

Relationships and Families

Human Sexuality

Heterosexual - relationship between two people of the opposite sex

Homosexual - relationship between two people of the same sex

The law on having sex is that you must be 16.

Why are Christians in favour of heterosexual relationships instead of homosexual relationship?

- God gave sex for procreation which can only occur between a man and a woman.
- The Bible says 'do not have sexual relations with a man as a woman; that is detestable.'

Why do some Christians allow homosexual relationships?

- Jesus said 'love thy neighbour.'
- Jesus said 'treat others as you want to be treated.'

Why are Muslims against homosexual relationships?

- 'When a man mounts another man, the throne of Allah shakes.' Hadith
- "For you practice your lusts on men in preference to women: you are indeed a people transgressing beyond bounds."
Qur'an

Why do non-religious people accept homosexual relationships?

- Science proves that it is natural and not a choice.

Sex before and outside of marriage

Sex before marriage - sex between two people who are not married

Adultery - sex between someone who is married with someone other than their married partner

Cohabitation - living with someone when you are not married.

Why are most Christians against sex outside marriage?

- The Bible says that sex before marriage is sinful
- Jesus said adultery is wrong
- The 10 commandments said 'thou shall not commit adultery.'

Why do some Christians allow sex **before** marriage?

- If the couple are committed to one another and maybe can't afford to get married, some Christians think they can have sex.

Why are Muslims against sex outside marriage?

- 'Adultery is a shameful deed and an evil, opening the road to other evils.' Qur'an
- The Shari'ah law says that sex should only take place inside marriage

Why do some non-religious people allow sex before marriage?

- Contraception means that people can enjoy sex without the risk of having a child or contracting STI's. Sex is something to be enjoyed.

Contraception

Why are some Christians against the use of artificial contraception?

- Pope Pius XI condemned all artificial forms of contraception.
- Sex is for the procreation of children

Why do some Christians allow the use of artificial contraception?

- It improves women's health
- Nothing in the Bible says it is wrong.

Why are some Muslims against the use of artificial contraception?

- 'Kill not your offspring for fear of want' - Qur'an
- Sex is for the procreation of children

Why do some Muslims allow the use of artificial contraception?

- It improves women's health
- Muhammad allowed coitus interruptus

The purpose of marriage

Christians view on the purpose of marriage

- Husband and wife become a team - "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."
- Husbands act as protectors of their wives - 'Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.'

Muslims view on the purpose of marriage

- A lifelong partnership where both people help in the upbringing of children
- A social contract that brings together two families and has a positive impact on the community

Why are some Christians against cohabitation?

- The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin. - Catholic Church

Why do some Christians allow cohabitation?

- Christians may not be able to afford the marriage ceremony that they want so if they are committed and saving towards getting married they can cohabit.

Why are Muslims against cohabitation?

- 'There is no institution in Islam more loved by Allah than marriage.' Hadith
- 'Do not let poverty stand in the way on marriage.' Qur'an

Divorce and Re-marriage

Why are some Christians against divorce and re-marriage?

- "A man who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against his wife. (Mark 10:11-12)
- No human being then must separate what God has joined together. (Mark 10:7-9)

Why do some Christians allow divorce and re-marriage?

- "...Any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than her unfaithfulness, commits adultery if he marries some other woman." (Matt 19:9)
- Lesser of two evils

Why are some Muslims against divorce and re-marriage?

- Muhammad said it was the most hated of lawful things
- It can be harmful to the children

Why do some Muslims allow divorce and re-marriage?

- The Qur'an allows it
- Lesser of two evils

The purpose of families

Children should be looked after and cared for. 'Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.' - Bible
For the procreation of children. 'be fruitful and increase in number' - Bible

Teach children right from wrong. "Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones..." - Qur'an

Educate the children in the faith. 'A father gives his child nothing better than a good education.' - Hadith

Role of parents

Christian views on the role of parents

Look after their children. 'A good man leaves an inheritance for his children.' Bible

Without parents and family children would not learn the difference between right and wrong.

Muslim views on the role of parents

'Allah wants you to be good to your parents. Whether one or both of them reach old age with you, say not a word that shows impatience.' - Qur'an

'Be just and fair to your children' - Hadith

Religious views on the nature of families

Families should be a place of love and support. 'Love thy neighbour.'

Christians believe that ideally families should be made up of a man and his wife and their children. "Be fruitful and multiply"

In Islam the practice of polygamy is allowed. Men are allowed up to four wives. Muhammad had more than one wife.

Both religions are traditionally against same-sex couples adopting children. However some more modern Christians think that being brought up in a loving home is more important.

Gender Equality - all are equal but some believe men and women have different roles and others do not.

Equal

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ.' St Paul

'All people are as equal as the teeth on a comb.' - Hadith

Not equal

'I do not permit women to teach or to assume authority over a man.' - St Paul

The Quran states 'men have authority over women because Allah made the one superior over the other.'