel.
- Prayed to God.
- Did charity works.
- Created peace, Justice and Unity.
- Paid taxes.
- Built Churches.
- Wrote gospels / letters.
- Converted many people (Baptized)
- Public debates in defending gospel.
- Settled conflicts.

Celebrate Eucharist