

STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL ZZANA

S.2 CRE 223 NOTES

Instructions; Read and write these notes please.

LEISURE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Leisure in the New Testament is based on the life, preaching or examples of Jesus Christ. Christ recognized the rhythm of life and pointed out that life is more important than work. The main ideas about leisure in the new Testament include the following;

- (i) Jesus recognized the importance of having some rest from work. He called on His disciples to leave the crowd for a lonely place. This came before His miraculous act of feeding five thousand people from five loaves and two fish (Mark 6:31ff).
- (ii) Jesus observed the Sabbath. He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath in order to fulfill the requirement of the Jewish custom (Luke 4:1-6).
- (iii) Jesus corrected the Sabbath rest that had already been misunderstood to fit human needs. The Jews had introduced many petty regulations restricting the observation of the Sabbath, which had imposed a lot of burden onto people. Christ criticizes this and points out that Sabbath was made for man but not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27).
- (iv) Jesus had private retreats during His free time. He isolated himself and prayed to God (Mark 1:35 and Luke 6:12).
- (v) Jesus had time for fellowship. He enjoyed having meals with his disciples after finishing preaching (Mark 6:35-44).
- (vi) Jesus visited His friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus during his free time. He feasted with them during this visitation (Luke 10:38).
- (vii) Jesus attended social parties. He had a feast in the house of Levi together with other tax collectors (Luke 5:29). In John 2:1, He attended a wedding at Cana from where he performed His first of the miracle of changing water into wine.
- (viii) Jesus enjoyed the company of children during His free time. He played with them freely in his arms and pointed out that the Kingdom of heaven belongs to people innocent like them (Luke 18:16).
- (ix) Jesus explained parables during his free time. This was because his followers had failed to understand the parables he used during preaching. He took time to clarify the meaning of his parables including that of the sower and the tenants (Mark 4:13-20 and Matthew 25:14-30).
- (x) Jesus also enjoyed stories during his free time. For example, he conversed with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:1ff), Nicodemus (John 3:1ff) and with his friends like Mary and Martha.
- (xi) Jesus performed many miracles during his free time. In Mark 3:1-5, the man with a paralyzed hand got healed. He also raised Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:38-42).
- (xii) Jesus also took time to explain how leisure was to be enjoyed. He emphasized the need for humility, hospitality and respect for one another while enjoying leisure (Luke 14:7ff).

- (xiii) Jesus called on his disciples to rest in him urging them to believe in him and take his example as they try to find the final and everlasting rest from the burden of their heavy load (Matthew 11:28-29).

JESUS' UNDESTANDING OF THE SABBATH (Mark 2:23 – 28)

By the time Jesus begun his ministry, the Sabbath had become inhuman. It was no longer serving ones of its original purposes of helping people to enjoy rest and freedom and grow together in peace and trust.

The Jewish religious authority insisted on many petty regulations or laws that had to be observed on the Sabbath day. There were thirty – nine (39) types of work that had to be avoided including lighting fire, clapping hands and walking long distances among others.

It was at this point that Jesus criticized the way the Sabbath was being observed. He declared that “the Sabbath was made for man, but not man for the Sabbath”. By this statement, Jesus meant that;

- Man had to enjoy rest and worship God on the Sabbath day.
- Man had to enjoy his freedom on the Sabbath day instead of being enslaved.
- Man had to fellowship with God and grow together in peace and trust.
- Man had to reflect on God's creation and appreciate nature.
- Man had to praise and thank God for His goodness.
- Man had to share the fruits of their labour with each other.
- Man had to preach the good news and bring each other closer to God and fellow man.
- Man had to read and meditate on the biblical texts on the day of rest.

How can a Christian use his or her free time constructively?

1. Christians should visit his or her friends, especially during anytime. Jesus also visited his friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
2. A Christian should attend social parties like weddings and graduations. Jesus also attended a wedding party at Cana (John 2:1).
3. A Christian should spend his or her free time praying just as Jesus isolated himself and prayed in a lonely place (Mark 1:35).
4. Christians can spend leisure by making pilgrimage. Jesus visited Jerusalem as a holy place (Mark 11:1ff).
5. A Christian should spend his or her time telling and enjoying stories. Jesus enjoyed stories with the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus. He also enjoyed the use of parables. (John 4:1ff and 3:1ff).
6. A Christian should relax during his or her free time. Jesus also relaxed in quiet places.
7. A Christian can spend leisure by helping the needy such as the sick, orphans, widows and the lame.

8. A Christian can also spend the leisure by celebrating important religious festivals such as Christmas and Palm Sundays. Jesus observed the Sabbath day (Luke 4:16).
9. A Christian can spend leisure by preaching the good news just as Jesus preached during his ministry (Mark 6:2).
10. A Christian can have fellowship during his or her leisure. Jesus shared meals with his disciples during free time. (Mark 6:35-44).
11. Reading and interpreting the scriptures can also be a way through which a Christian can spend leisure.
12. Christians can praise and worship God during leisure. This can be through songs and hymns.
13. A Christian can use his or her free time by reconciling conflict among people by encouraging the spirit of togetherness.
14. A Christian can utilize his or her free time doing some homework. Jesus also helped his parents with domestic work.
15. A Christian can spend leisure chatting and playing with children. Jesus freely played with children in his arms and pointed that the kingdom of heaven belongs to them (Luke 16:18).
16. A Christian can share his or her experiences with others during leisure. This can be through group discussions or seminars.
17. A Christian can watch constructive films or drama during leisure.
18. A Christian can involve himself in church activities such as choir, cleaning the inside and the surrounding.

JUSTICE IN SOCIETY

What is justice?

Defining justice takes into consideration the following:

- Treating people fairly and having things run in an orderly way in the society.
- Doing what is right, fair and well deserved to oneself and others.
- Taking into consideration the interests of everyone in deciding what to do or running the affairs of the community.
- Acting in accordance to the requirements of the laws in a given society.
- Treating others fairly and giving what owed to them\

In all, justice means having the quality of being fair or treating a person, an institution or the society humanely.

In the understanding and administration of justice, the issues of laws and human rights are very important and must be observed if justice is to be achieved.

TYPES OF JUSTICE

Distributive or economic justice

This refers to giving to all members of the society a fair share of the benefits and resources available so that human needs are met.

Procedural justice

This refers to fairness in deciding what to be done or distributed among members of the society. It can also mean making and implementing decisions according to fair processes that ensure fair treatment of each individual.

Restoration or corrective justice

This refers to fairness in putting situations right or back to normal. It is concerned with healing the victim's injuries, restoring the offenders to a law abiding lives and repainting the harm done to the inter personal relationships and community.

Retributive justice

This refers to seeking revenge so that one can fill the satisfaction of seeing another suffer in the same way he or she could have suffered. In other words, it means treating a person the same way he or she treats others.

Legal justice

This is concerned with the observation of the rules and regulations governing a society. It puts into consideration the laws of the society and how they are followed.

Commutative justice

This involves fairness in following an agreement made between two individuals between an individual and a group or between two groups.

Moral justice

This is fairness to one's own life, particularly his or her behavior in the society. It is concerned with the dos and don'ts of society.

Social justice

This refers to fairness that applies to the structures, systems and the laws of the society so that people's rights are observed.

JUSTICE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

The need for justice in modern world cannot be over emphasized. Looking at different societies, there are sets of rules and regulations that are followed in an attempt to promote good relationship among the people.

EFFORT BY UGANDA GOVERNEMENT IN PROMOTING JUSTICE TODAY

1. The Uganda government is giving full support to women liberation struggle such that they may realise their full rights. This comes from the fact that women had for long been considered inferior to men.
2. The Uganda government has put in place children's statute. There are laws to ensure that children are protected from ill treatment.
3. The government has put in place human rights commission. This commission protects against and investigates human rights abuses.
4. The government has promoted a relatively independent court of law. The decisions taken by the courts of law are respected as much as possible without interference.
5. The government has put in place the anti-corruption bodies such as Inspector General of Government (IGG), Auditor General and Public Accounts Committee (PAC). These bodies are there to ensure that public facilities are not mishandled.
6. The government has promoted a free mass media. This has made it possible for people to get access to information both internal and international.
7. The parliament of Uganda is also relatively free from interference by other branches of government. This has enabled people to express their views through their representatives on important issues governing themselves.
8. The government is equipping the security organs like the police, army and prison. This is helping in ensuring peace and harmony among people.
9. The government has also promoted constitutional governance of the country. The 1995 constitution stands as the supreme law of Uganda upon which decisions are made. This is protecting people from unlawful harassment.
10. The Uganda government recognizes the institution of the traditional leaders like kings and chiefs. This is helping in preserving the cultural heritage of some societies like Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro.

11. The government is promoting decentralization of power in its administration. Power has been transferred from central government to the local units. This has promoted easy access to the services of the leaders at the different levels of administration.
12. The government has also gone ahead to protect the consumers from being exposed to low quality, dangerous goods and over charging. This has been made possible through the foundation of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).
13. The Uganda government has put in place and equipped institutions to support people with disabilities like the deaf and the lame. For example, the Uganda National Institute for Special Needs Education (U.N.I.S.E).
14. Amnesty is being given to former rebels like the returnees of the lord's resistance army, a rebel group under the leadership of Joseph Kony based in northern Uganda. This has encouraged reconciliation in the country. Even the war atrocities are being reduced thus promoting relative peace.
15. The government has been and still in the forefront sensitizing the public about their rights. This is to ensure that people are not ignorant of the laws protecting them from mistreatment.
16. The Uganda government has liberalized its economy. Some resources are now in the hands of the private individuals. This has encouraged equal sharing of wealth.
17. The government has promoted free education especially under universal primary and secondary education. Even in higher institutions owned by government, certain percentage of students is sponsored. This has enabled people of different backgrounds to have equal access to education.

OBSTACLES IN PROMOTING JUSTICE

1. The commercialization of justice has made it difficult for people to be treated fairly. The poor people who cannot afford to pay the required cash may be victimized innocently.
2. There is too much ignorance among people. Some people commit crimes without knowing and others deliberately do it. This hinders the effective ways of promoting the desired justice.
3. There is also poor investigation by the officers concerned. This leaves out a lot of cases of injustices unsettled thus making the individuals to continue with their suffering.
4. Political instability hinders the work of the officers in charge of promoting justice. The officers may decline carrying out their duties because of fear of losing their lives. This exposes people to a lot injustices.
5. The high level of poverty among the people makes it difficult for justice to be promoted. Some people commit crimes continuously because of the poor standards of living. This may explain why there is an increasing rate of corruption and robbery.
6. Weaknesses within the state laws make it difficult for justice to be executed. On a number of occasions, criminals have been set free. This gives them the chance to

- exploit such weaknesses and commit more crimes. Other people may also be influenced to do the same.
7. The existing level of permissiveness has created more room for people to commit more crimes. People exploit this freedom to do whatever they want without considering the bad effects on others.
 8. The free mass media has instead produced materials that affect people's morality negatively. For example, the watching of the war films is responsible for violence and hooliganism among the youth. This is because they tend to copy whatever they watch. This makes it difficult for justice to be maintained.
 9. Political interference hinders the promotion of justice. This is true in cases where government has much influence over the judiciary. In such cases, the executive branch of government may not respect the decisions taken in the courts of law. This exposes the common man to a lot of injustices.
 10. The high level of corruption and bribery may also block any method employed in maintaining justice. Public facilities are being used to satisfy the selfish aims of a few individuals. Criminals may also be shielded on the claims that their files have "disappeared" or "misplaced".
 11. Cultural rigidities are also problems in the maintenance of justice. Much as some of the traditional customs do subject people to injustices, the law cannot over rule them. This means that people would continue being exposed to such injustices because of following their cultures. A case in point is the genital female mutilation among the Sebei people.
 12. There is also lack of co-operation and co-ordination among the people. This makes it difficult for the administrators of justice to carry out their duties of not only arresting but also punishing the offenders.
 13. Emphasis on legal procedures such as demanding for eyewitnesses may also hinder the maintenance of justice. This may explain the cause of the delay in judging cases, which instead subjects people to more injustices.

INJUSTICES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

As already noted injustice means a break down in relationship among people. Today, there are so many cases where people are failing to relate to one another including the following;

1. There is oppression and exploitation of workers by the different employers. This is being done in many ways including little payment, over working and late or no payment at all among others.
2. Women are also being suppressed in the male dominated society. There is a tendency to look at them as inferior. Because of this attitude, some are abused sexually in different ways like rape, defilement and polygamous marriages among others.
3. Child abuse is another form of injustice common today. Some children are victims of strenuous work, rejection by their parents and corporal punishments among others. All these affect the children negatively.

4. Justice today has been commercialized. It depends on the ability to pay some cash. This is an injustice to the poor who cannot pay. Therefore, they may be innocently victimized.
5. Mob justice is very common today. The crowd being driven by emotion tends to execute justice without following any legal procedure. This may result into various problems including hatred, bodily injury, murder and public humiliation among others hence being unfair.
6. Cases of marital unfaithfulness are common today. Some married couples are failing to keep their vows. Consequently, they get involved in adultery, divorce and prostitution. This is being unfair to the partner.
7. Defilement is another form of injustice today. In this case, an adult chooses to have sexual relation with the under age who is not ready for such an affair.
8. Cases of rape are also common today. This is an injustice because the sexual satisfaction is attained without the consent of one partner. It is also associated with bodily injury and death among others as a result of using force.
9. Some women today do practice abortion. The fetus is deliberately removed from the womb before it is capable of independent living. This is itself murder and therefore an injustice.
10. There is bullying in different institutions such as schools and work places. The new comers in such places are teased in different ways like beating, insulting and even grabbing their belongings. This may put the victims in tension and fear. The victim therefore robbed of the expected freedom.
11. Some employers practice nepotism. They favour their relatives or friends while giving jobs even when they are not qualified. This is being unfair to those having these required qualifications.
12. The practice of tribalism is also common in different work premises. The bosses do favour their own tribesmates in areas like promotion, salaries and even giving the job itself. Non-tribesmates are therefore left to suffer.
13. There is an increased case of murder and killing of innocent people. Even when one has committed an offense, killing is not a punishment because one is deprived of his or her life.
14. Robbery common today is an injustice. This is where an individual's property is removed by force. It is also associated with a lot of torture, which may eventually lead to death. This deprives the victims of the right of using such property.
15. Strike common in different institutions is an injustice. It is associated with a lot of destructions that breaks the relationship among people. It is also unlawful means of expressing discontent.
16. Corruption and bribery common in work places is also an injustice. The public facilities that could have benefited all people and end up being used by a few. This leaves the rest of the population to suffer.

INJUSTICES AGAISNT WOMEN IN UGANDA TODAY

1. Women are over loaded with domestic duties such as cooking, bathing children, washing plates and clothes among others. Whereas the women are carrying out such duties, the men simply sit and watch with the belief that they are the natural duties of women.
2. Some women are subjected to polygamous marriages. They are forced to share a man against their will. This is still because some men believe that it is their natural right to marry many wives. On the contrary, the men cannot allow sharing a woman.
3. Men subject some women to beating. In some societies, beating women is still considered as a way of disciplining and therefore normal. Women on the other hand are not allowed to beat men because it is regarded as abnormal.
4. Some men look at women as sex objects. This means that they are simply there to satisfy the men's sexual desires without any hesitation. This may explain the common cases of defilement, rape and the support being given to prostitution.
5. Women in some societies are still subjected to some food taboos. They are not allowed to eat certain types of food like eggs, fish, pork and chicken among others without any reason. This denies women the chance of eating such nutritious foods. This may leave them vulnerable to diseases.
6. Women are still being divorced with the society looking on as being normal. They may not even be given the chance to defend themselves. Because of that public humiliation, the divorced women may become social misfits. This limits their socialization with other people making them to live in isolation.
7. In some communities, inheritance of widows is still upheld. Either the brother or the uncle of the deceased husband is bound to take over the wife with the belief that she is the property of that family. This humiliates the women since they are not given the chance to resist.
8. Some women are being denied the chance to inherit their father's property in the event of death or old age. Property such as land, houses, and cattle among others are given only to the sons. This is because of the belief that the daughters are not part of the family since they would be married elsewhere.
9. Some women are denied family headship. Their position in the family affairs is relatively low with the men enjoying higher status. The men are considered superior, and therefore given much respect.
10. In some communities, women are forced into marriages. This is being carried because of the desire for material benefits such as cattle, money and goat among others. The women are therefore treated unfairly by denying them the chance of making their own choices.
11. In the political field, women are disadvantaged. Some are not allowed to participate freely without being criticized. Some men cannot allow their wives to contest for an election or even to vote for candidates of their own choice.

12. In some cultures, women are still being regarded as a source of misfortune. They are always blamed for the bad events such as childlessness, and undisciplined children among others.
13. The demand for expensive bride wealth is instead an injustice. It reduces a woman's status to that of a mere commodity simply being sold and bought. It also subjects some women to mistreatment.
14. Some parents prefer educating sons to daughters. This leaves the girls as illiterates rendering them helpless to improve on their standards of living in the future. Consequently, this makes them unable to come out men's oppression.
15. Women are also being discriminated in the field of work. In most cases, promotions and highly placed appointments are given to men. Some employers look at women as being weak and unreliable especially during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse refers to the ill treatment or mistreatment of a child by either the parents or any adult. In such a case, the child is treated as if he or she is capable of an independent living. This denies the victim the chance of enjoying his or her childhood.

In Uganda, children's rights are being abused in the following ways;

1. Some parents or guardians tend to under feed their children. They are either given little food intentionally or not given completely. This leaves such children weak and malnourished. This may also explain some children begin stealing.
2. Some children are over worked at home. They are assigned difficult tasks, which even require an adult to do. For example, digging large pieces of land and laying bricks among others. This leaves such children restless which instead affects their normal growth.
3. Some parents reject some children as if they are not their true blood. Such children are chased away from homes. This exposes them to a lot of suffering. They may become social misfits since they do not know their homes.
4. Some children are victims of corporal punishments. Even when they have committed lighter offences, they are severely punished like serious beating, burning their hands or denying them food.
5. Some children have always been victims of defilement. Mature partners tend to lure them into sexual intercourse. This is particularly true with girls who are easily taken up by love even if it is not genuine. This is a sexual abuse because they are not ready for such an act.
6. Children are also being raped. They are forced into sexual intercourse using violent means. This is an abuse of their rights because it does not only ignore their consent but it also involves a lot of bodily injuries.
7. Some children are denied the chance of being educated. The parents not only fail to give them some basic knowledge in an informal way but also fail to pay them in schools. This keeps such children as illiterates for the rest of their lives.

8. In some cases, children are forced into marriages. This is the case with parents who tends to arrange for the marriage without the knowledge of their sons and daughters. All this is done against the will of the child hence robbing them the freedom and enjoyment in their marriage lives.
9. Devil worshippers today sacrifice some children. Such children are killed and given to the ancestral spirits as a way of pleasing them. It is also believed that their blood can prevent misfortune from occurring. This is being unfair, no one deserves the right to end another's life.
10. The ever-increasing cases of child parenting are an abuse to children's rights. Most parents have the tendency of leaving the younger children under the care of either house girls or the elder children. This is common with working parents. Children under this category may end up lacking parental care and love.
11. Some children are exposed to pornographic materials. This affects their morality negatively. It can easily make them to begin engaging in sexual practices before they are capable of doing so.
12. Some children are denied medical attention. Even when they are sick, they are given little attention or no attention at all. This leaves them sickly, which may eventually result into death.
13. Children are being abused by leaving them homeless. The existence of street kids can best explain this state of affair. Such children are exposed to a lot of vices like illegal sex, drug abuse and gambling among others.
14. Child labour is also on the increase. Employing such children to support either themselves or other members of the family puts them at a risk of being oppressed and exploited.

MOB JUSTICE

Mob justice refers to a situation where an emotional crowd of people administer punishment for a crime committed without following any legal procedures. The suspected criminal(s) may be punished by being stoned, burnt alive and stripped naked among others.

CAUSES OF MOBSUTICE

1. Ignorance of the existing law by the emotional crowd of people. Such people may not know that the state law is against such an act. Others may simply choose not to follow the law intentionally so as to fulfill their selfish aim of punishing the suspected criminal.
2. Lawlessness or anarchy, especially during political instability. Because of this, the morals of the people tend to degenerate. People may therefore behave in any way including taking the laws in their hands to punish the suspect.
3. Mob justice is also caused by excessive drug abuse like taking marijuana, cocaine and opium. People acting under the influence of such drugs may lack proper judgment and the sense of humanity. Therefore, they are capable of taking the law in their hands and punish anybody suspected to have committed an offence.

4. Corruption or bribery in the judiciary common today is causing mob justice. This is brought about by people seeing criminals being defended, set free and their files being claimed to have disappeared. This may discourage people from following any legal procedures when handling suspected criminals.
5. Mob justice is being caused by the high temper or uncontrolled emotion of some people. People under this category cannot act justly even when a small mistake is done because they get annoyed so easily. This means that they can also easily punish anybody suspected to be a criminal without regard to the law.
6. Mob justice is at times carried out as a preventive measure of stopping more criminal activities from being committed. Punishing suspected criminals is meant to act as a living example and a warning to those who may be doing or have the intention of doing the same.
7. Neglect of duty or conspiracy by the police may also cause mob justice. This is true if the police is failing to execute its duties of arresting criminals. This gives the chance to the people who are already tired with such crimes to rise up and punish the suspect in self-defense.
8. Mob justice may be carried out as a means of destroying the evidence of a crime committed from being known. This is true in cases where other criminals are aware that the arrest and the prosecution of one or two criminals would reveal the truth their identities. Such criminals can easily instigate mob justice.
9. Mob justice may be caused by the delay in judging cases in the courts of law. Such delays could take place to the disadvantaged and frustrated people. Such people are reliable not to follow any legal procedure in case another suspect is arrested.
10. Mob justice can also be caused by idleness. As the saying goes, “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop”, idlers can easily influence other people to administer a punishment for a crime committed with the false belief of being occupied.
11. In some cases, mob justice is caused by the influence of the mass media like radio, television and newspapers among others. As such media expose the weaknesses of the government in handling criminal cases, they eventually sharpen the minds of the general public and plants aggressiveness onto them. This leads to loss of trust in the government thus giving the people the chance to do whatever they want including mob justice.
12. Mob justice may be as a result of loss of respect for the authorities. In this case, even when the authorities are against such an act, the people are always not ready to listen to them. They can even organize mob justice intentionally to show that the authorities are too weak to control the affairs of the community.
13. Mob justice is being caused by inadequate facilities like transport and financial resources. For example, it may be costly to transport the suspected criminals to the nearby police stations. In such a situation, the already emotional crowd is left with no option other than punishing the suspect.
14. Mob justice is being caused by the absent of the religious virtues among people. People are driven into unjust actions like beating and stoning among others because

they lack religious values such as forgiveness, love, kindness, honesty and patience among others.

REASONS WHY MOB JUSTICE IS AN INJUSTICE

1. Mob justice does not give the victims the chance of defending themselves. One may therefore be punished innocently when he or she is simply a suspect.
2. Mob justice may cause permanent bodily injuries onto the suspect. This violates the rights of the suspect of being treated fairly.
3. Mob justice humiliates the suspect publicly. This makes the suspect lose respect from the public making him or her a social misfit.
4. Mob justice destroys the evidence the police needs from the suspect especially in the event of death. This blocks the smooth carrying out of investigation.
5. Mob justice may be instigated by personal differences, which does not even affect the public interest. The victim is therefore accused falsely.
6. Mob justice does not respect the laws of the land. It is an illegal practice since the laws that are meant to create good relationships are ignored.
7. Mob justice may result in the death of the suspect. This instead becomes a murder and therefore an injustice as no one deserves the right to end another's life.
8. Mob justice is not subjected to any authority. This makes it an injustice because no one is held responsible for the action.
9. Mob justice may create permanent hatred and the heart of revenge among people. This makes life in the community increasingly insecure. People are therefore deprived of happiness in their daily activities.
10. Mob justice defiles the good intention of punishments, which are meant to correct the culprit. One may be punished innocently without knowing the reason properly. This does not give the chance to the individual to change his or her conduct for the better.
11. Mob justice does not take into consideration the nature of the offense committed. Both major and minor offenses are given the same punishment. This is unfair to the one who could have committed a minor offense like stealing food compared to one who has murdered.
12. Mob justice undermines the work of the judges who are officially responsible for pronouncing judgment and punishment for a crime committed.

THE EFFORT OF THE CHURCH IN FIGHTING INJUSTICES TODAY

1. The church has built homes for the disadvantaged people such as the poor, orphans and the disabled. For example, Sanyu babies home at Mengo, the Bakateyamba at Nalukolongo all in Kampala. All these places provide their members with the basic needs such as education, food, shelter and medical care among others.
2. The church has set up organizations to fight injustices. Among others, Uganda Christian Joint Council (UJCC) is playing an important role of fighting injustices such as arbitrary arrest, corruption and rigging of elections among other things.
3. The church has been and still holding peace talks in an effort to reconcile conflicting parties. For example, the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace initiative (ARLPI) has for a long time been negotiating peaceful settlement of the conflict between the Uganda government and the lord's resistance army (LRA) – a rebel group under the leadership of Joseph Kony in Northern Uganda.
4. The church is trying to and living an exemplary life. This has been and is important in influencing the followers to also do the same.
5. The church provides guidance and counselling services to the people with problems. This is helping to rehabilitate the lives of the people who could have been subjected to injustices such as rape, defilement and arbitrary arrest among others.
6. The church has also stood up to condemn any form of injustices. It speaks against any unjust situations and points out the need for people to live in peace and harmony.
7. In some case, the church organizes and carries out demonstrations against injustices. This is conducted to express discontent for the existing state of affairs. It is aimed at making the offenders realise the injuries they are causing onto others.
8. The church preaches the Christian ideals of love, forgiveness and patience among others to exist among people. It points the need for people to live together as children of God in peace and harmony.
9. The church is also on the forefront providing employment to people of different backgrounds without discrimination. This is helping to keep people away from idleness one of the causes of injustices.
10. The church has always prayed for the instigators of and about the injustices people are undergoing through. This has helped in reducing the level of injustices.
11. The church has always and is still extending financial assistance to people who are constrained. This is important in reducing the level of poverty and its associated problems like corruption, famine and robbery among others.
12. The church has also been and still instrumental in the foundation and funding of the youth and women associations. These include Young Christian Society (YCS), Mothers Unions, Scripture Union, Young Christian Women Association (YCWA). Through these associations, people are brought together and given basic life skills.
13. The church has always preached equality of all human beings. This is based on the ground that all are created in God's image. This has helped some people to treat each other with respect and human dignity.

THE UNDERSTANDING (ADMINISTRATION) OF JUSTICE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

In African traditional society, it was believed that God gave the first man some morals in the beginning. They believed that these morals were meant to guard human relationship from breaking up so as to ensure peaceful living.

Because of this, the Africans remained keen and strict ensuring, promoting and maintaining justice as explained below.

1. There existed local courts which were made up of influential people like chiefs, clan leaders and elders. They had the responsibility of reconciling people.
2. However, there were no written laws to be followed. Decisions were therefore based on the existing customs.
3. The positions of the kings were autonomous. No one could question his authority. This meant that the decisions were final.
4. Public resources like land were owned communally. The interest of the community was most catered for to ensure fairness.
5. Taboos equally guarded human relationships. These were the dos and the don'ts of the society.
6. Social harmony was encouraged among the people. This was through team work and living as one people.
7. Effort was made to treat everybody equally. They therefore struggled to ensure that no one was given special attention at the expense of others.
8. Judgement was flexible. It depended on the circumstances of the time. An offender could be pardoned in times of peace and punished harshly during difficult times.
9. Everyone was encouraged to respect and observe the customs and norms of the society. This was intended to ensure peace and stability.
10. Consensus was encouraged in the events of disagreement. This meant that people with disagreements were encouraged to sit together and sort out their differences.
11. Reconciliation and forgiveness was encouraged. This was done in presence of leaders like chiefs and the tribal elders.
12. People were encouraged to compensate for any wrong doing. This was aimed at amending broken relationship.
13. Offenders were required to confess their mistakes in public. They had to promise that they would never repeat the same mistakes.
14. Purification rights were carried out. This involved cleaning of an offender from his or her sins aimed at avoiding punishment from the ancestral spirits.
15. Sanctions were passed on wrong doers. They were forbidden or restricted from some community functions and activities.

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. How was justice promoted and maintained in African tradition society?**
Qn.2. Explain justice as understood and worked out in traditional Africa.
Qn.3. Explain the understanding of justice in the African past.

INJUSTICES IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Injustice refers to a breakdown of relationship among people. It can also mean being unfair to one another. In short, it means causing injury to the interests of other people.

In African traditional society, there are instances where people failed to relate to one another and treated each other harshly as seen below;

1. The traditional Africans mistreated the disabled people such as the crippled and the insane. Such people were always isolated and even beaten occasionally.
2. The traditional Africans practiced witch hunting. Whenever a misfortune like sudden death and sickness could befall the community the causes were always sought and blamed on to a person suspected to be a witch. In some cases, in some cases, the suspected witch was not even given the chance for hearing but to accept the blame.
3. The traditional Africans exploited the minority group of strangers. These people were not allowed to own land and to inter marry with the majority. This limited the freedom of these people.
4. The traditional Africans practiced human sacrifices. Some children were sacrificed with the belief that their blood could save the society from any bad events such as more death, drought, epidemic and war.
5. There was class discrimination in the traditional Africa. In a centralized society, there were the royal and the non-royal classes. The royal class, which was the ruling body, exploited the non-royal class who happened to be the subject.
6. The practice of bride wealth in some African societies turned out to be an injustice. It reduced the status of women to that of a mere property. It also subjected them to a lot of harsh treatment.
7. Lazy people were treated harshly in the traditional Africa. Some were even denied food and were always victims of isolation by the active members.
8. The traditional Africans practiced forced marriage. This mostly affected the young girls and boys who were pushed into marriage for reasons best known by the elders. This was an injustice because the parents were only interested in the material benefits but not the welfare of the girls and the boys.
9. The communal ownership of property in traditional Africa turned out to be an injustice. The active people who could have worked hard suffered in the hands of the lazy ones who simply sit and wait for things to be done.
10. The traditional Africans denied women the chance of eating certain types of food like chicken, eggs, pork, liver and fish. Therefore, women denied proper health because of the absence of these nutritious foods.
11. The traditional Africans practiced circumcision of girls with a selfish aim of preventing them from committing adultery in their future marriages. This denied girls sexual pressure.

12. Women in the traditional Africa were associated with bad omen. They believed that or greeting a woman in the morning could make an individual fail in his day's activities.
13. The traditional Africans blamed women for the misbehavior of children. This was being unfair because the men were equally responsible for the upbringing of the children.
14. Women in the traditional Africa were regarded as inferior and were not allowed to contribute any idea for public consumption. This was discrimination based on sex.
15. In traditional Africa, pregnant girls who could have conceived before marriage were killed. They were stoned, rolled down the mountain or tied up in the forest and left there such that wild animals could eat them. This was an injustice not only because of the killing act but also leaving out the man responsible for the pregnancy.

JUSTICE IN CHURCH HISTORY

The theme of justice in church history is mostly concerned with areas of life that caused suffering to mankind and the efforts that were put in removing the suffering. These areas include the slavery practice and the oppression of minorities.

A. THE SLAVERY PRACTICES

The early church

Slavery was highly practiced especially before the Roman Empire became officially a Christian Empire. The church at first recognized this act officially, but later opposed it.

The Bishops and the priests used the labour force from the slaves to accumulate much wealth. Therefore, they discouraged the abolition of slavery.

In the Roman Empire, slaves had no rights to marry. The married ones were also not allowed to live together as husband and wife. To this effect, the church later enacted laws considering marriages between slaves as valid and as sacred as any other marriage.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE

This began in the 5th century when the Portuguese and the Spanish started to travel in areas, which were unknown to them.

The Portuguese made their way along the African coast and moved further to India and also to Brazil.

The Spanish moved westwards across the Atlantic Ocean and settled together with the Portuguese in America. Later they established farms, plantations and even mines. This increased the demand for slaves and this marked the beginning of slave trade where the Africans became victims.

The above slave trade imposed a lot of suffering to people. Therefore, it limited their freedom as human beings in the following ways;

- Slaves were captured by force. This caused a lot of bodily injuries on to them.

- Poor transportation where their hands and waists were tied and packed in the ship as mere luggage.
- The slaves were subjected to long hours of work and yet they were not given salaries at all.
- The slaves were tortured and some even killed.
- Most Africans lost touch with their family members. This is because many people left their homes and went hiding to avoid being captured.
- Famine also broke among the Africans. This was as a result of taking away the able-bodied men and women.
- The slaves were forced to work i.e. they worked against their will.
- Husbands and wives were separated forcefully. Children, therefore, lost parental love.
- The slaves were forced to become Christians though being baptized. This brought to end the African cultural practices such as child naming and birth rites.
- The slaves were denied the chance to marrying each other more especially in a holy way.
- The slaves had poor working condition. There was no proper housing, medical facilities and were given little food.
- The lazy and weak slaves were killed because they were considered expensive in terms of feeding and accommodation.

Because of the above inhuman acts, some individuals and groups stood up to condemn the slavery practice. Among them was St. Peter Claver who was a Spanish priest and Christian group known as the Quakers. They struggled to bring slavery to an end in the following ways;

- The Quakers emphasized that the whole practice of slavery was evil and against Christian teaching and refused its members to own slaves.
- Peter Claver used to take food and medicine to the slaves.
- Peter Claver advised the slave owners to treat them well with human dignity.
- He visited the mines and plantations where the slaves worked frequently and taught them Christian faith through an interpreter. He even arranged and cared for the sick.
- Peter Claver did this kind of work forty years despite opposition from the slave owners.
- His work paid off when many slave owners came to an understanding and realized that they had for long subjected their slaves to inhuman acts.

B. THE OPPRESSION OF THE MINORITY

The operation of the minority came up immediately after the European nations made it illegal for their members to trade in slaves. This was because those who abolished slavery were in the minority group. The rich people looked at the abolition as a threat to their source of wealth. They opposed this idea and started oppressing the minorities for their actions. These minorities include;

1. The Jews were the first minority to be oppressed. The early Christians disliked and blamed them for troubles that were not their fault. The Christians excused themselves by saying that the Jews were responsible for the death of Christ, but failed to recognize their contribution in writing the New Testament books.
2. In communist countries, Christians found themselves as the minority. They were harshly treated in countries such as Romania, Korea and Cuba among others.
3. The Roman Catholic oppressed the Protestants. This happened in the United Kingdom where the Catholics labelled Protestant as rebels. This had followed the expulsion of the Queen Elizabeth I in 1571 from Catholic religion by pope Pius V when she declared Protestant religion as the state religion of the United Kingdom.
4. In North Africa, the government persecuted the Christian minority. This was because they had split off from the main church. The government authorities treated this splinter group harshly. St. Augustine even made it worse by asking the government to make it illegal to belong to this breakaway group.
5. In places where Christians were the majority, the pagans were mistreated. In the Roman Empire, especially during the reign of emperor Constantine, the pagans were accused of failing to respect the state religion.
6. Immigrant workers were the majority in Germany and Britain. They were discriminated and worked under very poor conditions like poor (low) wages and poor accommodation among others.
7. The Catholics persecuted the Muslim minority for their occupation of Palestine. This was because the Catholics considered Palestine as the holy land of their lord. Therefore, they treated the Muslims harshly so that they could leave the holy land for them.
8. There was the oppression of the heretic minority. These were people who held different beliefs from that accepted by the church. Such people were mistreated and not allowed to associate with other church congregation.

JUSTICE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Throughout the books of the Old Testament, God is presented putting a continual effort to establish harmonious relationship among His people. Being the author of life, God did everything possible for man to live in harmony. These include;

1. God created human beings male and female in His image to show both are equal (Genesis 1:26).
2. God commanded the mankind to use the worldly resources for their welfare.
3. God created man for companionship. He realized that Adam was lonely and created Eve so that he could live in harmony.
4. Greediness and disobedience breaks human relationship with God and among themselves. God punished Adam and Eve for eating the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1ff).
5. Selfishness and jealousy are the root causes of breakage in human relationship. Cain killed his brother, Abel because of being selfish and jealous (Genesis 4:1ff).

6. God was concerned about the suffering of the people in Israel and He sent Moses to set them free.
7. The Israelites were called upon to protect and pressure human life. They were forbidden from killing one another.
8. The Israelites were encouraged to be faithful in their marriage and avoid committing adultery.
9. Stealing was forbidden among the Israelites. They were therefore to protect each other's property.
10. God encouraged the Israelites to punish those who would cause body injuries to others.
11. The Israelites were encouraged to compensate for damages caused in another's property as a means of protecting property.
12. The Israelites were encouraged to assist those in need like the poor, widows, children and the forgiveness (Exodus 23:12).
13. The Israelites were warned against siding with the crowd to twist justice. God discouraged mob justice.
14. God warned the Israelites against taking bribes in the courts of law to ensure that there was justice.
15. The judges were called upon to treat both the poor and the rich equally when passing judgment.
16. God called upon the Israelites to listen to the complaints of each other in order for them to ensure true justice (Deuteronomy 16:1ff).
17. The Israelites were called upon to maintain justice in the courts of law (Amos 5:15).
18. The Israelites were encouraged to seek good and hate evil so that the Lord would be with them.
19. The Israelites were called upon to respect and treat their slaves with human dignity (Deuteronomy 15:12-18).
20. God invited the Israelites to make self-love a measure of their relationship. God is quoted as saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself". This was the kind of relationship that God expected to exist between the Israelites (Leviticus 19:18).
21. God called for respect of all human beings. Slaves or not, each individual had to be treated with respect and dignity (Deuteronomy 15:12-18).
22. The prophets condemned and denounced the tendency of substituting obedience to the laws and religious observances for brotherly hood. They emphasized that having concern for one another was more important than the obedience to the laws and religious practices (Isaiah 58:1-12).
23. According to Ezekiel 34, the desire for peace and harmony is in all people. Whenever people fail to find it, they try to find means of providing security. The Israelites tried to secure their lives by following the covenant laws and customs

