

Marriage and the family

Christian attitudes to sex outside of marriage

- The Bible teaches that: causal relationships are wrong, and that sex is special and should be saved for marriage.
- MOST Christians believe that sex outside marriage is wrong as the Bible says that sex is for marriage partners, also children born outside of marriage have less stable family life, promiscuity makes people vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections.
- SOME Christians would say that it is ok if: the couple love each other, they are in a long-term relationship, and if they intend to get married in the future.

Muslim attitudes to sex outside marriage

- Islam teaches that: sex is special and should be kept for marriage, adultery is a sin and forbidden by Allah, Muslims should not behave in a sexual manner towards others. The main purpose of marriage is to have children, and the ideal marriage partner is another Muslim.

Christian attitudes to divorce

- Catholics believe that divorce is never ok, and divorce is not recognised by the Church so re-marriage is not possible. They also believe that Jesus said that divorce is wrong. And that marriage is a sacrament and divorce would break the promises made with God.
- Other Christians like Methodists believe that Jesus seemed to allow divorce in cases of adultery. Divorced people can re-marry in the Church. People can make mistakes, and that God is ready to forgive sins.

Muslim attitudes to divorce

- MOST Muslims accept divorce as a last resort because: Marriage is a contract in Islam, not a promise to Allah, The Qur'an allows Muslims to divorce, Islam has rules for how divorce is to happen and how divorced women and children are to be cared for, the family is very important to Muslims and they feel it may be better for children to have divorced parents than to live with hatred and bitterness
- SOME Muslims do not agree because they believe that Muhammad the prophet is the perfect example and he did not get divorced, Muhammad said that divorce was the most hated thing, Divorce may damage the life of the children, divorce shows disrespect to that family.

Christian teaches on the family

- The family is the foundation of society, the Bible teaches that you should honour your parents, the social environment of the Church allows children to be educated in the religion, The Church provides support and help for the family.

Muslim teachings on the family

- Traditionally Muslims have extended families often living with them, and children are expected to look after their parents, Muslims believe that extended families offer greater stability, love and support, the family is at the heart of the community.
- Muslims have family values that include: the fact that the family is the place that young people learn about the religion, parents have a responsibility to raise their children as

Muslims, the family is the foundation of the community, Children are taught to care for others and to follow a moral code, All Muslims are termed the UMMAH and are considered to be family.

Christian attitudes to homosexuality

- SOME Christians believe that homosexuality is wrong as: marriage was intended by God to be between one man and one woman, same sex partners cannot naturally have children which is the purpose of Christian marriage, homosexuality is seen to undermine the family unit, the Bible teaches that homosexuality is wrong,
- OTHER Christians believe that homosexuality is perfectly natural, Some Christians will marry a gay couple in Church, homosexuality is a relationship of love and that is what is important, Jesus taught Christians to love their neighbour which means Christians should show respect to all people.

Muslim attitudes to homosexuality

- MOST Muslims believe that homosexuality is forbidden, it is punishable by death according to Shari'ah law, homosexual relationships cannot produce children, it is believed to be harmful to the health of individuals.
- SOME Muslims would believe that homosexuality is not something that people choose and therefore cannot help it, they believe that all people should be treated equally.

Christian attitudes to contraception

- SOME Christians like Catholics believe that every sexual act should be open to the possibility of a child, the main purpose of marriage is to have a child, sex was a gift from God for procreation, contraception encourages promiscuity.
- SOME Christians like Methodists would say that: Using contraception is not a sin, it can help with family planning and prevent unwanted children, can protect against STIs, they believe that sex is not just for procreation.

Muslim attitudes to contraception

- SOME Muslims accept the use of contraception because: because it can help preserve the life of the mother if having a baby would risk her life, accept the use of non-permanent methods are acceptable for married couples
- SOME Muslims do not accept contraception because: in strict Muslim countries only natural forms of contraception is allowed, methods like the morning after pill are not acceptable as they cause early abortion, having children is important to Muslims.