

Guide to a Pastoral Assessment

Pastoral Diagnosis Questions	
Projection and identification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What would you say is your belief system? (Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, or perhaps a smaller sect or individual belief) 2. What is your earliest memory of a religious experience or belief? 3. How do you refer to God? 4. What is your favorite Scripture story? Why? 5. What is your favorite Scripture verse or sacred quote? Why? 6. Who is your favorite Scripture character? Why? 7. What religious idea or concept is most important to you now?
Relating, suffering, and hurting patterns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. How do you express/practice your faith? 9. What does prayer mean to you? If you pray, what do you pray about? 10. What does religion mean to you? How does God make a difference in your personal life? 11. In what way is God meaningful to other people besides yourself?
Guilt/hurting patterns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. What is the most religious act one can perform? 13. What do you consider the greatest sin one could commit? 14. What do you think of evil in the world? 15. What is your greatest temptation as you feel it now?
Hopefulness and support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. What are your ideas of an afterlife? 17. If God could grant you any three wishes, what would they be? 18. Who has been the most important religious person in your life?

Pastoral Assessment Questions	
I – In the beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your feelings about having been born? • What sorts of blessings did those who brought you up confer upon you? • What sorts of curses did they pronounce upon you? • What do you think you were meant to be and to become from the beginning?
II – The way things have been	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whom, of all the people you know, would you most want to be like? • Whom do you have to turn to when the going gets rough? • Whom would you hurry to tell about something really good that happened to you? • What are the things that people have done to you that you have the hardest time forgiving and forgetting? • What recent things have happened to you that you would say are “the straw on the camel’s back?”
III – The way things are now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the greatest injustice that you feel has happened to you? • What keeps you from doing the things you most want to do? • If all the hindrances were removed and you could do just as you most wanted to do or have the thing you most wanted, what would it be? • What is the biggest mystery to you? What do you have the most trouble figuring out? • What appeals to your curiosity the most? • What is your greatest temptation? • Of what are you most afraid? • If you were to blame someone or a group of “some-ones” for your present trouble in life, whom would you blame? • If you pray, do you think God would understand if you told God what your deepest angers are? • Does God want you to do what you yourself would be happiest doing?
IV – The way things can change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think there is any way that things can change? • Do you have any hope that things can change? • Do things change by luck, magic, or chance? • If you were a magician and could change your whole situation, what would you change? • Have sudden and strange experiences come into your life that changed everything? • How did you feel? What did you see, hear, smell, taste? Did you want to tell about it? Whom did you tell about it? What was their reaction?
V – Perception of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you believe in a personal God? What is God like to you? • Does the church turn you on, turn you off, or leave you cold? • Settled beliefs. What are some of the things that you believe and that you don’t think will ever change in your thinking?

**Paul Pruyser's Eight Questions for Theological Assessment
(An alternative shorter form of pastoral assessment)**

1. Why is this person coming to me for help?
2. How does this person understand God?
 - What is the person's prevailing picture of God?
 - Is there congruence between the person's statements of God and actual behavior?
3. What is the sense of sin and what role does sin play in this situation?
4. What is this person's relative capacity for faith?
5. How does this person view salvation?
6. How adequate are this person's faith-support resources?
7. What sense of hope exists here?
8. Does freedom exist between this person and me?