

MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

Christian beliefs in life after death

- Most Christians believe that after death the body stays in the grave and the soul goes to God for judgement. They believe in Heaven and Hell. Catholics also believe in purgatory and that the body will be resurrected.
- Evidence for life after death comes mostly from the Bible including:
 - Jesus telling a thief on the cross that he would be in heaven that day
 - Jesus said his father's house had many rooms
 - Jesus' body was raised from the dead

The effect of belief in afterlife on Christians lives

- Christians would know that the way that they behave in life will effect how they are treated the afterlife. They things that they might do include:
 - Confession – they would ensure that if they are Catholic that they would regularly confess their sins and seek forgiveness
 - Prayer – they would ask for help and offer thanks to God
 - Putting Christian teachings into action – they would following teachings like the Ten Commandments
 - Vocation – they may choose jobs that would give them the opportunity to help others like nurses, doctors etc.

Islamic beliefs about life after death

- All Muslims believe in life after death, beliefs include:
 - Allah judging all individuals on the way that they have lived their lives
 - On the day of judgement the body will be resurrected
 - The Qur'an teaches that the Judgement of Allah is final
 - Only the judgement of Allah puts the wrongs of life right

The effect on the life of a Muslim

- All Muslims try to follow the teachings of the Qur'an and Shari'ah la
- They also follow the example of the Prophet Muhammad and try to be good Muslims
- They will try to act the way Allah wishes, caring for others and not causing harm
- Muslims believe Allah sees everything they do and they will be judged on this in the afterlife so will try to please him.

Non-religious beliefs in life after death

- Near-death experiences
- Paranormal experiences
- Reincarnation
- The idea of death is difficult to deal with
- Belief in the afterlife seems to make life fairer
- Sometimes people feel their loved ones who have died are still with them
- It makes sense that those who have led a good life should be rewarded and those who have not should be punished

Christian attitudes to abortion

- Catholics are always against abortion. Against abortion include:
 - Abortion is viewed by the Bible as murder
 - Life is sacred and a gift from God
 - God has a plan for every human including babies and mothers
 - All life has a value even if a child maybe born with disabilities
 - Life begins at conception

- Protestants believe that abortion maybe the lesser of two evils. For abortion:
 - Jesus taught about compassion towards others
 - We cannot be sure that life begins at conception
 - In cases of incest or rape it is the kindest action
 - Medical technology allows us to identify problems with the foetus
 - Abortion is the best choice if the mothers life is at risk

Muslim attitudes to abortion

- In general Muslims believe that abortion is wrong however it maybe allowed in some cases these include:
 - The fact that the foetus would not survive without the mother and the mother should choose
 - The foetus does not have a soul until 120 days
 - Should be allowed in cases of rape or incest
- Some Muslims believe that abortion should never be allowed because:
 - Abortion should not be allowed if the couple feel they cannot look after the baby
 - Allah decides who has children
 - It is a duty of Muslims to have a family
 - A life is a gift from God

Christian attitude to euthanasia

- Catholics would always say that euthanasia is wrong because:
 - It does against the sanctity of life argument
 - It is seen as murder as it is taking life away
 - Only God should be able to take life away
 - Euthanasia could be used for evil purposes
- Some Christians believe that euthanasia maybe ok because:
 - God would not want people to suffer
 - The teaching treat others as you would want to be treated
 - Christians should show love
 - People live longer and face worse diseases than in Biblical times

Muslim attitudes to euthanasia

- Most Muslims would argue that euthanasia is wrong because:
 - Human life is sacred and is given by Allah
 - All human life is valuable even if the person is suffering
 - Euthanasia is seen as suicide which is not allowed
 - No one knows Allah's plans for his creation and so they should not interfere
 - Suffering is a test of faith
- Some Muslims maybe more in favour of euthanasia due to:
 - Allah would want people to show love
 - Turning off a life support machine is ok as the person could be thought as already dead