

# Test Your Knowledge of The United Methodist Social Principles (Answer Sheet)

## Basic round (you'll get by in most church settings without embarrassing yourself)

- A. Once adopted by a majority vote the Social Principles are written in stone and never change. True False  
**False.** *They are changed every four years at General Conference*
- B. The Social Principles say it is OK to use hurtful language about other people as long as the people don't find out. True False  
**False.** *"Language of a derogatory nature (with regard to race, nationality, ethnic background, gender, sexuality, and physical differences) does not reflect value for one another and contradicts the gospel of Jesus Christ." (151.II.Intro.)*
- C. The Social Principles are not considered "Church Law" True False  
**True.** *They are intended to be both instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit but they are not church law. As a United Methodist you cannot be charged with failing to obey the Social Principles.*
- D. All United Methodist members get to vote on the church's social principles during Church Conference held each fall. True False  
**False.** *Actually, each local church sends delegates to Annual Conference. Each Annual Conference sends delegates to General Conference. These delegates determine what goes in the Social Principles.*
- E. The Social Principles say that God's plan is for men to rule over women. True False  
**False.** *"We affirm with scripture the common humanity of male and female both having equal worth in the eyes of God. We reject the erroneous notion that one gender is superior to another" (161. F)*
- F. The Social Principles say tobacco is a natural product that many people enjoy in a variety of ways and we should sell in our churches as a way to support our youth ministry  
**False.** *"In light of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are hazardous to the health of persons of all ages, we recommend total abstinence from the use of tobacco." (162.III.K)*
- G. The Social Principles say we believe in treating animals in "humane" ways and the preservation of all species. True False  
**True.** *"We support .... The humane treatment of pets...domestic animals... animals used in research, and the painless slaughtering of meat animals, fish, and fowl. We encourage the preservation of all animal species (161.I.C)*
- H. The Social Principles say marriage is God's plan for everyone, that there's a Mr. or Ms. Right out there for everyone. True False  
**False.** *"We affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single." (161.II.E)*
- I. The Social Principles say that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, have a right to have their civil and human rights ensured. True False  
**True.** *"We insist that all persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured. (161.II.G)*
- J. The Social Principles say gambling is not a big deal. We should all go out and buy a lottery ticket right now. It's for a good cause and besides we might strike it rich. True False  
**False.** *"As and act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister*

to those victimized by the practice.” (161.IV.G)

K. The Social Principles support adoption as an option and affirm both those who adopt and those who, for whatever reason, choose to allow their child to be adopted. True False

**True.** *We affirm and support the birth parent(s) whose choice it is to allow the child to be adopted.... We affirm and support the adoptive parent(s)' desire to rear an adopted child as they would a biological child.”* (162.II.L)

L. The Social Principles say Christians really cannot do much to address the permissive lifestyles and graphic violence portrayed in the media and shouldn't waste their time trying. True False

**False.** *“The media must be held accountable for the part they play in the decline of values we observe in society today... Christians must work together to halt this erosion of moral and ethical values in the world community.”* (162.III.Q)

M. The Social Principles say we may as well forget about hoping for a day when there will be no more wars. It's never going to happen. True False

**False.** *“We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice.”* (161.IV.I)

N. The Social Principles say if churches really want to draw a crowd they should buy several kegs of beer and throw a party. Then once they are all a little tipsy, pass the offering plate and see how much money you can collect.

**False.** *We affirm our long standing support of abstinence from alcohol and a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love.” And “With regard to those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages, (we support) judicious use with deliberate and intentional restraint”* (162.III.J)

O. The Social Principles say organ transplants are not mentioned in the Bible and should not be permitted today. True False

**False.** *“We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as part of their love and ministry to others in need.”* (161.III.U)

P. The Social Principles say all employees should be paid a decent wage that lifts them above the poverty line so they don't have to get food stamps to feed their families. True False

**True.** *“Employees should pay their employees a wage that does not require them to depend upon government subsidies such as food stamps and welfare for their livelihood.”* (161.IV.F)

#### **Better than Basic knowledge (You may ready to teach)**

Q. The Social Principles say that at the end of life families should do all they can to preserve the life of their loved one. True False

**False.** *“Dying persons and their families are free to discontinue treatment when they cease to be of benefit to the patient.”* (161.II.M)

R. The Social Principles say that it is sometimes OK for the government to mistreat or torture people it holds in its custody. True False

**False** *“The mistreatment or torture of persons by governments for any purpose violates Christian teaching and must be condemned and/or opposed by Christians and churches”* (162.V.A)

S. The Social Principles say that in our modern world people should be able, through genetic testing, to determine the gender of their fetus, and then be free to decide if they want to have a boy or girl baby or not. True False

**False.** *“We unconditionally reject (abortion) as means of gender selection. (162.II.J)*

T. The Social Principles say workers should have the right to organize into unions and, at times, go on strike. They should not be fired if they do so legally. True False

**True.** *“We support the right of public and private ...employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining .... We likewise reject the permanent replacement of a worker who engages in a lawful strike.*

(162.IV.B)

U. The Social Principles say affirmative action is appropriate for racial and ethnic minorities and women who have suffered and continue to suffer discrimination in our society. True False

**True.** *“We support affirmative action as one method of addressing the inequalities and discriminatory practices within our Church and society.” (162.III.A and F)*

V. The Social Principles say if we have a United Methodist president we ought to have United Methodist prayers said in every local public school and we ought to have every one of those children pray for the health and prosperity of the local United Methodist churches, pastors and Bishop. True. False.

**False.** *“The state should not use its authority to promote particular religious beliefs (including atheism), nor should it require prayer or worship in the public schools, but it should leave students free to practice their own religious convictions.” (162.IV.C)*

W. The Social Principles recommend that all United Methodists purchase “fair trade” certified products if they are available. True. False

**True.** *“Buying fair trade products is one sure way consumers can use their purchasing power to make a contribution to the common good.” (162.IV.D)*

X. The Social Principles say migrant workers should not be allowed to receive benefits such as in healthcare because they are not really full members of the communities or states in which they live. True False

**False.** *“We call upon governments and all employers to ensure for migratory workers, the same economic, educational, and social benefits enjoyed by other citizens.” (162.IV.F)*

Y. The Social Principles say if the laws of a particular state support capitol punishment then Christians ought to support capitol punishment. True False

**False.** *“We oppose the death penalty and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.” (162.IV.G)*

Z. The Social Principles say the United Nations is a threat to America’s sovereignty and is probably lead by the antichrist. True False

**False.** *“We endorse the United Nations and its related bodies and the International Court of Justice as the best instruments now in existence to achieve a world of justice and law.” (162.VI. D)*

### “Hot Potato” Round for Extra Stars in your Crown (circle all true answers)

Bonus #1 The Social Principles say homosexuals

- A. Should not be rejected or condemned by their church
- B. Should never get married.
- C. Should have the same basic human and civil rights due other persons
- D. Should be outlawed

Answers: A. True – “We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn their gay and lesbian members and friends. (Par. 161. II. G)

B. False – Trick question. Homosexuals, like anyone else are free to marry people of the opposite gender. The church does not support them marrying people of the same sex. In 2004 the church said “We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.” (Par. 161. II. c)

A. True. Certain basic human rights are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for homosexual persons.” (Par. 162.III.H)

B. False. See c above.

Bonus #2 The Social Principles say divorce is:

- A. Always forbidden for Christians
- B. A regrettable alternative in some cases

- C. The unpardonable sin punishable by excommunication from the church
- D. Not a big deal.

*Correct answer is B. Though not God's perfect plan it says "when a married couple is estranged beyond reconciliation, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, divorce is a regrettable alternative in the midst of brokenness." (162.II.D)*

Bonus #3 The Social Principles affirm which of the following:

- A. Abortion is a legal right that should be maintained
  - B. In the sanctity of unborn human life
  - C. Abortion should not be used as a means of birth control
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- A. True – *"we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures." (162.II.J)*
  - B. True – *"Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life make us reluctant to approve abortion" (162.II.J)*
  - C. True - *"We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control." (162.II.J)*