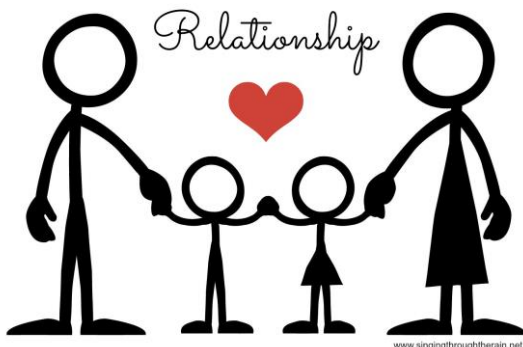
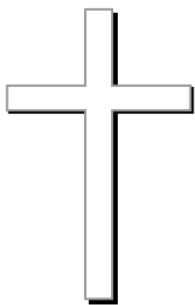


RELATIONSHIPS



RELATIONSHIPS

Human relationships are at the heart of human existence. In most societies, children are born into a family and it becomes one of the most essential aspects of our society. All religions acknowledge just how important this unit is and

FAMILY

There are many different types of family, the most common are:

Nuclear

The most common type in the UK. It consists of two parents and one or more children living in the same house.

Extended

A number of adults and children who are related living in the same home.

Reconstituted family

Some divorced adults choose to remarry or live in a cohabiting relationship. This structure is made up of step-parents and step-children

Single parent family

When one parent raises one or more children alone. This type of family is growing in number.

Childless family

When a married or cohabiting couple choose to or are unable to have children.



!! KEY CONCEPTS

Roles: Position, status or function of a person in society or group and what is expected of their behaviour.

Responsibilities : Actions and duties you are expected to carry out

Roles/ responsibilities could include:

- Caring for children
- Caring for other family members (elderly).
- Maintaining the family home.
- Earning money to support the family.



Islam can also vary in different interpretations of family life and expected roles of men and women. Often these ideas can be influenced by the cultural norms of the countries that people live in, rather than the expectations of a religion. The traditional view is:



‘A man is the guardian of his family and is responsible for his subjects; a woman is the guardian of her husbands home and children and is responsible for them.’ (Hadith Sahih Bukhari 9:89:252)

So women are more involved in child rearing and having a focus on the home. The more modern approach is that we can all take on different roles

•‘Surely, everyone of you is a guardian and responsible for his charges.’

(Hadith Sahih Bukhari 9:89:252)

The roles of men and women within a Christian family:

	Traditional View	Modern View
<p>Why shouldn't a woman become a priest (even if she is married)?</p> 	<p>Most Christians in Britain disagree with this view. Some Christians in some African countries hold this view</p>	<p>Most Christians in Britain hold this view.</p>
<p>off the mark by Mark Parisi www.offthemark.com</p> 	<p>The roles of men & women are equal but different</p> <p><u>Role of male</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 Men must provide for the family 🔥 Lead the family in religion 🔥 Love their wives as themselves <p><u>Role of Female</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 Women must rear children and run a Christian home 🔥 Women must not speak in Church 🔥 Women must obey their husbands 	<p>The roles of men & women are equal and the same</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 Either or both can provide for the family 🔥 Both are responsible for rearing children and running a Christian home 🔥 Both can become priests or lead the family in religion 🔥 Both must love each other as themselves and obey each other
<p>You are all one Christ Jesus</p> <p>God created humans in his own image</p>	<p>Why do some Christians hold this view?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 In the Bible, St Paul said that women should not be allowed to teach or speak in church. 🔥 Adam was created before Eve. Eve was created to be his helper. So men are more important and must be obeyed. 🔥 Jesus only picked men to be his disciples. So women should not be picked for religious roles, either. 	<p>Why do some Christians hold this view?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔥 The Bible says: There is neither...male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. This might mean that men and women are equal in the eyes of God 🔥 The Bible says that men and women were created at the same time. Both were created in the image of God and so both are special and equal.

CONCLUSION

Both religions agree that the family is an important unit for helping children understand their religions and should help the faith of their children develop.

Remember:

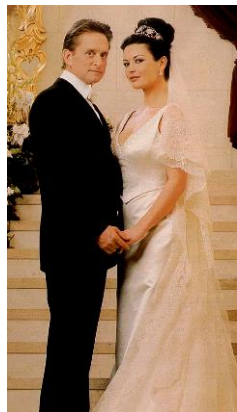
- Family life is where religion is first experienced.
- Religious duty to teach children about their faith.
- Sharing morals/values i.e Ten Commandments.
- Join in the celebration of festivals.
- Teach them how and when to pray.
- Understand the importance of rites of passage.
- Teach them to read and understand sacred texts.
- Encourage them to worship as an individual and as a faith community

MARRIAGE

Christian marriage ceremonies; the ways in which these reflect & emphasise Christian teaching about marriage.



Church



White

till death do us part

Vows



Rings

What God has joined, let no-one separate

Joined

Church – where the wedding usually takes place

Why? To remind the couple that vows they make are not only to each other but to God and to the Christian community.

White – the bride wears white

Why? To symbolise sexual purity. Christians believe that a people should remain chaste (not have sex) until they marry.

Sermon – the priest explains about Christian views on marriage

Why? It reminds Christians that marriage is something intended by God since the beginning of Creation. [Adam and Eve were created for each other.]

Vows – the couple make promises, *till death do us part*

Why? This reminds Christians that marriage is a life-long commitment. It also reminds them that people should enter marriage freely, and not be forced to marry.

Rings – rings are exchanged by the couple

Why? This symbolises never-ending love and so that marriage is a life-long commitment.

Blessing – the priest blesses the marriage, in the name God

Why? To remind some Christians that God is part of the marriage. For Catholics, marriage is a sacrament - a physical ceremony that God is part of. It is a visible sign of God's invisible presence.

Joined – the priest says *What God joined, no-one must separate*

Why? This reminds Christians that marriage is when God joins a couple together and makes them spiritually one.

Hymn & Prayers – the congregation pray and sing hymns.



WEDDINGS IN ISLAM

The Muslim wedding ceremony

The nikah is a simple marriage ceremony in which a man and woman declare their commitment to one another as husband and wife. It might take place in a mosque, where it could be led by an imam. However, it may also be at the bride's home.

- The wali or woman's guardian in marriage offers the bride to the groom.
- There must be two witnesses who have attained adulthood and are good Muslims.
- There is the payment of mahr (dowry or marriage gift) by the groom to the bride.
- A marriage contract is signed by the bride and groom and witnesses. For the nikah there must be the consent of both parties.
- A sermon is given to bless the marriage.
- Vows are not necessary but may be exchanged if the bride and groom choose to do so. Traditionally the bride would vow to be honest, obedient and faithful and the husband would vow to be helpful and faithful.
- The wedding ceremony ends with prayers for the bride and groom, their families, the local Muslim community and the worldwide Muslim community.
- The wedding banquet or walima is traditionally held by the groom after the nikah has taken place. It may take place immediately following the nikah or on the following day but the purpose of the banquet is for family and friends to share in the groom's happiness on the occasion of his marriage and to give thanks to God.

A separate civil ceremony must also take place to make the marriage legal.



■ Muslim weddings can take place in various settings



COHABITATION

To live together in a sexual relationship without being married or in a civil partnership

Christian Views on Cohabitation

The Roman Catholic Church has strict views on the subject of cohabitation and considers premarital sex a sin. A priest may refuse to serve communion to a couple who lived together before marriage. Some Baptist Churches may refuse to marry a couple who are cohabiting. Some Protestant denominations are more lenient. They do not specifically prohibit cohabitation, but they do view it as a sin and will often put pressure on a couple to make the commitment of marriage.

Muslim Views on Cohabitation

Followers of the Islamic faith have the most orthodox views of marriage. Traditionally, the couple is not allowed to court or date before the wedding and must meet only with their families present. Cohabitation is entirely out of the question. Marriages are often arranged and some Muslim men choose to take multiple wives, however, the couple must give their consent to the marriage and a man's existing wife or wives must give their consent before he takes another.

DIVORCE

Christian beliefs about the ethics of divorce;



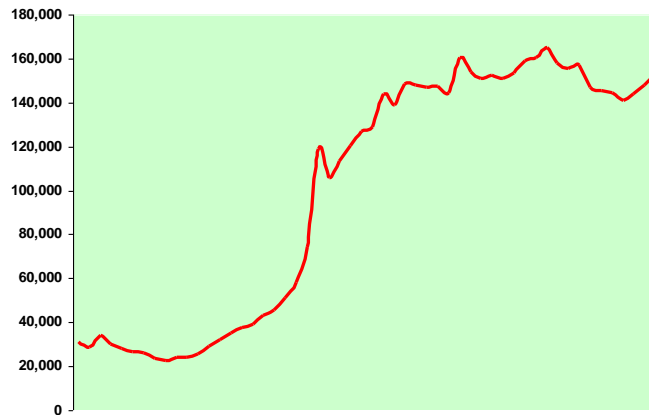
Divorce
to end your marriage
by an official or legal
process.

Vow
Promise;
at their wedding,
couples vow to each
other and to God '*till
death do us part*'.

Sacrament
A physical ceremony
that God is part of. It
is a visible sign of
God's invisible
presence.



1950 ← Number of Divorces in the UK → 2003



Now, almost half of all marriages end in divorce.

All Christians are against divorce because:

V
It **breaks the marriage vows** '*till death do us part*' made to each other, to God and to the Christian community. Marriage is a life-long commitment.

J
Marriage is a spiritual union, where God joins a couple together, making them one. Jesus taught that **no-one should separate what God has joined** together.

S
Marriage is a sacrament, a physical ceremony that brings the couple spiritually closer to God. Because **God is part of the marriage**, it cannot be undone.

Mnemonic: ViJay Singh



Many Christians believe that although divorce is undesirable, sometimes marriages do breakdown irreparably. They note that Jesus did allow divorce – he said a man could divorce his wife if she was unfaithful (and vice versa).

Roman Catholic Christians do not allow divorce. The only way a marriage can end is if one of the partners dies. Married partners who fall out must live separately and remain chaste.

ANNULMENT

An annulment is when a court says your marriage or domestic partnership is not legally valid.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that annulment is the only acceptable way a marriage can be dissolved. An annulment may be granted for the non-consummation of a marriage, which means a married couple have not had sex, or where it is proved the marriage should not have taken place.

ADULTERY

Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their spouse

Christianity and Islam both think that it is wrong.

Adultery in Islam

Muslim attitudes to adultery

Islam teaches that adultery is wrong for the following reasons:

- Sex outside of marriage is generally strongly disapproved of.
- Marriage is a life-long union based on trust, morality and devotion.
- Vows promising to be faithful to one another might be exchanged in the marriage ceremony.
- Adultery is seen as harmful to society, so against the unity and peace of the ummah (brotherhood).
- Adultery is seen as a form of theft of the worst possible sort.
- The Qur'an teaches that adultery is wrong:

'And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.'

Qur'an 17:32

Adultery in Christianity

Christian attitudes to adultery

Christianity teaches that adultery is wrong for the following reasons:

- Marriage is sexually exclusive and should not be shared with anyone else.
- The Ten Commandments forbid adultery:

'You shall not commit adultery.'

Exodus 20:14

- Marriage is a sacrament – a gift from God – and adultery goes against this.
- Committing adultery destroys the special relationship between a husband and wife.
- Committing adultery can harm the family unit and cause the partner to feel cheated and betrayed.

SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS

Homosexuality was decriminalised, in the UK, in 1967.

Civil Partnership Act of 2004 enabled same-sex couples to have essentially the same legal rights and responsibilities as a married couple.

Marriage Act in 2013 legalised same-sex marriage in England and Wales.

‘A marriage [made up of a man and woman] is not the same as the union of two people of the same sex.’

Same sex marriages cannot take place in a church.

Many oppose same sex marriage on biblical grounds- quoting Leviticus and other teachings.

Christianity

“If a man has sexual relations with another man, they have done a disgusting thing and both shall be put to death. They will be responsible for their own death.” *Leviticus 20:13*

Paul also warns early Christians about performing immoral sexual acts in his letter to Timothy.

Some Christians such as Roman Catholic Christians believe that homosexual feelings are acceptable but the Bible clearly states that homosexual acts are not: **“A man should not lie with another man; God hates that.”** *As such we cannot endorse homosexual sex. We have no issue with civil partnerships. In fact a number of our vicars are in civil partnerships. However, we must insist that the partners live a celibate life.*

Roman Catholics:

- Accept that some may be gay.
- Being homosexual is not a sin- the act is.
- Marriage should only take place between a man and woman.

A different Christian view from the Quakers (Society of Friends)

We have absolutely no issue with homosexual feelings or sex. Everyone is of equal value, containing the love of God. **“It is the nature and quality of the relationship that matters; one must not judge it by its outward appearance, but by its inner worth.”** For these reasons we have welcomed same-sex unions for more than two decades, allowing local groups to celebrate same-sex commitments through special acts of worship. In July 2009 at our Britain Yearly Meeting, we agreed to carry out same-sex marriages the same as marriages for opposite-sex couples.

- Quakers allow same sex relationships and will conduct same sex marriages.
- Anglicans do not believe same sex marriage should take place in a church- some may disagree but in general it's seen as unacceptable.

Islam

(7:81) You approach men lustfully in place of women. You are a people who exceed all bounds.

My holy book is the word of Allah and is very clear about homosexuality, it say it is *haram* (forbidden). There are lots of quotes that support this view including: ***“If two men among you commit indecency, punish them both”*** and ***“Lesbianism by women is adultery between them. Kill them both.”***

COHABITATION

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Christian beliefs about sexual relationships

Adultery

Sex with someone other than the partner you are married to.

Promiscuity

having lots of different sexual partners

Pre-marital sex

Sex before marriage

Lust

Strong sexual desire

Extra-marital sex

Sex with someone other than the partner you are married to.



Chastity

Not having sex; Waiting until you are married to have sex

Celibacy

Not having sex, especially because of a religious promise not to

Most Christians believe that sex should only take place between one male and one female:

★ God created Adam (male) and Eve (female) for each other.

Most Christians believe that sex must take place within marriage:

★ Sex inside marriage is intended by God since the beginning of Creation.

★ **Lust** is only safely expressed in marriage. All other ways are sinful, e.g., bestiality, sodomy, adultery.

Adultery (=extra-marital sex) is specifically forbidden:

★ One of the Ten Commandments says *You shall not commit adultery.*

Pre-marital sex and promiscuity are also considered wrong since:

★ One of the main purposes of sex is to reproduce. Sex should only take place in marriage to ensure that children can be brought up in a stable family.

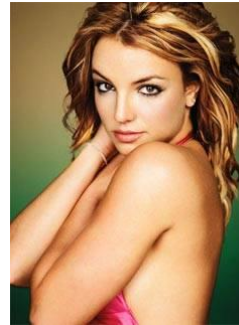
★ Sex is a sacred gift from God It should be respected and not abused.

Most Christians therefore obviously believe in **chastity**. Some monks, nuns and priests take vows of **celibacy** – this allows them to devote themselves completely to God and perhaps the Christian community. They believe they are spiritually married to God.

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



Mnemonic: **APPLE**



Britney claimed to be chaste



Some monks and nuns take vows of celibacy

CONTRACEPTION

Christian beliefs about contraception

Contraception

Methods used to prevent pregnancy taking place



Sanctity of Life

The belief that all human life is sacred & unique because it is 'made in the image of God'



Information is taken from *Bupa website* (see acknowledgements)

Methods of Contraception

Artificial Sterilisation

"This is an operation to permanently prevent fertilisation." - *at least 99.5% effective*

Barrier methods

male condom – *98% effective*
female condom – *95% effective*
diaphragm and cap – *92% to 96% effective*

Intra uterine contraceptive devices (IUDs)

Coil – *up to 98% effective*

Many Christians believe

Any safe form of contraception can be an acceptable and sensible choice because:

1. Reproduction (having children) is not the only purpose of sex. Sex is a joyous **gift from God**. Contraception helps people enjoy sex.
2. God wants a married couple to be sensible and responsible about their family. Using contraception can help ensure that **children are wanted** and can be supported and raised in a stable family.

Natural

Rhythm method

"This involves reducing the chance of becoming pregnant by planning sex around the most fertile and infertile times during the woman's monthly cycle."

80% to 98% effective if the woman has a regular cycle

Withdrawal method

"This involves withdrawing the penis before ejaculation. It is not a reliable method and cannot be considered as contraception because some sperm can leak out of the penis before ejaculation."

Roman Catholics believe

Artificial methods are wrong because:

1. They are unnatural and so go **against the will of God**. Only God should decide when human life begins and when it ends. Using artificial methods is trying to play God.
2. They prevent the possible creation of a human life. This violates the **sanctity of life** (the idea that all human life is sacred and unique and should be treasured and preserved.)

Roman Catholics do approve of natural methods of contraception because there is a natural chance of pregnancy happening.

ISLAMIC BELIEFS ABOUT CONTRACEPTION

The Qur'an does not make any explicit references to contraception and it is thought to have been used in some form when Muhammad was alive.

So Muslims are happy with this idea as long as

1. It doesn't harm the body
2. That both husband and wife agree to it.

• **remarriage.**

Separate lives

Since divorce is not permitted in the Roman Catholic church, remarriage is not an option.

Married couples should live separate and single lives.

Obviously, marriage (as opposed to remarriage) is allowed after an annulment, since a marriage never really took place.

Remarriage = adultery

Jesus said that if couples divorce and then remarry, they are committing adultery.


Forgiveness

Remarriage is allowed by most Christians because:

- People who sin and who are sorry (repentant) should be given a second chance.
- The Church of England thinks that it should be the decision of an individual priest to decide whether divorced couples should remarry.

Remarrying up to priest

GENDER EQUALITY

Christian attitudes to the roles of women and men in worship and authority 

In Jesus' time it was normal for men to take up positions of authority. Society is different now and men and women are more equal.


In the early Christian Church the original disciples were all men.

Jesus' actions showed that he respected women and he had women amongst his closest followers, which would have been very unusual at the time.

Quotes like the one below from Galatians indicate that gender is irrelevant as long as you have faith in Jesus:

For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:27-29



Reverend Angela Berners-Wilson was one of the first Christian female priests

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus taught that you should not discriminate.

Christians believe that all humans are created in the image of God, so each human life is equal and sacred.

Biblical teachings like the one below indicate that women are different to men and that women should not have authority over men:

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.

1 Timothy 2:11-12

The Catholic and Orthodox Churches

In the Catholic and Orthodox Churches women can take up active roles in worship and authority. They can become a nun or 'sister', taking vows to devote their life to God. They are equal members of Church congregations with men and can support the Church in a number of ways, from administrative functions like serving on Church finance committees to helping ministers lead worship.

However, women are always lay people in these Churches, they cannot be ordained. Ordination is the process where people are granted religious authority, so women cannot become priests for example.

One reason for this is that these Churches believe that while men and women are equal they have different strengths and contributions to make to society. Men take more religious leadership roles, while women have an equally important role to play in their families and communities. Pope Francis has praised the role women play in the Church and expressed the hope that women can play a bigger part in Church life, but in a way that

allows them to continue to do their important work supporting their families.

The Anglican Church

There have been significant changes in the role of women in worship in the Anglican Church to allow men and women to take up equal roles in Church leadership and worship. Thirty-two female ministers were ordained in 1994 and the first female bishop was ordained in 2014. This means that women can become ministers and lead Christian congregations in worship.

When the Church of England voted to allow women to become Bishops the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that the Church was entering a 'completely new phase of our existence'. However, he warned that it might take up to ten years before there were even numbers of male and female bishops.

In other Protestant denominations women play an important role in worship, working as ministers and leading acts of worship and reading in services.

Task

Look at the mind map on page 29. Identify the attitudes and teachings the Catholic Church might use to support its views on women and which the Anglican Church might use.

This can be also considered alongside roles of men and women in the family. There is particular concern about women in roles of leadership

For most Muslim groups women cannot be imams and lead men in prayer. Some Muslims scholars claim that having a female imam would invalidate men's prayers. Some Sunni groups allow women to act as imams and lead prayers if the congregation is made up of other women or close family. However, she will not lead the prayers by standing in front of the congregation as a man would, instead she would stand in the congregation.

Women and men are also usually separated during worship.

However, there is increasing pressure from some within the Muslim community for women to be allowed to lead mixed sex congregations and worship together with men. Some high profile female imams have led mixed congregations in countries like Canada and the UK [see the information on Raheel Raza on page 144].

Task

Look at the mind map on page 31. If a woman wanted to become an imam, which do you think are the two most convincing arguments? Explain why.



Muslim attitudes to the roles of women and men in worship and authority

The quote below describes how Allah creates all people from the same soul and so Muslims are against discrimination:

'O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear God, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed God is ever, over you, an Observer.'

Qur'an 4:1

In the Hadith there are mentions of two of Muhammad's wives, Aisha and Umm Salamah, leading prayers.

The Qur'an does not mention whether females can act as an imam and lead prayers, although traditionally it has been a male role.



■ A male imam leads prayer in a UK mosque

An imam must be a good Muslim to lead a community in prayer. The quote from the Qur'an below says that gender is irrelevant to whether a person can be a good Muslim:

'Whoever does an evil deed will not be recompensed except by the like thereof; but whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while he is a believer – those will enter Paradise, being given provision therein without account.'

Qur'an 40:40

The quote from the Qur'an below indicates that men should have authority over women in the event of a divorce, so is the same true in worship?

'Divorced women remain in waiting for three periods, and it is not lawful for them to conceal what God has created in their wombs if they believe in God and the Last Day. And their husbands have more right to take them back in this [period] if they want reconciliation. And due to the wives is similar to what is expected of them, according to what is reasonable. But the men have a degree over them [in responsibility and authority]. And God is Exalted in Might and Wise.'

Qur'an 2:228

KEY QUOTATIONS FROM RELATIONSHIPS UNIT

<p>So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female</p> <hr/> <p>Genesis 1:27</p>	<p>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.</p> <hr/> <p>Galatians 3:28</p>	<p>Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.</p> <hr/> <p>Colossians 3:18-19</p>	<p>I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Timothy 2:12</p>
<p>For Adam was formed first, then Eve.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Timothy 2:13</p> <p>"You shall not commit adultery."</p> <hr/> <p>Exodus 20:14</p>	<p>And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Timothy 2:14</p>	<p>The husband is head of the wife as Christ is head of the Church</p> <hr/> <p>Ephesians 5:23</p>	<p>the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one.</p> <hr/> <p>Matthew 19:6</p>
<p>for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part</p> <hr/> <p>Church of England</p>	<p>... anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress"</p> <hr/> <p>Matthew 5:32</p>	<p>Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.</p> <hr/> <p>Mark 10:11-12</p>	<p>Between the baptised, a consummated marriage cannot be dissolved by any human power or for any reason other than death.</p> <hr/> <p>Roman Catholicism</p>
<p>No human must separate what God has joined together.</p> <hr/> <p>Matthew 19:6</p>	<p>Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?</p> <hr/> <p>1 Corinthians 3:16</p>	<p>it is better to marry than to burn with passion.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Corinthians 7:9</p>	<p>The use of sex has meaning only in marriage</p> <hr/> <p>Roman Catholicism</p>
<p>anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.</p> <hr/> <p>Matthew 5:28</p>	<p>Flee from sexual immorality... he who sins sexually sins against his own body...honour God with your body.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Corinthians 6:18-20</p>	<p>married people may then take advantage of the natural cycles immanent in the reproductive system"</p> <hr/> <p>Roman Catholicism</p>	<p>to experience the gift of married love while respecting the laws of conception is to acknowledge that one is not the master of the sources of life</p> <hr/> <p>Roman Catholicism</p>

GCSE Religious Studies

Revision Booklet



Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death

Christian and Non-religious Perspectives

Sample exam questions

(a) What is meant by 'sanctity of life'? [2]

(b) Why might there be differences of belief about creation within the same religion? [5]

(c) From two different religions or two religious traditions, explain beliefs about life after death. [8]

(d) "It is a woman's right to choose abortion." [15]

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to religious and non-religious beliefs, such as those held by humanists and atheists, in your answer.)¹

Exam questions 2018

(a) What is meant by 'evolution'? [2]

(b) Describe reasons why religious believers consider it important to care for the planet. [5]

(c) Explain, from two religions or two religious traditions, beliefs about euthanasia. [8]

(d) Religious creation stories successfully explain the origins of the universe. [15]

Discuss the statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

(You must refer to religious and non-religious beliefs, such as those held by humanists and atheists, in your answer.)

¹ these questions are taken from Eduqas sample materials.

Key ideas

afterlife	life after death e.g. life in heaven.
sustainability	avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.
euthanasia	painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma.
evolution	the process of how living organisms (creatures) developed from earlier forms of life
abortion	the deliberate termination (ending) of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy.
quality of life	the standard of health, comfort, and happiness experienced by someone.
sanctity of life	the belief that all human life is sacred and holy.
soul	the spiritual or immaterial (=not a body) part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal (=never dying).

definitions taken or adapted from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/>

Quotations

The quotations are all taken from the *New International Version (NIV)* of the Bible.

Each quotation includes the 'book' of the Bible (e.g. Genesis). It then lists the chapter and verse(s) of that book (e.g. 1:28, which means chapter 1 and verse 28)

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28

This could mean:

- God commands humans to have lots of children
- 'Subdue' means to 'bring under control'; so humans are commanded to control the earth
- Humans are given power—dominion—to rule over all living creatures: fish, birds, and animals

You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.

Psalms 8:6

This could mean:

- God made humans to rule, and have power over, what God created i.e. planet earth

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

This suggests that

- God made everything
- It took God six days to make everything
- God made the world 'very good'

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart"

Jeremiah 1:5

It could mean:

- God created all humans
- God has a plan for all humans, even before they are born
- embryos and fetuses are sacred and holy ('set apart') because God created them

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live**, even though they die;

26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

John 11:24-27

This quotation comes from the New Testament. It concerns life after death.

- 'Resurrection' refers to the belief that the dead will rise (be brought back to life) on Judgement Day.
- Jesus died and himself rose from the dead ('I am the resurrection').
- The key bit to learn is 'I am the resurrection and the life' and perhaps 'The one who believes in me will live'.
- If you believe *in* Jesus (have faith in him), then you'll live forever, in heaven.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;

43 it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

- There will be a day, 'Judgement Day', when some Christians believe that the world will come to an end.
- On this day, the dead will be brought back to life
- The new body is 'imperishable' i.e. won't die
- The new body is a spiritual one, not a physical one.
- The new body is much better than the old one

1. The world

1.1. Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes about the accounts of the origin of the universe

1.2. The relationship between Christian views and non-religious views of creation and the extent to which they conflict

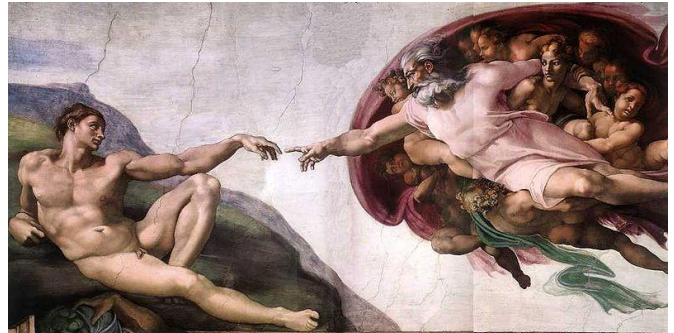
- Origins means 'where it came from' or 'how it started'.

Christian beliefs about how life started

There appear to be at least two different creation stories in the Bible:

Genesis 1

- *Creationism*: God made the world in six days:
 - (1) earth, space, and time
 - (2) sea and sky
 - (3) dry land and plants
 - (4) sun, moon, stars, and planets
 - (5) fish and birds
 - (6) animals and humans.



Genesis 2

- *Adam + Eve, the 2nd Biblical creation story*
 - (1) God makes Adam from dust by breathing the 'breath of life' into Adam's nostrils
 - (2) God puts man in the Garden of Eden, which contains trees with fruits
 - (3) God makes animals for Adam, but none are good enough for Adam
 - (4) God makes Eve from Adam's rib.



Some Christians believe that *both* stories—Genesis 1 and Genesis 2—are factually true. This is because they believe that the Bible is literally true as it is God's actual words. They might argue that:

- the two stories do not contradict one another: they are in fact different parts of the same seamless story
- evidence of the big bang and evolution is only *apparent evidence* that God put in place to make it look as if the world was billions of years old to test faith in the Bible
- dinosaurs are land creatures and were created on the same day as humans (contrary to the modern belief that humans and dinosaurs did not co-exist)

1.3. Stephen Hawking's view of the big bang



Christian beliefs about how life started (2)

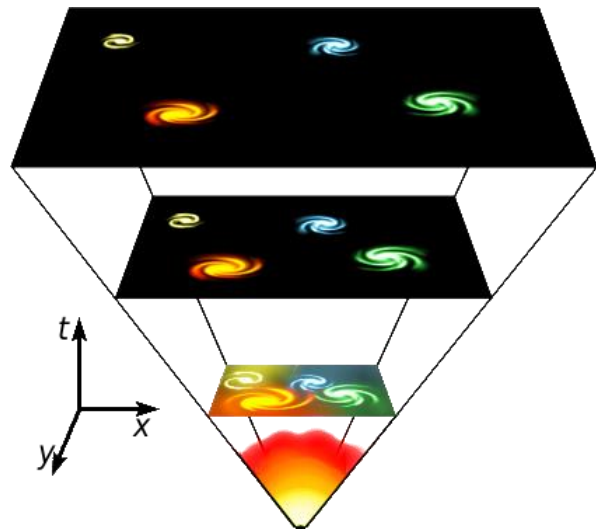
Most Christians, including the Roman Catholic Church, believe that God *caused* the Big Bang and *guided* the process of Evolution.

- *The Big Bang Theory* is the theory that universe began with a singularity 13.7 billion years ago:

(1) a singularity is something infinitely dense, infinitely hot, and infinitesimally small

(2) the singularity expanded, thereby creating measurable space and time

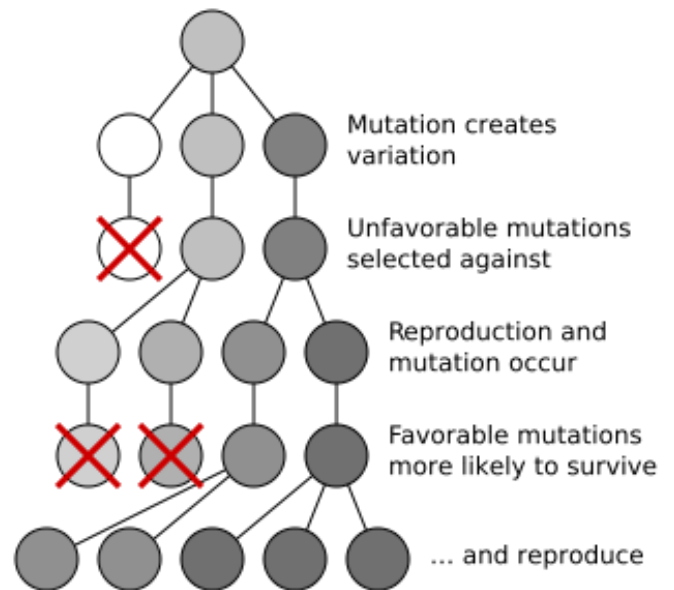
(3) the expansion begins to cool – eventually (300,000 years after the big bang), matter formed



- *The Theory of Evolution* explains how very simple life-forms such as amoeba evolve, over millions of years, into highly complex ones such as humans. Those life-forms with features best suited to their environment survive: survival of the fittest.

These Christians might argue that:

- the big bang theory and the theory of evolution are based on solid evidence. For example, the big bang theory is based on evidence that the universe is expanding. This evidence is Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation (CMBR). Evolutionary theory is based on evidence such as fossils.
- the creation stories are *symbolic* e.g. 'the earth, space, and time', represent the singularity of the big bang; the sea and the sky represent the formation of liquids and gases after the singularity expanded.
- the creation stories are *mythical*: they communicate profound truths e.g. the Adam and Eve story conveys the truths that humans tend to rebel against authority, that humans are intimately interconnected with their environment, and that humans desire moral knowledge and immortality.



1.4. Christian and non-religious beliefs, teachings and attitudes about dominion, stewardship, environmental responsibility, sustainability, and global citizenship:

Key words

- dominion** the Christian belief that God made humans to have power over (to rule over) the planet and God's creations.
- stewardship** the Christian belief that humans are responsible for caring for and looking after God's planet and creations
- environmental responsibility** the belief that humans have a duty to treat the environment respectfully and
- sustainability** using the world's resources in a way that does not compromise the future e.g. replanting forest trees and not chopping them down all at once!
- global citizenship** a citizen is an informed and responsible member of a democracy; global citizenship is the idea that humans are a part of a world community and that we ought to be responsible e.g. by caring for the environment

Most Christians, and people generally, believe that humans are responsible for caring for the environment, for treating it sustainably, and for being good stewards.



Planet earth: Christian viewpoints

Christians have differing views about the earth and the environment. Some Christians, e.g. Roman Catholics, stress *stewardship*, whereas others—e.g. some evangelical Christians—stress *dominion*. Of course, it is possible to believe in both stewardship and dominion: we have power of the world and that we are responsible for looking after it!

Stewardship	Dominion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam was put into the Garden of Eden to tend it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule over the birds, the fish, and the animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God <i>created</i> the world, so these things deserve <i>respect</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God created the world and animals and put humans in <i>charge</i> of them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The world is a gift from God and so should be protected and developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam was empowered to name all of the plants and animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God created the universe as a way of showing love. We should be thankful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the first creation story, humans were the last—and crowning—creation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible says ‘How <i>majestic</i> is God’s name in all of the earth’. The world shows God’s glory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the second creation story, Adam was created first, and the world was created for him
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus said ‘love thy neighbour’; harming the world can harm humans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus cursed the fig tree, and it withered

Some Christians stress the ideas of *awe* + *wonder*.

- Awe* = deep respect
- Wonder* = deep puzzlement

The basic idea is that Christians believe that they can sense God’s power and glory in nature.



2. The origin and value of human life

2.1 Diverse Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the origin and sanctity of human life

Christian belief in the sanctity of human life

Most Christians believe in the *sanctity of life* (that human life is sacred) because

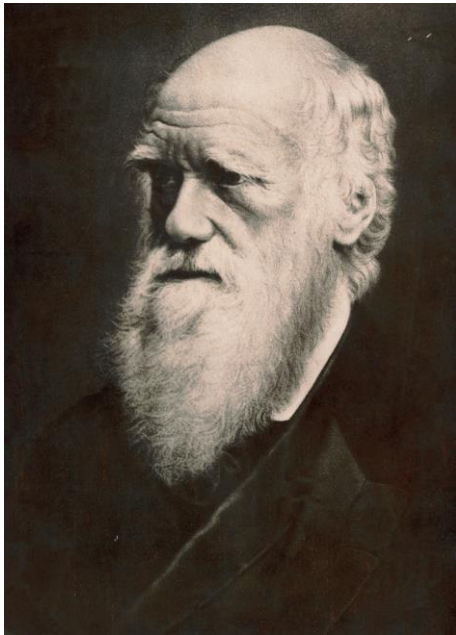
- **God made humans in his own image.** This means that God made humans to be a bit like Himself, and so special.
- God became human in Jesus to save humans from sin. In becoming human, God *sanctified* human life. Sanctified means ‘to make sacred’.
- **‘For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son’.** God became human in Jesus, not just to save a select few, but to save *everyone*. This means that everyone is special in God’s eyes.

Christian belief in the sanctity of life may have significant implications e.g.

- Humans are superior to animals, whose lives are not sacred
- Humans must not fight in war because war involves killing and thus violates the sanctity of life.
- Humans must help the poor because the lives of poor people are sacred
- Humans must not be prejudiced because all human life (male, female, gay, straight) is sacred



2.2. Non-religious beliefs about evolution; Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins



I've written about the theory of evolution in the previous pages.

The theory of evolution was made by **Charles Darwin**. His theory explained how, over a long time, simple organisms gradually led to more complex organisms. He explained this in terms of adaption to the environment.

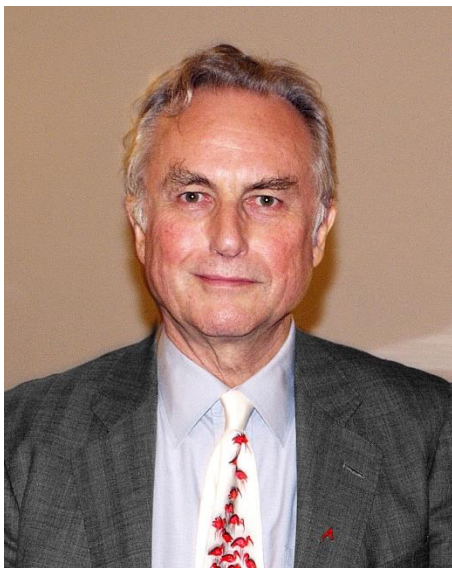
His theory is accepted science. The hallmark of a good scientific theory is that it makes successful predictions.

Darwinism suggested that species would have died out. Evidence of extinct species was discovered later e.g. through fossils.

Today, the most famous evolutionist—and atheist—is **Richard Dawkins**.

Dawkins does not believe that God could have caused evolution (or the big bang for that matter). One reason for this is that God is supernatural, whereas science can only rely on natural explanations. Another reason is that introducing God into the explanation complicates it enormously: we need to explain what God is, and how God came into being – no easy task.

Dawkins emphasises that evolution is not an entirely random process. Rather, the principle of natural selection governs, or orders, creation. This process is a natural one. It is not linked to the intentions of humans or God. It is a feature of the world, like theory of gravity.



2.3. Diverse Christian attitudes towards abortion and euthanasia

Abortion the deliberate termination of a pregnancy.²



Arguments against abortion (pro-life arguments)

1. Killing people is wrong

- killing innocent human beings is wrong
- **human life begins** at conception
- therefore the foetus is an innocent human being
- therefore killing the foetus is wrong
- therefore abortion is always wrong

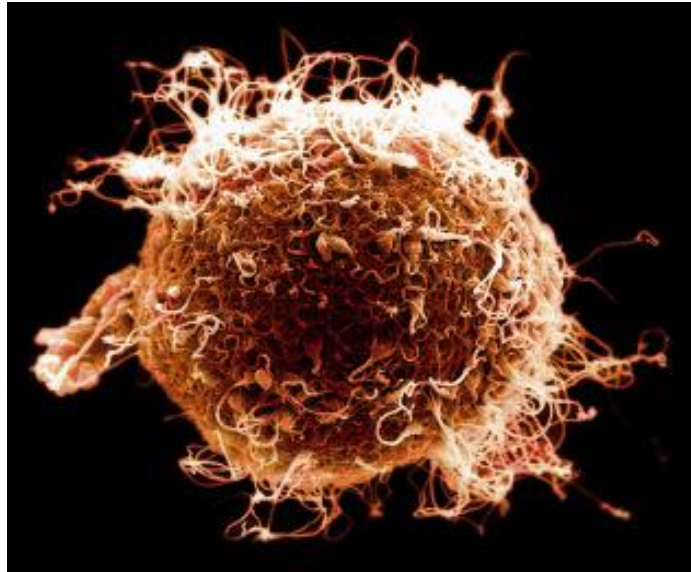
2. Killing potential people is wrong

- it is wrong to destroy potential human life
- from conception onwards the foetus is a **potential human being**
- therefore it is wrong to destroy the foetus
- therefore abortion is always wrong

3. Causing pain is wrong

- it is wrong to cause pain and suffering
- a foetus is sufficiently developed to feel pain by 18 weeks
- therefore it is wrong to carry out an abortion after 18 weeks of pregnancy

² text copied or adapted from the bbc website



Arguments for abortion (pro-choice)

The foetus is not necessarily a 'person' with the right to live

a collection of human cells does not have the right to live just because it is of the human species otherwise amputating a limb would be murder

a collection of human cells only has the right to live by virtue of two facts:

- it has reached a particular stage of development that makes it a **moral 'person'**
- it possesses certain properties that make it a moral 'person'

It is not always wrong to end the life of an innocent person

there are many cases where we have to choose which of two innocent people will live and which will die:

- conjoined twins, where the operation to separate them may cause one twin to die
- mountaineering, when one person can only save their own life by cutting the rope supporting a fallen colleague

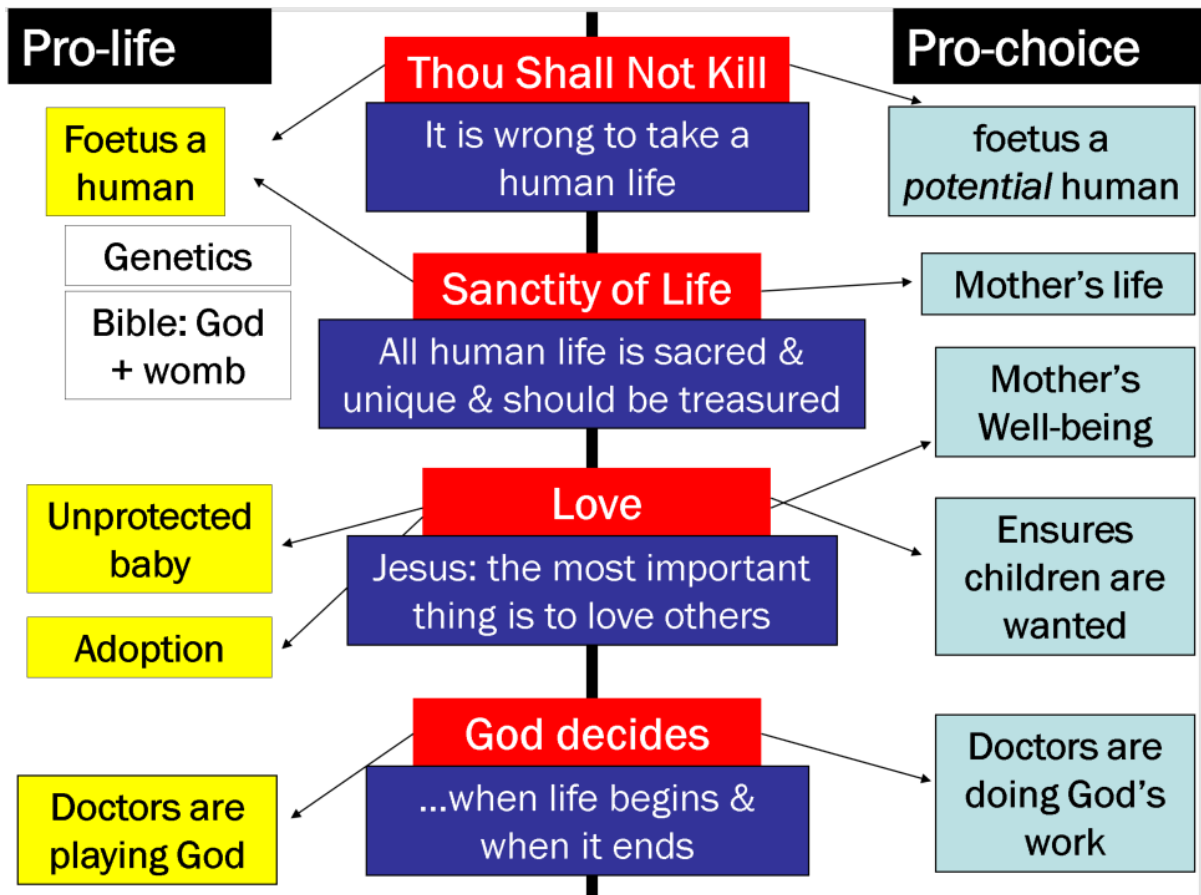
The pregnant woman has moral rights too

under some circumstances these may override the foetus's right to live

these **moral rights** include:

- the right to ownership of her own body
- the right to decide her own future

the pregnant woman has the right to life - where not aborting the foetus would **put the mother's life or health in danger**, she has the moral right to abort the foetus.



Legal status of abortion

Can take place up to 24 weeks of pregnancy.

2 doctors must agree that the woman's physical/mental health are at risk if she continues the pregnancy.

Currently, the father of the foetus has no legal rights- even if the couple are married.

After 24 weeks an abortion can take place only in extreme circumstances, such as;

Mothers/foetus' life in danger.

Severe foetal abnormalities.

It is estimated 1 in 3 women will have an abortion in their lifetime



Judith Jarvis Thompson

Is a female philosopher who is pro-choice.

She emphasises the role of the mother to decide what she does with her body.

She conducts the violinist thought experiment to show this.



Imagine that you wake up one day and you find a violinist connected to your body.

If you cut—sever—the connection, then the violinist would die straight away.

But if you keep the violinist connected to you for nine months, he or she will survive and go on to thrive, play music, and be happy.

Thompson argues that of course you could decide to keep the violinist connected to you, which would be a generous thing to do. You'd be going above and beyond what can be expected!

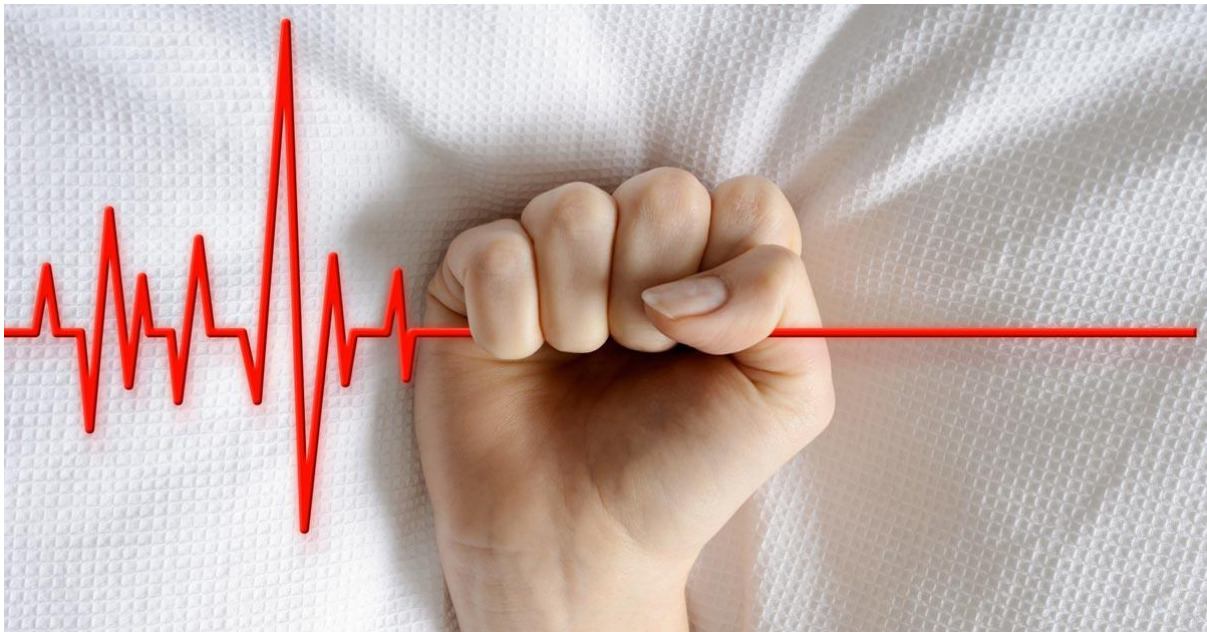
But there is no compulsion or duty to do so: it's your body, and you are within your rights to decide what happens to it.

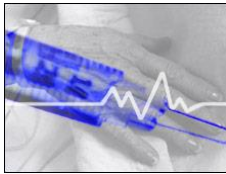
Euthanasia

euthanasia **painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma.**

active euthanasia **when a doctor deliberately hastens the death of a patient e.g. by administering lethal drug.**

passive euthanasia **when a doctor withholds or withdraws life-supporting treatment e.g. pulling the plug from a life support machine.**





Euthanasia

The act of killing someone who is very ill or very old so that they do not suffer any more



Sanctity of Life

The belief that all human life is sacred & unique because it is 'made in the image of God'



Most Christians are **ANTI-EUTHANASIA** because they think:

- It is **SELFISH** – it does not consider the grief the death might cause to those left behind. An ill or old person can still give and be loved.
- It shows **LACK OF FAITH** in the idea that God will not give us more suffering than we can endure.
- It is a **WASTE OF TALENTS** of the God-given talents all people – even old and ill ones – are blessed with.
- It violates the **SANCTITY OF LIFE** – the belief that all human life is sacred and unique because it is made in the image of God.
- St Paul said that all of our bodies are God's **TEMPLES**. We should protect them, not destroy them.
- Only **GOD SHOULD DECIDE** when life begins and ends – not a doctor.
- It violates the **COMMANDMENT** 'Thou shall not kill'.
- Jesus taught that loving others was one of the two most important commandments. The Hospice Movement provides a loving alternative. Patients can die naturally and with dignity.

Some Christians are **PRO-EUTHANASIA**, in some situations because:

- Putting someone out of unending, severe suffering can sometimes be humane and the most loving thing to do. Jesus taught that loving others was one of the two most important commandments.

Only God should decide when human life begins and when it ends. Keeping somebody alive using drugs and intensive treatment may be considered unnatural and therefore against the will of God.



Hospices: a caring hand?



Why did Britain force Diane Pretty to endure an agonising death?



Diane Pretty euthanasia case: Please help me die



'What life?'

In a series of interviews, Diane told *Panorama* about her quality of life.

“I suffer pains everywhere”

Unable to speak, Diane communicated with our reporter through nods, shakes of the head and a machine called a light writer, which enabled her to tap out words letter by letter using a keypad operated by pressure from her wrist.

One sentence could take up to 20 minutes to write. When asked whether life isn't always better than death she replied: "I am dead". When asked about her quality of life, she replied simply: "What life?"

Deprived of dignity

Diane, a mother of two, was diagnosed with motor neurone disease - a fatal and incurable illness affecting around 5,000 people in the UK.

“It feels degrading and humiliating... I reached the point of wanting to die when I couldn't do anything for myself”

She decided she couldn't wait for the disease to take its course and face a death she believed would be distressing and deprived of all dignity and control.

She wanted to commit suicide and would have done so, but the disease, having robbed her of control of her hands, stopped her from taking her own life.

She asked if a doctor could help her die but was told this was against the law. She asked if her husband could help her, only to be told that if he did, he could face up to 14 years in prison.



Brian and Diane Pretty on their wedding day

From the www.bbc.co.uk

Christian beliefs about the use of animals in medical research



Some Christians oppose animal testing because:

- 🔥 According to Jesus, God notices the death even of one **sparrow**. So it is wrong to kill animals.
- 🔥 God created humans to be his **stewards**. It is thus the duty of humans to care for God's creation. Humans should care for animals, not destroy them.
- 🔥 The Pope also taught that scientists should '**abandon their laboratories and factories of death**'.

Most Christians agree with animal testing because:

1. They believe that humans are superior to animals:

- 🔥 Animals do not have **souls** and cannot have a relationship with God.
- 🔥 In the first creation story, humans were created after animals.
- 🔥 In the second creation story, animals were created for Adam, but none were suitable.

2. God gave humans **dominion** over animals. This means he gave humans both the power and the right to rule over animals. This suggests that we can use animals for our own benefit (so most Christians eat meat).

3. Pope taught that it is wrong to make a fuss of animals (including pets) when there are millions of humans dying.

For these Christians, it is important that:

- 🔥 the animals used are treated with respect (because God created them).
- 🔥 the research is important and will save human lives (so testing make-up is not allowed).

A philosopher called Peter Singer would call most Christians speciesist. They discriminate on the grounds of species. Yet, he would say, aren't humans really just animals?

2.4. Non-religious views on the importance of human and animal life

Some non-religious people might argue that animals and humans have equal rights because

- humans *are* animals
- both animals and humans were created by God
- both humans and animals can experience pain and suffering

ANIMALS BETTER THAN HUMANS: It could be argued that animals are *better* than humans. After all, animals tend not to engage in genocide, rape, torture, abuse, exploitation, slavery, murder...

HUMANS BETTER THAN ANIMALS: humans know the difference between right and wrong, have an advanced language, have advanced technology, have abstract understanding, and so forth.

2.5. Peter Singer's views on 'speciesism'

Speciesism, a term used by the philosopher Peter Singer, is discrimination against animals. It is when a living being is treated differently because of its species

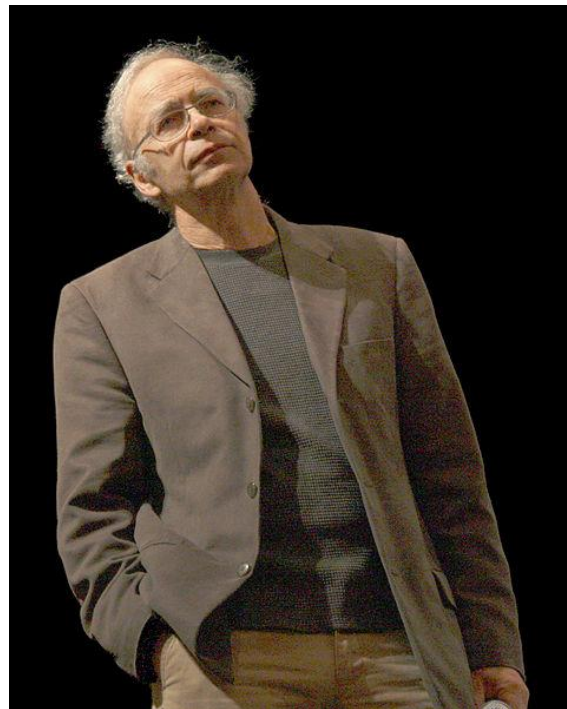
For example, most humans eat meat: beef from the cow, pork from the pig, and lamb from the, well, lamb. Yet, few humans (in the West) think that it's okay to eat some animals e.g. dogs. And few people eat other human meat.

Another example is animal as opposed to human testing.

Singer says that there is an important difference between sentient and non-sentient organisms. Sentient animals are conscious, perhaps self-conscious, and can experience pain. Non-sentient animals and organisms such as ants and plants, he argues, are not sentient.

He would probably admit that sentience is a matter of degree: some animals are more sentient than others.

Singer argues that because sentient animals can experience pain and pleasure we should take their interests into account and therefore not mistreat them.

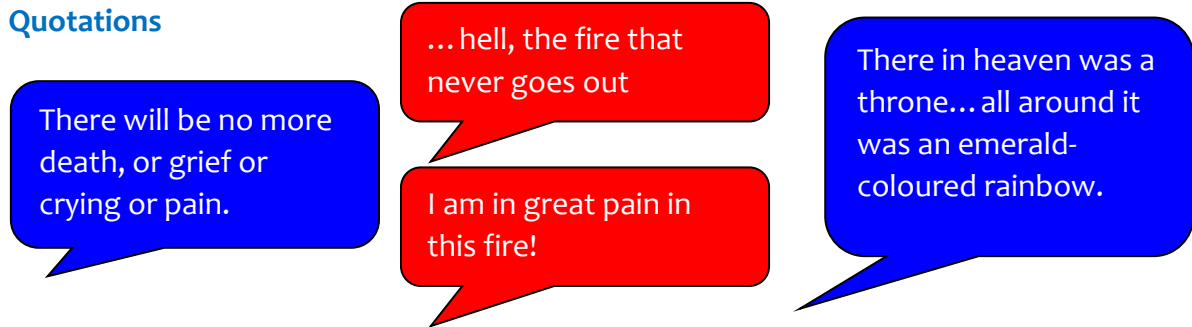


3. Beliefs about death and the afterlife

3.1. Christian beliefs and teachings about life after death, including soul, judgement, heaven and hell

3.2. Diverse Christian beliefs about the afterlife

Quotations



Heaven

Some Christians believe heaven is a ...

... **physical** place of eternal paradise ruled by Jesus where one will be reunited with dead loved ones

Others believe heaven is a...

... poetical (**symbolic**) way of talking about spiritual life **with God**.

In the Bible, heaven is represented as:

A wedding feast A banquet	Bathed in the light of God	A city – the New Jerusalem	Jesus drinks wine with his disciples	Music worshipping 'the lamb of God on the throne'
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Hell

Some believe hell is a ...

... **physical** place of eternal torture engulfed in fire, ruled by Satan

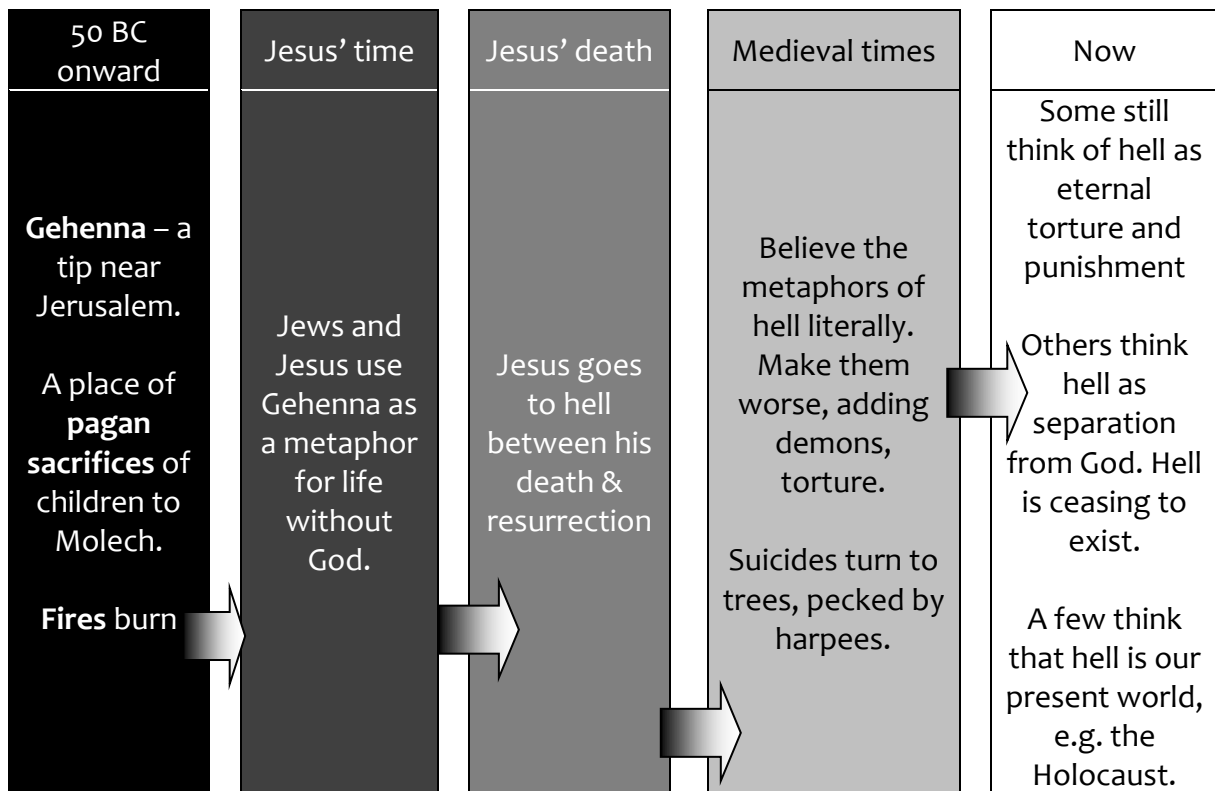
Others believe hell is a...

... poetical (**symbolic**) way of talking about spiritual life **without God**.

In the Bible, hell is:

Eternal punishment	Fire	Darkness
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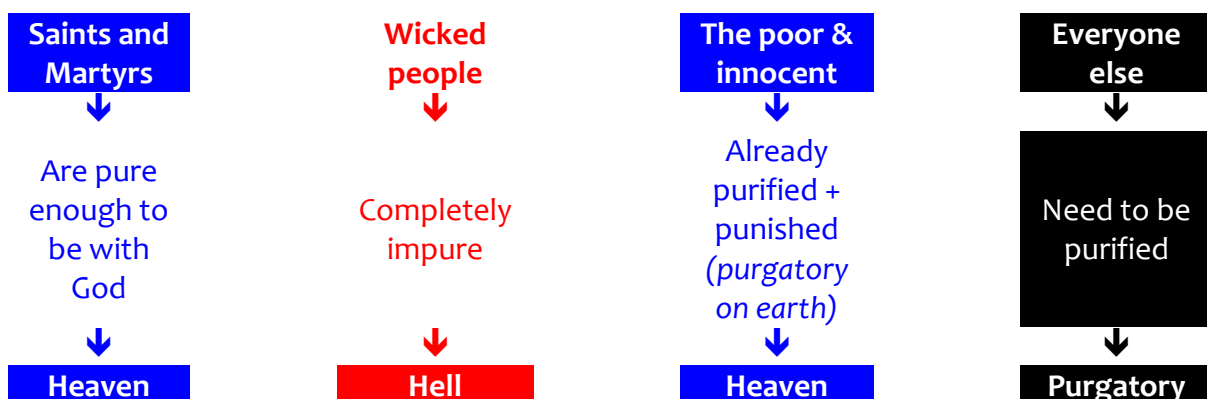
A very brief history of hell



Purgatory

Some Roman Catholics believe that purgatory is a...

The Roman Catholic Church teaches purgatory is a...



Judgement

Jesus Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

from the Apostle's Creed

He will divide them into two groups, like a shepherd separates sheep from goats

There will be a new heaven and a new earth

The parable of the sheep and the goats

1. Jesus, calling himself the Son of Man, comes sitting on his throne, with angels
2. Everyone stands before him
3. Jesus splits them into two groups, like a shepherd splits sheep and goats
4. Good people are people who have helped others (e.g. fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked)
5. Jesus says that in helping others the good people were in fact helping him
6. The good people are put on his right
7. The others are put on his left and then sent off to 'eternal punishment'

When will Judgment take place?

immediately after death	OR	On the Judgement Day – a day of Judgement for people of 'all nations'
<p>Because... Jesus said to the thief next to him on the cross:</p> <p>Today you will be with me in paradise.</p>		<p>Because... The parable of the sheep and goats says that people of all nations stand before Jesus.</p> <p>Yet... No one knows when that day and hour will come</p> <p>...not even the Son of Man, Jesus</p>

Resurrection

- 🔥 Jesus died on Friday
- 🔥 He went to Hell, according to many Evangelical Christians
- 🔥 Then Resurrected (came back to life) on Sunday.

Resurrection – coming back to life after dying

<p>Jesus said...</p> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>I am the resurrection and the life</p> </div>	<p>Mary sees Jesus after he died...</p> <div style="background-color: olive; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>They saw a young man sitting on the right, wearing a white robe</p> </div>	<p>Jesus dies and then appears to Thomas and says...</p> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Do you believe because you see me?</p> </div>
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Why else do Christians believe in resurrection?

L	A	P
<p>Jesus brought Lazarus, and Jairus's daughter, back to life – two of his miracles</p> <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Jesus said 'talitha koum' meaning 'little girl, get up.'</p> </div>	<p>The Apostle's Creed, a statement of Christian beliefs, states:</p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting</p> </div>	<p>St. Paul said:</p> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>When buried, it is a physical body; when raised, it will be a spiritual body.</p> </div>

NEWSFLASH! (Matthew 27:51-53)

MASS RESURRECTION!

Jesus dies and then...

51 The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

.53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and[e] went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

3.3. How Christian and Humanist funerals in Britain reflect beliefs about the afterlife

Christian funerals

		What	Why
1	Heaven	<p>A andle is kept burning throughout the ceremony</p> <p>The coffin is sprinkled with holy water</p>	<p>To symbolise that Jesus was the light of the world, <i>who died so we might live</i>.</p> <p>Water is a symbol of a new life (think of baptisms).</p>
2	Hell	<p>The coffin remains open</p>	<p>To remind Christians that death is God's punishment for sin:</p> <p>The wages of sin is death</p>
3	Purgatory	<p>Special prayers for people in purgatory are said.</p>	<p>Praying reduces the time the person has to spend in purgatory</p>
4	Judgement	<p>A eulogy (brief biography) is read out</p>	<p>This reminds Christians that humans will have to explain their lives to God on the day of Judgement.</p>
5	Resurrection	<p>The priest wears white robes.</p> <p>Bible reading, including the words of Jesus:</p> <p>... whoever believes in him[Jesus] should not perish but have eternal life</p>	<p>This colour symbolises resurrection.</p> <p>This reminds Christians that death is not the end for people who believed in Jesus.</p> <p>I am the resurrection and the life</p>
	Adam and Eve	<p>Earth is put on the coffin in the commital. The priest says</p> <p>'earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.</p>	<p>The priest use this to explain that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. from earth we were made (see Adam + Eve story), 2. to earth we shall return (we'll rot away), 3. and in the future God will raise us from it once again. (resurrect us)

Humanist funerals



Information is taken or adapted from the website:

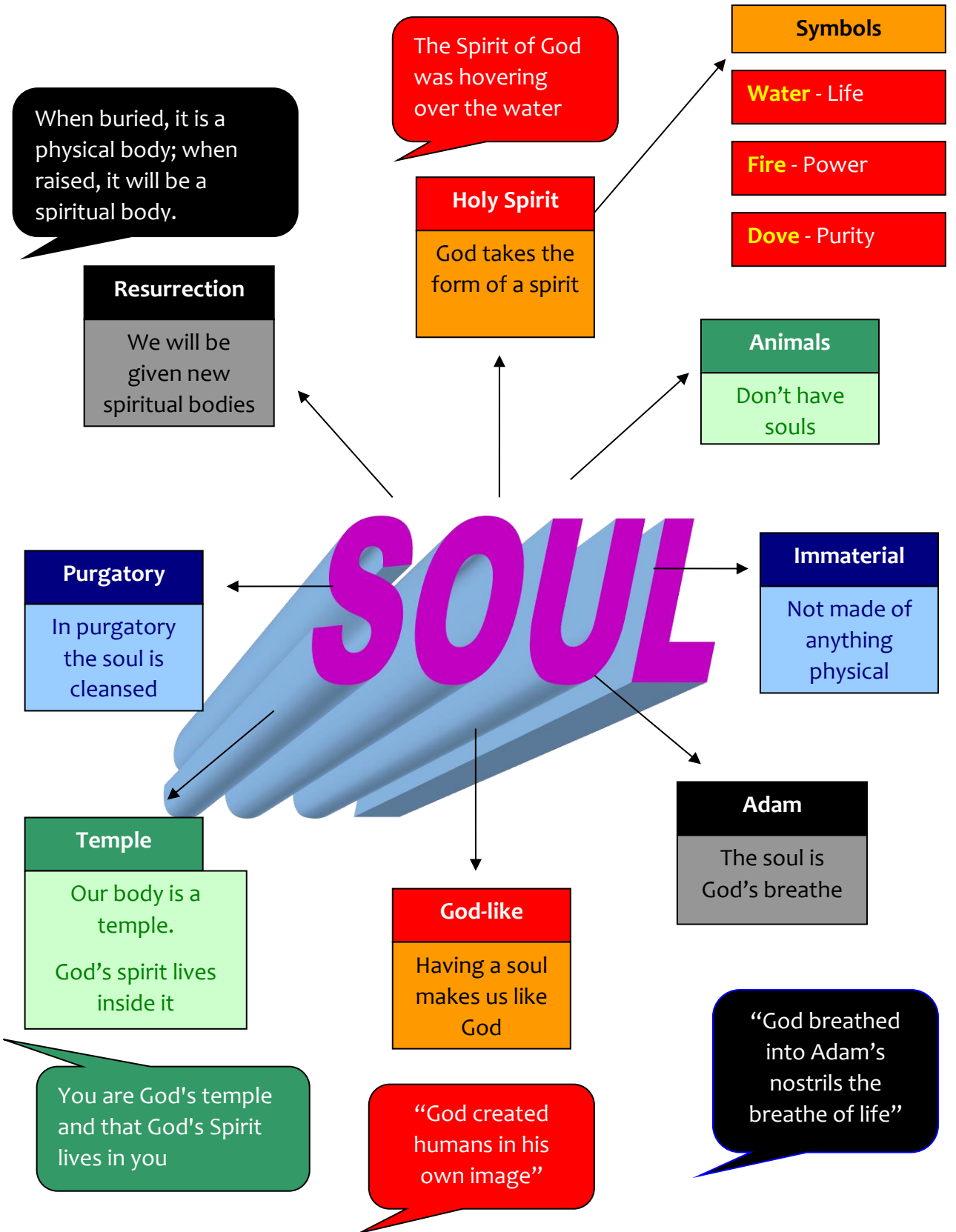
<https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-funerals/>

This has an excellent video that's worth watching.

Humanists offer meaningful non-religious funeral ceremony.

- Humanist funerals – like all others – can be held in a variety of places
- Most funerals are held in crematoria, cemeteries or woodland burial sites.
- The funeral can involve cremation or burial
- A funeral is led by a celebrant (a bit like a non-religious priest).
- An aim is to celebrate the life of the deceased (the person who has died)
- Someone might read a tribute, a poem, or a piece of prose
- Music might be played
- Each funeral is personal and unique, and varies with the circumstances





Good

and

Evil



Key Topics Personalised Checklist

Topic	Revised	Things I still don't understand ... YET	Understand
1. Crime and punishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morality - Aims of punishment - Prisons - Death Penalty 			
2. Forgiveness			
3. Good, evil and suffering			

Key Words

Good - That which is considered morally right, beneficial and to our advantage

Evil - That which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong

Forgiveness - To grant pardon for a wrongdoing; to give up resentment and the desire to seek revenge against a wrongdoer.

Free will - The ability to make choices voluntarily and independently. The belief that nothing is predetermined

Justice- Fairness; where everyone has equal provisions and opportunities

Morality - Principles and standards determining which actions are right and wrong

Punishment - A penalty given to someone for a crime or wrong they have done

Sin - Deliberate immoral action, breaking a religious or moral law

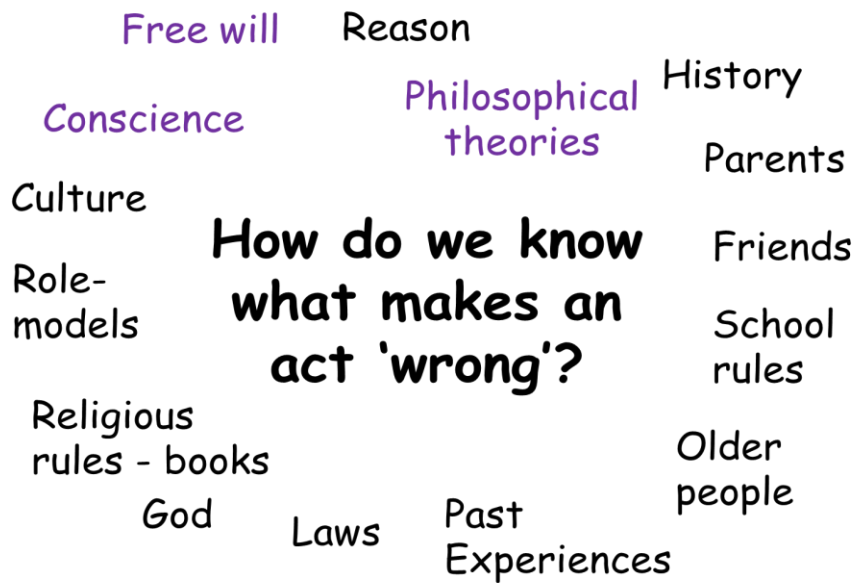
Suffering - Pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss. Suffering can be physical, emotional / psychological or spiritual

Key Quotes:

- *"If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Bible)*
- *"Never underestimate the power of asking for forgiveness! It is a weapon that brings you back to Allah" (Hadith)*
- *"Whoever shed the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed" (Bible)*
- *"Eye for an eye..." (Bible)*
- *"Thou shall not kill" (Bible)*
- *"As to the thief cut off their hands: a punishment by way of example" (Qur'an)*
- *"Take not life Allah has made sacred, except for just cause" (Qur'an)*
- *'Father, forgive them, for they know now what they do" (Bible)*
- *"...if you pardon and overlook and forgive - then indeed, God is Forgiving and Merciful" (Qur'an)*

1. Crime and Punishment

Right, Wrong and Morality



Conscience:

- An inner voice which keeps a person on the right track; a sense of right and wrong; an instinct (some think given by God) to help us make right decisions.



Free Will:

- A human's ability to make free choices in life.
- We determine the actions we do which we think are morally right / wrong.

Philosophical Theories:

- Situation Ethics - do the most loving thing
- Utilitarianism - Do the act which will bring the most happiness to the greatest number
- Divine command theory - do what God says
- Deontology - Follow your duty

Types of Morality:

- **Absolute morality** - a principle about what is wrong so that what is wrong never changes. EG killing is always wrong regardless of the circumstances. Catholics and Quakers often have an absolute approach to morality.
- **Relative morality** - a principle about what is wrong so that what is wrong may change in certain situations. EG killing may not always be wrong such as in cases of euthanasia. The Church of England often take this approach.

Sin:

- The deliberate immoral action, breaking religious / moral laws (not state law)
- EG going against the 10 commandments, or the Shar'ia law
- **Consequences of sin:**
 - o Christianity:
 - Can lead to person suffering
 - Excommunication (cut off from the Church)
 - May not get to heaven
 - o Islam:
 - Punishments under Shar'ia law EG thief's get their hands cut off
 - May not get to Janna, and may get particular punishments in Jahannam EG not praying will mean you get your head smashed against a boulder.



Crime:

- Any offence that is punishable by law.
- **Causes of crime:** Poor education / Poor parenting / Poverty / Peer pressure / Mental health / Unemployment / Media / Drugs / Alcohol
- **Consequences of crime:** Warnings / fines / community services / Restrictions / electronic tags / prison / death row



Sins Vs Crime

- Some sins are also crimes. EG Thou shall not kill; Thou shall not steal
- However there are sins that are not crimes EG Thou shall not misuse the Lords name; Honour your father and mother.

Aims of punishment

- **Retribution** - getting even by making the criminal experience the suffering that they made others suffer from.
- **Reformation** - To turn criminals into responsible law-abiding members of society by helping them to change their ways EG counselling and educations
- **Reparation** - The criminal does something to make up for the crime they have committed. EG someone who graffiti's may be made clean it up.
- **Protection** - To prevent any more innocent people getting hurt EG by keeping a criminal in prison.
- **Deterrence** - Having a harsh punishment aims to put others of crime
- **Vindication** - To show that the law needs to be respected and followed

Justice:

- Fairness; where everyone has equal provisions and opportunity
- Justice should be provided by providing a fair trial to all, and then to give an appropriate sentence for crimes they have committed that reflect the severity of the crime.

Christian views about punishment

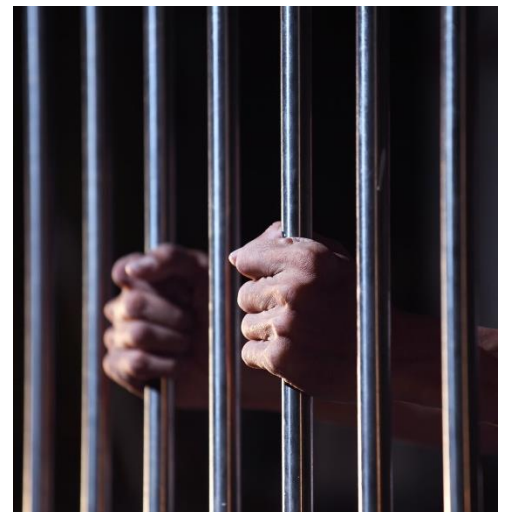
- Supports justice.
- Believe people should forgive criminals but appropriate punishments need to be given
- Agree with aims including protection, vindication, deterrence, reparation and most important reformation.
- Many Christians disagree with retribution.

Muslim views about punishment

- Forgiveness is important
- Protection and vindication are important – many areas of the Shari’ah law are also designed to deter people from wrongdoing.
- Muslims hope offenders will reform and repent.

Prisons

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protection- Retribution- Deterrence- Vindication- Reformation – many have counselling / education to help them rehabilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Costs a lot of tax-payers money- Prisoners educate each other in crime- Often bullying and mistreatment- Offenders family suffer- Doesn't work as seen by high rates of reoffending



Reformers: People who argue for change in, in this case in British prisons

- John Howard – argued for basic but essential provisions EG clean water / gender specific cells / access to doctors / more prison staff for support
- Elizabeth Fry – argued for education in prisons so reformation was possible.

Services now available in prison:



Drug
rehabilitation



Education



Counselling



Training for
work



Prison
Chaplains

Prison Chaplains

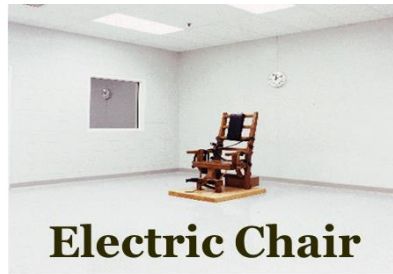
- A minister / religious community member attached to a prison.
- They offer counselling to inmates; support them; help prisoners to re-enter community; support the offenders family
- Why become a chaplain?
 - o Want to help people
 - o Believe all life is sacred and God is within them
 - o Follows Jesus' commandments of showing love / compassion. In the parable of the Goats and Sheep the good people were said to visit prisoners.
- Importance:
 - o Help the offender reform
 - o Help the offenders family cope
 - o Follows religious teachings
 - o Helps society be more stable in the future

Religious beliefs about prisons

- Providing they aim to reform offenders by teaching them new skills, and they offer medical treatment, all religions would agree with prisons.

Death Row

- A legally authorised killing of someone as a punishment for a serious crime they committed EG murder

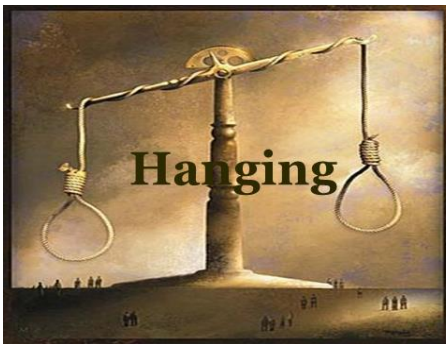


Methods of death row still legal in some counties.

Some states in USA allow lethal injection / electric chair / gas / firing squad / hanging

North Korea and Saudi Arabia allow death penalty by decapitation still

Sudan still allows death penalty by stoning.



For death penalty	Against death penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retribution • Deterrence • Protection • Tax payers pay a lot to keep criminals in prison • Some cannot be reformed • Helps victims feel closure • Needs to be the most serious punishment for most serious crimes • "Whoever shed the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed" (Christian Quote) • "As to the thief cut off their hands: a punishment by way of example" (Islamic quote) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypocritical to kill for killing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too easy? • Mistakes have been made EG Derek Bentley • Statistics indicate it doesn't deter criminals any more than prison • Breaches right to human life and the sanctity of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other punishments protect society EG prison • Doesn't allow the person the chance to rehabilitate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Thou shall not murder" (Christian Quote) • "Take not life that Allah has made sacred" (Islamic quote)

Religious views on the death penalty

Liberal Christians: - Capital punishment is wrong as only God can take life. We should forgive.

Quakers – God is within everyone so death penalty is forbidden

Conservative Christians – Capital punishment is allowed as the Old Testament says so

Catholics – Favours alternative punishments to the death penalty but may be justified if they were 100% certain and there was no hope of reformation

Muslims – Death penalty is allowed to protect society and deter criminals.

Exam Questions:

- Define the term morality (2)
- Describe the difference between absolute and relative morality (5)
- Explain from two religious views, opinions of prisons (8)
- 'Death penalty should never be allowed. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and

Exam Questions:

- Define the term justice (2)
- Describe one religion's views towards punishments (5)
- Explain from two religious views, opinions of death penalty (8)
- 'Prison is the ideal punishment'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in

2. Forgiveness

Christian views on forgiveness:

- Jesus instructs Christians to forgive:
 - o *'Forgive and you will be forgiven.'*
 - o *'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.'*
 - o Jesus' parable of the prodigal son - A father forgave his son for leaving and wasting all of his inheritance
 - o Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant - A servant was forgiven for his debt of 10,000, but he refused to forgive another for 100 so was punished. Shows you should forgive whatever size of the sin.
- Jesus demonstrates forgiveness:
 - o He forgave his executors: *'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.'*
 - o He forgave the adulterous women - this should have been punishable by death
 - o He forgave the tax collector who cheated many people

How can Christians seek forgiveness?

- Catholics = through confession and religious acts of atonement
- Evangelical = Forgiveness of sins is granted by God and reliant upon faith

Muslim views on forgiveness:

- Humans are not perfect and make mistakes, but forgiveness is the path to peace and to God.
- 2 types of forgiveness; both are needed as we make mistakes towards others and God: Human forgiveness / God's forgiveness. There is no limit to God's forgiveness.
- The Qur'an says:
 - *'God loves those who turn unto Him in repentance'*
 - *'...if you pardon and overlook and forgive - then indeed, God is Forgiving and Merciful'*
- Prophet Muhammad demonstrated forgiveness when he sought to help a sick elderly lady who used to throw rubbish at him daily.

Exam Questions:

1. What is meant by forgiveness (2)
2. Describe one religious view towards forgiveness (5)
3. Explain from two religious views, opinions on forgiveness (8)
4. 'All religious people should forgive'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

3, Good and Evil

Christian views on goodness:

- God made the earth 'and it was good'
- God gave humans free will to chose between good and bad
- Adam and Eve chose to stray from goodness leading to the Fall.
- God has shown people how to be good through the rules / teachings in the Bible. It is now up to us as to whether we follow them.
- Jesus' demonstrates good qualities so we should try to follow his example.

Islamic views on goodness:

- Everyone is born with a natural instinct to understand good and bad (Fitrah).
- Humans have free will to choose between good and bad
- Qur'an refers to 'good Muslims' as those 'who believe and do good deeds'.
- Qu'ran and Muhammad highlight qualities of goodness as: truthfulness / patience / humility / kindness / good actions
- God will judge us based on our good / bad actions. Those who do good will be rewarded in Janna

Evil

Evil is that which is considered extremely immoral, wicked and wrong. It leads to suffering which is the pain or distress caused by injury, illness or loss. Suffering can be emotional, physical, psychological or spiritual.

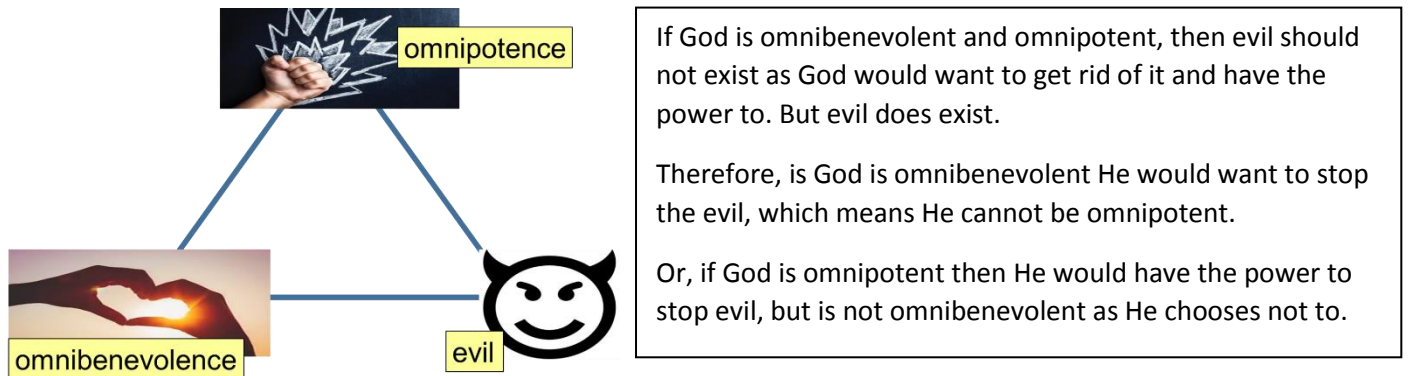
There are two forms of evil:

- Moral Evil: Evil caused by humans such as stabbing / lying / theft etc

- Natural Evil: Evil caused by nature through no fault of humans EG floods / earthquakes etc.

The problem of evil:

Evil is one of the biggest reasons for people not to believe in God. This idea is explained by Mackie's inconsistent triad:



Christian responses to the problem of evil:

1. Free will - Humans have the choice and many therefore choose to do evil over good
2. Soul-making - We need to experience evil and suffering to help us to develop
3. Original Sin - Adam and Eve choose to disobey God which lead to evil and suffering in humanity as we are all now born with sin.
4. Life is a test - God is making us experience evil to test us to see how we react and whether we keep faith
5. Evil and suffering are beyond human understanding - we can never understand God's purpose and reasoning for evil
6. Suffering helps us to understand Jesus - as Jesus agreed to suffer a painful death for the greater good
7. Evil is the absence of good - There is no such thing as evil as God created the world perfectly, it is just a name we have given when there is no good around.
8. Satan - the devil tempts humans away from goodness.

Muslims responses to evil:

- Everything, including evil, happens as it is the will and plan of Allah (Al-Qard).
- Muslims must accept suffering as part of the plan and that they will never be able to truly understand this purpose.
- Muslims believe life is a test.
- Many Muslims believe evil comes from Shaytan.

How to overcome suffering:

- Prayer
- Fund raising
- Counselling
- Rehabilitation programmes
- Disaster relief
- Building works
- Medical care
- Training / education



Exam Questions:

- What is meant by the term evil (2)
- Describe the problem of evil (5)
- Explain religious responses to the problem of evil and suffering (8)
- 'An omnibenevolent God would not allow for evil and suffering'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You



- Learn your key words!
- Learn some quotes for each sub-topic
- Make sure you spend at least 2 minutes planning your 15 mark question
- If you get the 2 and 5 mark question done as quickly as possible, you will be able to have a little bit longer on the 8 and 15 mark questions.

GCSE Religious Studies

Revision Booklet



Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

Content from a Christian Perspective

Sample exam questions

(a) Giving one example, state what is meant by 'discrimination'? [2]

(b) Describe one example of when personal religious conviction has conflicted with the laws of a country.

(c) Explain from two different religions or two religious traditions, attitudes to gaining and using wealth. [8]

(d) "Religions should do more to fight against racial prejudice and discrimination."

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Exam questions 2018

(a) What is meant by 'relative poverty'? [2]

(b) Describe why some religious believers agree with censorship. [5]

(c) Explain, from two religions or two religious traditions, how personal conviction may conflict with the laws of a country. [8]

(d) 'It is up to you what you do with your money.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.) [15]

Quotation 1 *Genesis 1:26-27*¹

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.



Meaning 1: The sanctity of human life

- The sanctity of life is the belief that all human life is sacred and holy.
- Why? Because God made us. And God made us in his own 'image', i.e. like him.
- So, like God is holy, so are we.

Meaning 2: Equality

- God made all humans. So all humans are equal.
- He made male and female together, at the same time. So, men and women are equal.

Meaning 3: Dominion

- God makes human beings to rule the world.
- Humans are told to rule over the fish, the birds, and the animals.

¹ All Bible quotations in this booklet are from the New International Version (NIV) translation

Quotation 2

Galatians 3:27-29

27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 **There is neither Jew nor Gentile**, neither slave nor free, **nor is there male and female**, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**.

29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

This quote is from the Bible. It belongs to Saint Paul.

The key bit is

There is neither Jew nor Gentile...nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

This means, whether you are

- Jewish or non-Jewish ('Gentile' means 'non-Jew')
- a slave or a free person
- a woman or a man

You are all equal in the eyes of Jesus Christ.



Quotation 3

Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.

23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

24 So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

25 “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,

28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

30 “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”



The Rich Man and the Poor Lazarus (1625)

Hades – another word for Hell.

In a nutshell:

- There was a rich man. He wore fine purple clothes – very expensive.
- There was also a poor man called Lazarus. He longed to eat what fell from the rich man's table.

But...

- When Lazarus died, he went to heaven to be with Abraham, the prophet.
- When the rich man died, he went to hell. He was in agony in the hell-fire.
- This suggests that the poor will go to heaven – but the rich will go to hell!

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN 1948



After the horrors of World War 2, the United Nations (UN) published a list of **thirty** human rights.



Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp

Here are ten human rights that the UN write ought to be respected²:

- We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.

- No one should be held as a slave, and no one has the right to treat anyone else as their slave.

- No one has the right to inflict torture

- Everyone accused of a crime has the right to a fair and public trial

- Everyone accused of a crime has the right to be considered innocent until they have fairly been proven to be guilty.

- Nobody has the right to enter our home, open our mail, or intrude on our families without good reason.

- We should never be forced to marry. The government has a responsibility to protect us and our family.

- Everyone has the right to own property, and no one has the right to take this away from us without a fair reason.

- Everyone has the freedom to think or believe what they want, including the right to religious belief.

- Everyone has the right to their own opinions, and to be able to express them freely.

² Adapted from <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/universal-declaration-human-rights-UDHR>
19/06/2018

1. Human Rights and Social Justice

1.1. Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes toward the dignity of human life

'Dignity' means 'worthy of honour and respect'	Christians believe in the sanctity of (human) life	This means 'life is holy and sacred'
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Why do Christians believe in the sanctity of life?

- **God made humans in his own image.**
This means that God made humans to be a bit like Himself, and so special.
- **God became human in Jesus (the incarnation) to save humans from sin.**
In becoming human, God *sanctified* human life. Sanctified means 'to make sacred'.
- **John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son'.**
God became human in Jesus, not just to save a select few, but to save *everyone*. All are special for God.



**For God so
loved the
world that he
gave his one
and only Son**

John 3:16

**Agape,
unconditional
Christian
love**

agape



Christians believe that you should love everyone.

This means being compassionate to those who are suffering.

It also means standing up for social justice.

And promoting human rights.

**Love your
neighbour
as yourself**

Matthew 22:39;
Leviticus 19:18

**I tell you, love
your enemies
and pray for
those who
persecute you.**

Matthew 5:44

social justice

Fairness in terms of how wealth and opportunities are distributed (shared) within a society

For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.

Psalm 11:7

If you believe in social justice, then you believe that:

- everyone is equal and deserves to be treated fairly
- human rights should be respected and promoted
- no-one should be discriminated against or persecuted
- there should be no sexism, racism, ageism, etc.
- wealth should be distributed fairly throughout society.
- diversity should be celebrated



1.2. Christian practices to promote human rights including equality: agape in action



Mother Teresa

Jesus

Martin Luther King

Oscar Romero



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Salvation Army



Christian Aid

Jesus

According to Christians, Jesus died on the cross to save all humans from their sins: the ultimate act of agape.

Jesus healed the sick and disabled e.g. the miracle of making a paralysed man walk.

Martin Luther King

Peaceful protests and civil disobedience to stand up for equality.

Salvation Army

Night shelters, soup kitchens for the poor.

Mother Teresa

Dedicated her life to helping the poorest and sickest people in India. She set up a hospice, a home for the dying, in Kolkata, India.

Oscar Romero

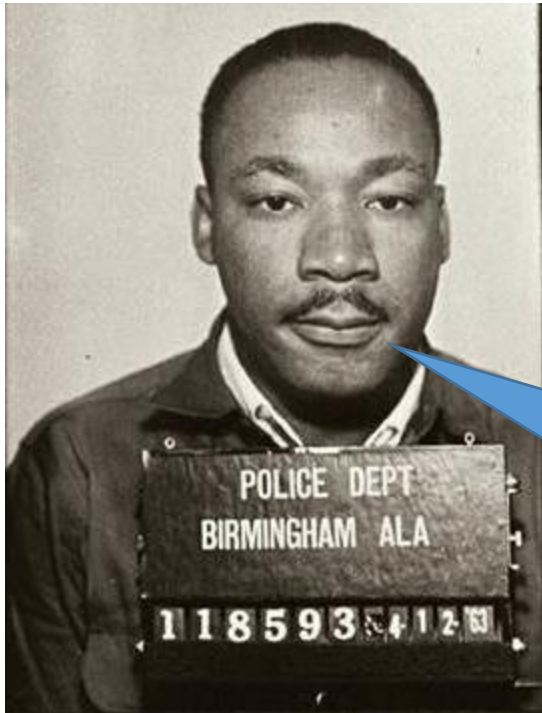
A liberation theologian who protested against the corrupt government of El Salvador. He encouraged people to revolt.

Christian Aid

Rebuilding houses after the Pakistan floods

1.3. An example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country

Martin Luther King MLK)



A **personal conviction** is a deeply held religious, moral, or political belief.

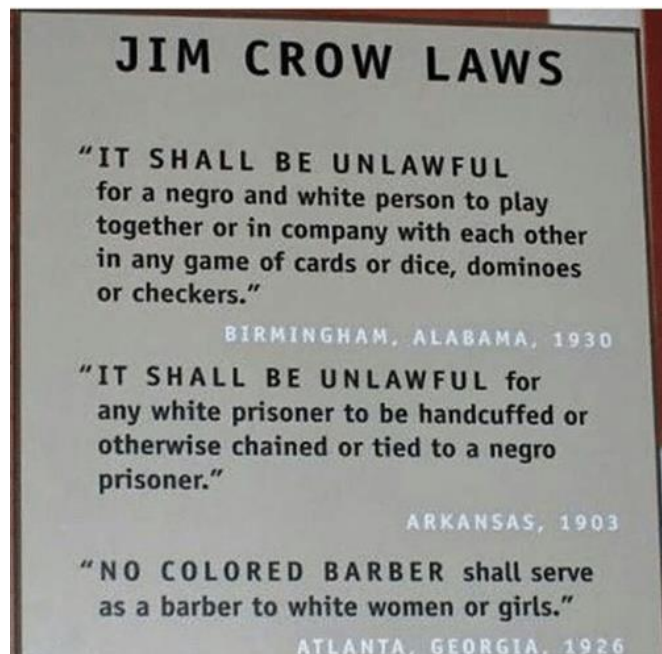
One of MLK's personal convictions:

- Racial equality and justice

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character."

MLK's personal conviction conflicted with the Jim Crow laws.

- These were the racist laws in the southern American states from 1877 to 1954.
- The laws promoted racial segregation (separation) of white people and 'persons of colour'.



1.4. Freedom of religious expression

Freedom of speech and expression is a **human right**.

This means that, in countries where human rights are respected, people are allowed to wear religious symbols in public e.g. a crucifix necklace:



It also means that Christians are able to **evangelise** (=preach) in public.

An **Evangelical Christian** is any Christian who believes in trying to **convert** others to their religion.

Evangelical Christians think that by converting people to Christianity they are **saving their souls**.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Evangelical Christians believe that the *only* way for people to get into heaven is by believing in Jesus

human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief

Preamble to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

They believe in spreading of the 'good news' (the Christian message of salvation) e.g. by:

- preaching in the streets
- knocking on doors (Jehovah Witnesses)
- giving away free Bibles (Gideon Christians)

The right to freedom of speech explains why the Westboro Baptist Church is allowed to picket funerals and express their beliefs.



But freedom of speech and religious expression is a limited right. People aren't entitled to say *whatever* they want. In the UK, for example, inciting (encouraging) hatred and violence is illegal.

1.5. Censorship

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes... to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The worst thing about censorship is [REDACTED].

Censorship

Censorship is when a censor—often the government—stops some content from being published or broadcast because it is deemed inappropriate.



For example, take the film *Life of Brian* (1979). This was censored—banned—in some countries such as Norway for a time because it appeared to make fun of religion, which some people found offensive.

Today, content that encourages violence and discrimination against religion is usually censored e.g. neo-Nazi articles promoting hatred of Jews and Muslims.

1.6. Religious extremism

Religious extremism	Holding religious beliefs that are fanatical
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Westboro Baptist Church

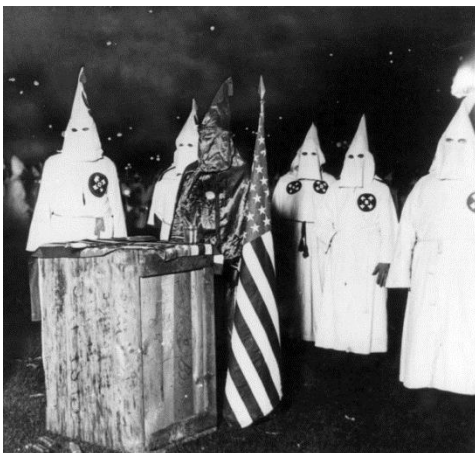
This Church has picketed and protested at the funerals of dead soldiers.

They also trod on an American flag, which is illegal in some of American states.

One example of a Christian extremist group is the **Westboro Baptist Church**. It holds many fanatical views e.g.

- God is to thank for the 9/11 terrorist attack.
- That Jews are responsible for the death of Christ.
- Barack Obama was the anti-Christ: the son of Satan.
- Homosexuals and Jews dominated Nazi Germany
- LGBT members, Jews, Muslims, Roman Catholics are all doomed for hell.
- America is a doomed nation because it allows homosexuality.

Another extremist Christian group is the **Ku Klux Klan (KKK)**:



KKK is a **white supremacist, neo-Nazi** group in the USA. They believe that Roman Catholics, Jews, and black people are a threat to their Protestant, American Christian values.

They dress up in white, hooded costumes. In the past, they

- lynched black people and Jews
- burnt crosses to terrify people
- bombed churches and houses, especially of black people

They call their leaders 'grand dragons'

Extremists tend to be **absolutists** (they are right, everyone is wrong), **supremacists** (they are better than everyone else), and **dogmatists** (they are closed-minded)

2. Prejudice and discrimination

2.1. Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards prejudice and discrimination



Quakers in Britain

The Quakers are a Christian group.

Perhaps out of all Christian groups (denominations) Quakers champion **equality** the most:

- “**All people are welcome** and accepted at a Quaker meeting.”
- **No-one leads the Quakers.** “We share responsibility for what we do because everyone has a valuable contribution to make.”
- Quakers campaigned for marriage **equality** (gay marriage).



3

Quakers emphasise:

So God created mankind in his own image.

Genesis 1:27

I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. [agape]

Matthew 5:44

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

³ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/quakers-struggle-with-language-of-god-smmkm36j7>

Not all Christians promote equality...

Westboro Baptist Church



This Christian group is known as 'the most hated family in America'

They hate homosexuality and homosexuals because of this Bible quotation:

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 18:22

This makes them **homophobic**.

They hate Jews because they think that Jews called for Jesus Christ to be killed:

All the [Jewish] people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

Matthew 27:25

This makes them **racist** and **anti-Semitic** (=anti-Jewish)

There are other Christians that arguably promote prejudice and discrimination.



The Roman Catholic Christian denomination (group) are against the **ordination of women**.

That means they ban women from becoming priests and bishops.

Here are two quotes from St Paul: →

Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission.

1 Corinthians 14:34

It was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

1 Timothy 2:14

2.2. Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes towards racial prejudice and discrimination.

'Racial prejudice' = racist beliefs

'Racial discrimination' = racist actions

For racial justice

Christians e.g. the Quakers are **for racial equality**. Three quotes:

So God created mankind in his own image.

Genesis 1:27

I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. [agape]

Matthew 5:44

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

Martin Luther King dedicated his life to promoting racial equality (see the next two pages)

Against racial justice

Some Christians e.g. the Westboro Baptist Church are against racial equality.

As we've seen, some are anti-Semitic (=anti-Jewish):

All the [Jewish] people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

Matthew 27:25

They claim that Jewish people are responsible for killing Jesus.

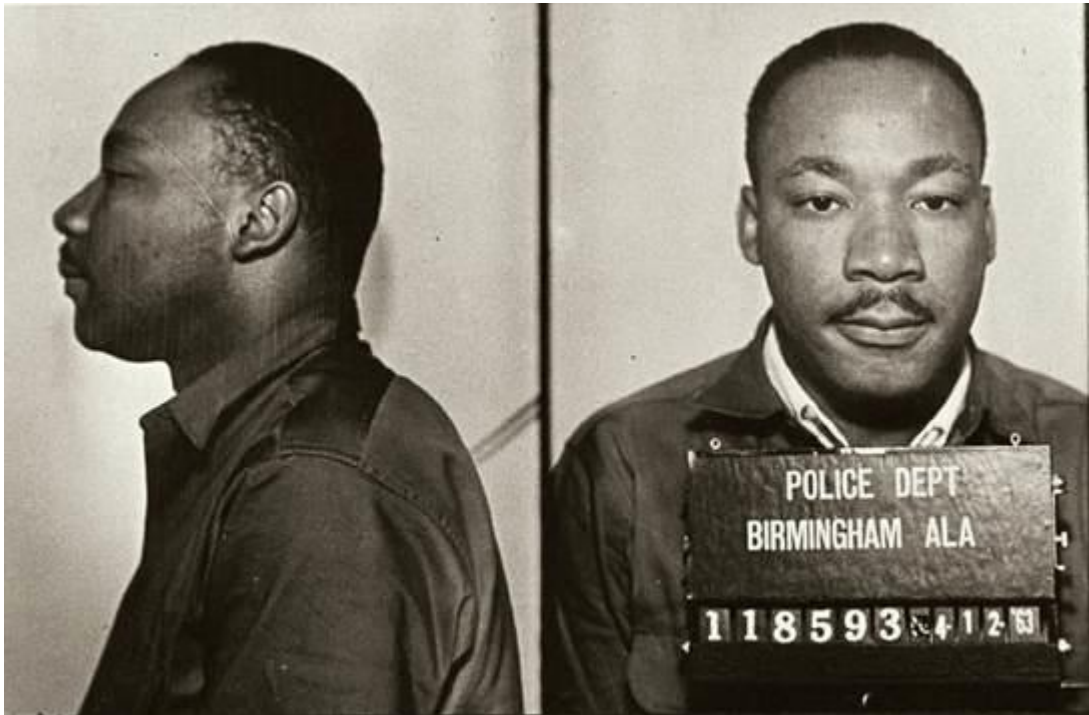
This might explain why many Churches in Germany supported Hitler – and turned a blind eye to what he was doing.

In the Bible, God appears to command his people to commit genocide. Genocide is when you try to kill a whole race.

Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'

1 Samuel 15:3

2.3. Martin Luther King's (MLK) teachings on equality

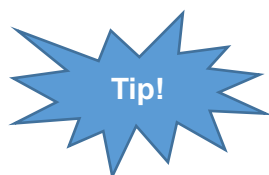


MLK broke the **racist Jim Crow** laws. He was arrested.

Breaking laws to make a political point is called **civil disobedience**.

Five quotations from MLK⁴

- “A right delayed is a right denied.”
- “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.”
- “Never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal.”
- “The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.”
- “Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

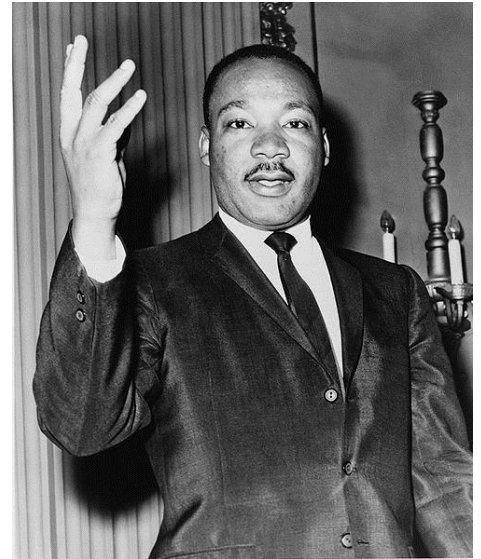


Memorise two of these
– and use them!

⁴ Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-anniversary-quotes-fifty-years-assassination-a8285596.html> 19/06/2018

MLK was a Baptist Christian minister (priest) who

- tried to bring an end to the racism endemic to the USA in the 1950s and 1960s e.g. he sought to abolish the racist **Jim Crow laws**
- won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to promote peace



MLK was inspired by Christian ideas including

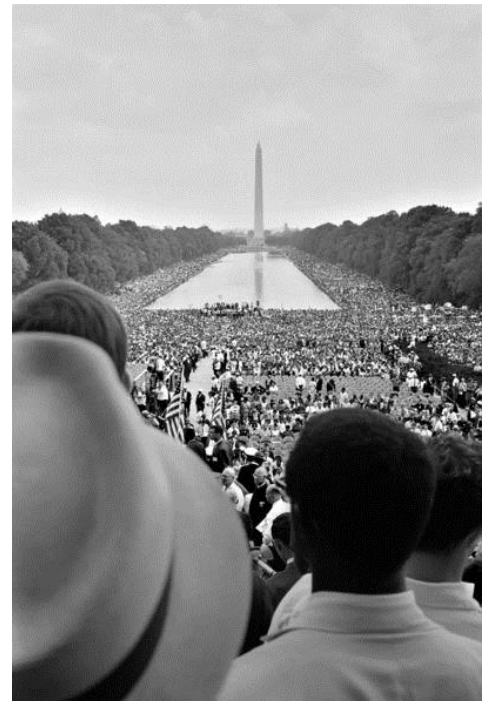
- **agape**, unconditional love e.g. love thy neighbour
- love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
- 'turn the other cheek'
- forgive others not 7 times but 70x7

Do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Matthew 5:39

MLK did lots of work to promote equality:

1. **Bus boycotts:** arranged for black people not to use the buses in Montgomery when Rosa Parks was forced to stand. The bus companies lost lots of money. So the law was changed.
2. **Sit-ins:** in white-only restaurants
MLK and black people went in, sat down, refused to leave, and got arrested
3. **March** on Washington DC and the *I have a dream speech* about racial equality
4. **Letter from a Birmingham Jail** about social justice
5. Wrote a book called **Stride Toward Freedom** – about, of course, freedom
6. **Peaceful protests**, campaigns, marches, and demonstration e.g. against the Vietnam War



Martin Luther King Jr.

3. Issues of wealth and poverty

3.1. Ethical considerations about acquisition and use of wealth

Wealth	being rich; having lots of money and assets
Acquisition of wealth	how you get your money and assets
Use of wealth	what you do with your money and assets

Liberation theology







Gustavo Gutiérrez,
The founder of liberation theology,
kneeling before the Pope.

Liberation theologians are Christians who believe that it is duty to aid the poor and oppressed through **political activism** and **revolution**

For example, liberation theologians think giving to charity is of little value. It doesn't tackle the causes of poverty. Instead, liberation theologians concentrate on things such as educating the poor and stopping the rich from exploiting the poor.

Christian teachings about the acquisition of wealth:

<p>Moral Occupations A job or role that is good and acceptable</p>  <p>Priest / Vicar, Monk or Nun</p>  <p>Caring Professions (Doctor, Nurse, Teacher, Counsellor)</p>  <p>Business and Industry</p>	<p>Moral Occupations <i>Christians are allowed to do most jobs. They must be honest and hard working:</i></p> <p>Vocation - a type of work to which you should give all your time and energy: 🔥 Priest, vicar, monk, nun missionary worker These allow Christians to dedicate their lives to focus completely on God & others.</p> <p>Caring Professions 🔥 Doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers These allow Christians to put Christian teachings about helping others into practice</p> <p>Business, Trade & Industry 🔥 Shop work, construction, office, etc. These allow Christians to earn money to support and raise a family and to offer services to others.</p> <p>Immoral Occupations <i>Generally, Christians should not do jobs that:</i></p> <p>directly or indirectly harm others 🔥 arms trade 🔥 drug-dealing 🔥 gambling <i>Jesus taught to do others what you would have them to do for you</i></p> <p>go against Christian teachings. 🔥 Prostitution & pornography <i>These go against teachings about sex</i></p> <p>are unconscionable (against their conscience) 🔥 A Christian doctor or nurse should not carry out an abortion or euthanasia if their conscience tells them that it is wrong</p>	<p>Immoral Occupations A job or role that is bad and unacceptable</p>  <p>Prostitution</p>  <p>Pornography</p>  <p>Arms trade</p>  <p>Doctor performing euthanasia or abortion</p>  <p>Drug Dealing</p>
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Christian teachings about the use of wealth:

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Give willingly to charity...



2 Jesus also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

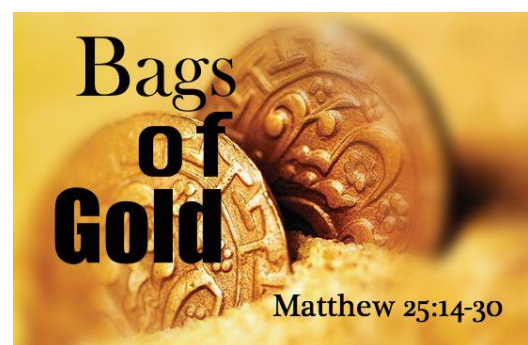
Luke 21:2-3

Give as much as you can afford



Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30



Invest and try to make money

In the **Parable of the Bags of Gold** (Matthew 25:14-30),

- the servants who invest gold are praised
- the servant who saves the gold—but does not try to make a profit—is blamed

Christian teachings about being rich and wealthy

Some Christians believe that it's wrong to be wealthy⁵:



It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:25

Rich people are not going to heaven

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

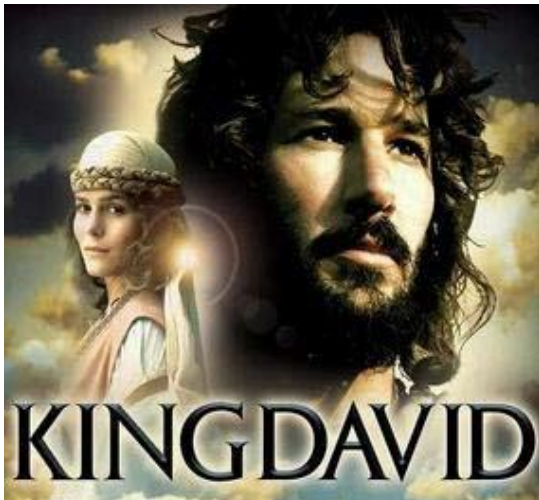
But the poor are blessed!

- Some Evangelical Christians therefore sell most of what they own.
- They dedicate their lives to preaching.
- They believe that God will provide for their needs



⁵ Compare with the story of Lazarus on page 5.

A few Christians e.g. the Westboro Baptist Church believe that prospering—doing well in life—is a sign of God’s blessing:



Abraham, David, Job, and Solomon were rich.
Wealth is a gift and blessing from God and a sign that God loves you.

Equally, these Christians believe that poverty is a sign of

- sin
- God’s punishment of the wicked



Most Christians e.g. Roman Catholic Christians believe that it’s okay to be wealthy so long as you

- acquire your wealth in a moral way
- use your wealth well e.g. by giving to the poor
- you don’t become obsessed by money.

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?
Mark 8:36

Jesus

Who you are is more important than what you have

You cannot serve both God and money.
Matthew 6:24

Jesus

Live for God, live for others – not money.

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
1 Timothy 6:10

St Paul

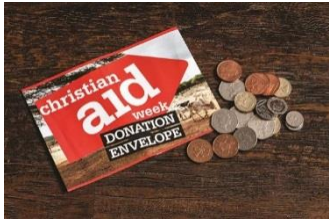
If you love money, you’ll become a bad person – greedy, jealous, selfish...

3.2. The actions and attitudes of Christian charities in twenty first century Britain whose aim is to alleviate poverty: Christian Aid

To 'alleviate' means to 'lessen'.



A Christian charity and organisation that works in 37 countries to stop poverty



What they believe

We stand together. **For dignity. For equality. For justice.**

Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.⁶

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

What they do

F	Fundraising	e.g. Christian Aid Week, QuizAid, WillAid
E	Education	e.g. by providing schools with lesson plans and resources; raising awareness through their website
E	Emergency aid	e.g. evacuating people after a tsunami alert in the Philippines
L	Long-term aid	e.g. rebuilding houses after the Pakistan floods

They also **pray for the poor**

e.g. 'O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble'.

⁶ <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/our-aims> 19/06/2018



DOING THE MOST GOODSM

The Salvation Army are Christians who aim to:

- 'actively serve the community, and fight for social justice'.
- 'meet human needs in Jesus's name without discrimination.'
- 'love our neighbours as ourselves' ⁷

What they do

F	Fundraising	concerts, sponsored marathons
E	Education	human trafficking 'cut it out' campaign, TV ads, apps, internet adds, conferences
E	Emergency aid	Night shelters, soup kitchens
L	Long-term aid	Providing help with housing for homeless people (long term shelter), career advice for unemployed people

Did you know...
 We serve **3 million** meals every year, and support over **3000** homeless people each night in our Lifehouse centres.

92p of every £1 you give goes to transforming lives in the communities where we work

⁷ See <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/our-mission-vision-and-values> for more

Key words

censorship

To ban or remove any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered offensive or unsuitable.

'the regulation imposes censorship on all media'

discrimination

The unjust unfair treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

'victims of racial discrimination' 'discrimination against homosexuals'

extremism

The holding of fanatical political or religious views

'the dangers of religious extremism'

human rights

Entitlements which are believed to belong to every person.

'a disregard for basic human rights'

personal conviction

A strongly held belief or opinion of an individual

'she takes pride in stating her personal convictions'

prejudice

Pre-made opinion that is not based on good reasons or actual experience.

'accusations of racial prejudice'

poverty

When you are very poor.

'thousands of families are living in abject poverty'

relative poverty

when you don't have enough wealth to maintain the average standard of living in your country.

'people in relative poverty are poor compared to other people in their country'

absolute poverty

when you don't have enough wealth to meet your needs e.g. to pay for food, clothes, and shelter.

'not that many people in the UK are in absolute poverty'

social justice

Fairness in terms of how wealth and opportunities are shared within a society.

'individuality gives way to the struggle for social justice'⁸

⁸ Most quotations taken or adapted from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/> 19/06/2018