

Peace and Conflict Revision Sheet

Christian beliefs about key concepts and how they link to war

Christians believe in working for **peace** on the earth. 'Love thy enemies.' – Bible

Christians believe **justice** will help bring peace after war. 'Love your enemies, and do good, expecting nothing in return.' – Bible

Christians believe **forgiving** others helps stop war and disputes. 'Do not overcome evil by evil, but overcome evil with good.' – Bible

Christians believe that **reconciliation** is not just about forgiving, but also then working together. They believe it can help after war and also prevent war.

Muslim beliefs about key concepts and how they link to war

Muslims believe in creating **peace** as Islam means peace. 'When aggressive people come to you, reply with words of peace.' – Qur'an

Muslims believe in treating people fairly to help bring **justice** and peace after war. 'Do not oppress one another.' – Qur'an

Muslims believe **forgiving** others stops war and disputes. 'If a person forgives, this is one of the greatest things.' – Qur'an

Muslims believe in **reconciling** people together after war. "The believers are brothers and sisters therefore make peace."

Terrorism and Peaceful Protest

Terrorism – The unlawful use of violence against innocent civilians. Both Christians and Muslims are against terrorism.

'Fight in Allah's cause against those who fight you but do not over step the limits.' – Qur'an

'If non-believers are inclined to peace, you must also incline towards it.' – Qur'an

Christians believe in the sanctity of life and that all life belongs to God. 'Thou shall not kill.' – Bible

Peaceful Protest – an expression of disapproval, often in a public group. They are allowed by both Christians and Muslims. Example of Martin Luther King during the civil rights movement.

Reasons for war:

Greed is not a good enough reason:

'Avoid greed, for greed in and of itself is poverty.' – Hadith

'For the root of all evil is money.' – Bible

Retaliation is a good enough reason in Islam but is not in Christianity (except if you use 'an eye for an eye.')

'If you have to respond to an attack, make sure your response is proportionate.' – Qur'an

'Do not repay evil with evil.' – Bible

Self-Defence:

There is no justification in Christianity for fighting in war as self-defence.

'Fight for the sake of Allah those that attack you, but do not attack them.' – Qur'an

Christian Beliefs on Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Against - Christians believe in the sanctity of life and that all life belongs to God. 'Thou shall not kill.' – Bible

For - If there is a serious injury you are to take a life for a life, eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.' Bible

Muslim Beliefs on Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Against - 'Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good,' – Qur'an

For - 'Fight in Allah's cause against those who fight you but do not over step the limits.' – Qur'an

Non-religious beliefs on Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction

For - It is a deterrent against other countries attacking us or using a nuclear weapon on us.

Against - They make the world a less safe place because once one country has one, others feel threatened and so make their own!

Just war criteria for Christians

Cause is Just

Last Resort

Authority of UN

Method avoids civilians

Peace comes

Success is likely

Just war criteria for Muslims

Cause is Just

Last Resort

Authority of a state leader

Mistreating fellow Muslims

Self-defence

Holy War

Religious leaders may declare Holy War to defend their religion or their followers who are being persecuted in another country.

Must be authorised by God or by a spiritual leader and because of this those who take part will receive a reward such as going to Heaven when they die.

Holy Wars must have religious aims or goals.

Christian quotes about Holy War

'The Lord said to Moses, "Take vengeance on the Midianites.'" – Bible

Pope Urban II called all Christians in Europe to war against Muslims in order to reclaim the Holy Land, with a cry of "God wills it!"

Christians believe in the sanctity of life and that all life belongs to God. 'Thou shall not kill.' – Bible

Muslim quotes about Holy War

'Fight in Allah's cause against those who fight you but do not over step the limits.' – Qur'an

The Qur'an says that any Muslim killed in a just war goes straight to paradise.

Lesser jihad is holy war fought against the enemies of Islam (peace) in defence of peace. i.e. When Muslims fought alongside Britain to defend it from the Nazis.

Pacifism and peace making

Christian views on pacifism

In the 10 commandments it says 'thou shall not kill.'

Jesus said 'blessed are the peacemakers'

St Paul said Christians should follow the orders of the government

It is the teaching of all the main Christian Churches that 'just war' is allowed so that peace can be achieved

Muslim views on pacifism

Modern weapons have made it difficult to decide what is a just war

'If non-believers are inclined to peace, you must also incline towards it.' – Qur'an

Muhammad fought in many just wars

'Fight in Allah's cause against those who fight you but do not over step the limits.' – Qur'an

Why do Christians help victims of war?

'Love you enemies' Jesus

'Love your neighbours' Jesus

'The body is a temple' St Paul

Why do Muslims help victims of war?

Allah the Compassionate (One of the 99 Names of Allah)

'Compete with each other in doing good' Qur'an

How do Christians help victims of war?

Christian Aid:

They provide food and shelter to refugees

They provide medical supplies and toiletries

They provide lawyers to help the victims know their rights and options after war

How do Muslims help victims of war?

Syrian Arab Red Crescent:

They provide food and shelter to refugees

They provide medical supplies and toiletries