**Outline**

* The Buddhist religious culture is characterized by a variety of symbols that are of high significance to adherents of Buddhism
* The reclining and standing Buddha postures are the most commonly found and they respectively represent the serenity that is believed to characterize nirvana and the readiness to teach the four noble truths after attaining nirvana
* Statues are therefore common as religious symbols but are intended for different objectives in Buddhism and Christianity.
* Buddhists and Christians also practice various rituals as part of their religious observance.
* In the “Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Some Aspects of Christian Meditation”, the Vatican distinguished the Christian practice of meditation as a focus on the visible Christ rather than the abstract idea of God that characterizes meditation in other religious cultures.
* The knowledge of these and other symbols and rituals of the Buddhist religious culture is of significance to Christians heeding the great commission in Matthew 28;18-20.
* Helping them fill this gap in knowledge could provide a way of engaging Buddhists concerning their religious beliefs.