

KEYWORDS

Imago Dei = humans are made in God's image

Justice = what is right and fair based on the law

Equality = when everyone has the same rights and opportunities as everyone else

Prejudice = judging someone to be inferior or superior based on no evidence

Discrimination = treating groups of people differently as a result of prejudice

Stereotype = a fixed idea about someone so that it is assumed that they will behave in a particular way, usually based on prejudice.

Sexism = prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination against someone because of their sex or gender, usually women or girls.

Racism = prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination against someone because of their skin colour or ethnic group.

Homophobia = is the irrational fear of, or discrimination against homosexuality or gay people.

How can we live with each other better?

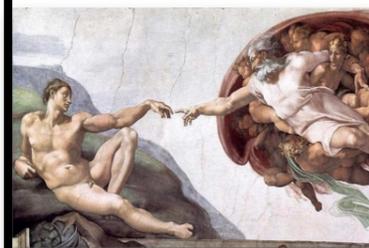
IMAGO DEI

Christians believe that humans have been made in the image of God. They call this 'imago dei'.

Although humans are not divine, they do have a special relationship with God, their creator, which is different from other creatures.

Christians believe that being created in God's image does not mean that God looks human. It does mean that humans have a special dignity and responsibility.

"The more a person loves, the closer he approaches the image of God."
- Martin Luther



Stewardship

Many Christians believe they have a special responsibility to take care of God's creation on God's behalf

What is the difference between humans and animals?

- For scientists, humans are a species of animal that has evolved through natural selection to be more intelligent than other species.
- Some non-religious people say that humans are not more valuable than any other species. Others say that humans are more valuable because of their superior ability to think and feel.
- Many Christians agree with the non-religious and scientific arguments.
- Other Christians believe the creation story in the Bible is literally true and say that humans are particularly valuable to God because they are made in the image of God. Some believe that humans have souls but that animals do not.

JUSTICE

This is the idea that we should be treated fairly and equally by others. It is the key idea underpinning our laws. Another connected idea is that if you break the law, you should be punished in a way that is proportionate to the crime.

Social Justice is trying to achieve a fairer society by challenging unfairness and valuing diversity. It is also about making sure everyone has equal opportunities, access and rights.

Many religious believers are involved in campaigns for social justice. They are inspired by

GENDER PREJUDICE



Many people are treated unfairly because of their sex or gender. The vast majority of these people are women.

Christian teachings oppose gender prejudice and discrimination:

- In the Bible, Jesus treated men and women with equal respect.
- Saint Paul taught that men and women are equal, saying **"you are all one in Christ Jesus"**. (Galatians 3:28)

RACISM

Many people are treated worse, excluded, disadvantaged, harassed, bullied, humiliated or degraded because of their skin colour or ethnicity.

Christianity (as well as other religions, such as Judaism and Islam) teaches that all human beings are made in the image of God. For this reason, all people are equally important in God's eyes and should be treated equally by us.

"Every person from treble white to a bass black is significant on God's keyboard."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

HOMOPHOBIA

This includes a variety of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT+). It is defined as prejudice, discrimination or hatred. It can be based on irrational fear and ignorance. It can also be related to religious beliefs:

- Catholics believe that **being homosexual is not a sin but having sexual relationships is sinful**. This means homosexuals must live without sexual activity.
- Many Evangelical Protestants **believe that homosexuality is a sin**.
- Many Liberal Protestants have the attitude that **lifelong homosexual relationships are acceptable** and can be accepted into the church.



RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

This is treating a person or group differently because of the particular beliefs which they hold about a religion.

In the UK, the law follows the European Convention on Human Rights upholds freedom of religion. This means that everyone has the right to practise their faith as long as that does not harm other people.

Although religions are usually very good at getting on with each other, strong beliefs can be a source of conflict, especially where there is prejudice and discrimination.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

In recent years there has been a rise in prejudice, discrimination and abuse towards Muslims. This is known as Islamophobia.

Many religious people are involved in inter-faith groups which aim to deepen understanding between people with different beliefs and ways of looking at the world.