

## QUESTIONS ARISING FROM KANT

- 1] Kant says we can't know [a] *that* God exists  
[b] *what* God's nature is.

God is merely a postulate, postulated as a condition of ethics.

Specify where Christian thought differs from Kant on the following:

- i) How do we know that God exists?
- ii) What is God's nature?
- iii) How are (i) and (ii) related?
- iv) Is there a place for a philosophical argument for God that goes beyond "God-as-postulate"? How is (iv) related to (i) and (ii)?

2] Kant says that the self underlying the self of which we are aware can't be known. According to Christian thought can the self be known? If so, how?

3] Marxist and existentialist thought maintain the self is always a *self-making*. Is there any validity to such a notion? If so, how is [3] related to [2]?

4] Kant denied original sin. Christians affirm it. How is original sin related to the corruption of the will? What is meant by "will"? How is a corrupted will related to understanding and affect?

5] Kant says that even a corrupted will never loses entirely its capacity to obey the moral law. Calvin agreed. Do you? Even if we retain a capacity, however, diminished, for obeying the moral law, how is such moral attainment related to righteousness?

6] Why do you think Kant failed to understand radical evil as truly *radical*?

7] Kant denied that the moral law is based on God's will. What do Christians understand by "God's will"?

8] How realistic is Kant in his insistence that practical reason discloses

- i) the specific content of moral obligation?
- ii) common agreement on it?

9] Kant thought he had ended metaphysics, since the concerns of metaphysics (he said) could only be postulated. Hegel was a metaphysician. How did Hegel recover metaphysics as a philosophical discipline?

10] How does a scriptural understanding of faith differ from Kant's "rational faith"?

11] How would Marx, Freud and Kierkegaard criticize Kant?

12] What might be convergences and divergences between Kant's categorical imperative and the "Great Commandment"?

13] How does Kant's categorical imperative differ from scripture's understanding of the command of God? from *commandment*?