

Issues of Relationships

Key Terms		Symbol
Adultery	Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse	
Divorce	To legally end a marriage	
Cohabitation	To live together in a sexual relationship without being married or in a civil partnership	
Commitment	A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something	
Contraception	Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sexual intercourse	
Gender Equality	People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives	
Responsibilities	Actions/Duties you are expected to carry out	
Roles	Position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them	

Types of Family	
* Nuclear Family	The most common type of family in Britain. It consists of two parents and one or more child(ren) all living in the same house.
* Extended Family	A number of adults & children from different generations of the same family living together in the same home.
* Blended Family	This type of family is made up of a mix of step-parents and step-children
* Single-parent family	One parent raises the children alone. Single-parent families are on the rise in Britain
* Same-sex family	A family where the couple are in a homosexual relationship and have children all living in the same house.

When marriages fail?

Adultery & Annulment

Divorce & remarriage

- Christianity teaches that **adultery** is always wrong.
- **Divorce** is usually allowed for people who have been cheated on.
- **Annulment** is the cancelling of the marriage by the Pope. This is usually only done if the couple have not had sex.
- **CofE Churches** accept divorce and discourage remarriage.
- **Evangelical Churches** try to avoid divorce and allow remarriage in acceptable circumstances.
- **Catholic Churches** do not recognise divorce & see marriage as a sacrament. If a Catholic remarries without an annulment, they cannot receive the Holy Communion.

Roles of men & women in family

- ◆ Roles include:
- ⇒ Caring for children & other family members
- ⇒ Maintaining the family home
- ⇒ Earning money
- ⇒ Providing love, comfort, protection and support for each other & being good role models.

Traditional Views

The man should provide for the family through work (patriarchal) and the woman is responsible for home life.

Modern Views

Couples are a partnership with shared roles &

Family Life

What have families got to do with religion?

- ◆ Parents are expected to:
- ⇒ Take children to a place of worship
- ⇒ Teach them how to read Holy texts
- ⇒ Teach children how to pray
- ⇒ Join in festival celebrations
- ⇒ Understand the importance of rites of passage such as baptism

Pope Francis stated:

- * Family is the basis for human society

Marriage outside religious traditions & cohabitation

Known as inter-faith marriage, people who chose to marry someone from a different faith often encounter some important issues.

- ⇒ Which festivals should be celebrated by the family?
- ⇒ Which religion should the child be raised in?
- ⇒ What if there are different expectations around gender roles in the family?
- ⇒ How can religious dietary rules be followed in the home?

The **Church of England Synod** gives advice on how to conduct marriages to vicars and affirms the importance of marriage in society

Cohabitation is living together without being married. Most Christians are against this

The nature & purpose of marriage

- Marriage is a sacrament, given by God to humans.
- Marriage is the best environment to raise children
- A lifelong commitment
- Jesus taught that marriage is the 'joining of two people as one'
- Mark 10 teaches that God made male and female so that they would leave their parents and 'become one flesh.' (married)

Christian wedding ceremonies

- Christians usually marry in a Church
- The ceremony is performed by a vicar, minister or priest
- The couple exchange vows including promises:
 - To have and to hold
 - To stay together in all situations
 - To remain married until death
 - To give their bodies to each other
- They exchange rings as a sign of commitment
- The vicar (etc...) declares them married
- Prayers are read and hymns are sung

Sexual Relationships

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Purpose of Sex	
* Procreation	Catholic Christians in particular believe that the primary purpose of sex is to make babies. They follow natural law which states that sex for procreation is morally good. This means that Christians who believe this are against same-sex relationships and casual sex.
* Sex is for marriage	Christians believe that sex should take place within marriage. Sex is a gift from God and is holy and sacred. Casual sex is believed to be demeaning and devalues people.
Unacceptable sex	
Christians agree that promiscuity is never acceptable. The use of contraceptives should benefit those in committed relationships such as marriage and not encourage people to 'sleep around'.	

Gender prejudice and discrimination

Teachings	The roles of men & women in the Church
<p><i>'I do not permit a woman to teach...over a man, she must be quiet.'</i></p> <p>1 Timothy 2</p> <p><i>'there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'</i></p> <p>Galatians 3:27-28</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholics believe that women can lead worship and be in authority but cannot be ordained as priests. The Church of England allowed women priests in 1994 and women bishops in 2014. In other protestant Churches, women are able to lead services and often preach.

Chastity, Celibacy & Contraception

Chastity is the state in which a person chooses not to have a sexual relationship until they are married. This is particularly popular amongst evangelical Christians who are often encouraged to marry young in order to preserve their virginity.

Celibacy is when a person makes a choice never to have a sexual relationship. This choice is most commonly seen in the Catholic Church where priests must be male and are not married.

Contraception means deliberately using methods to prevent pregnancy. There are natural and artificial methods of contraception. Religious attitudes towards contraception are varied and listed below.

Christian attitudes towards contraception

Catholic beliefs	Protestant beliefs
Artificial contraception such as using condoms or the pill is forbidden by the Catholic Church. This is because it goes against natural law	Most forms of artificial contraception are permitted within a marriage. As long as the contraception cannot harm a fertilised embryo, protestant Christians are happy to use it. Condoms and the pill are acceptable however the I.U.D. and morning after pill are often considered unacceptable as they may destroy a fertilised embryo.
Natural contraception such as the rhythm method (a couple avoid sex during the time of the month the woman is likely to become pregnant) is allowed because it allows the possibility that the woman may become pregnant	Protestants don't usually practice natural contraception as they are happy with many forms of artificial contraception.

The legal status of same-sex relationships

In 1967, the UK made it legal for couples to have same-sex relationships. In 2004 The Civil Partnership Act enabled same-sex couples to have the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual couples. Same-sex marriage became legal in 2013.

Traditionally, Christianity has believed that same-sex relationships are wrong, however, many Churches today disagree over the topic and the Church of England has recently accepted homosexual clergy including Bishops. Catholics are against

Same Sex Relationships

Bible/Christian teachings

'If a man has sexual relations with a man...both are to be put to death.'

Leviticus 20:13 (Old Testament)

'...the sinful...practice homosexuality.'

1 Timothy 1 (New Testament)

'A stable relationship between a man and a woman is not the same as a same-sex one.'

Natural Law

Natural Law is a theory associated with Thomas Aquinas. He believed that God laid down five laws that humans should always follow. 1. Preserve life 2. **Reproduce** 3. Educate children 4. Live in society 5. Worship God. Catho-