





Relationships and Family Overview

<p><u>Homosexuality</u></p> 	<p><u>Sex before Marriage</u></p> 	<p><u>Sex outside of Marriage (adultery)</u></p> 	<p><u>Contraception</u></p> 
<p><u>Christianity:</u> God instructs Christians to reproduce in a heterosexual relationship and homosexuals cannot reproduce naturally so goes against God's will. "Go forth and multiply." (Bible) Catholics - homosexuality is not sinful but they should remain chaste (no sex) to avoid sinful acts. Church of England - welcomes homosexual couples in a loving and committed relationship, but don't allow marriage in the church.</p> <p><u>Islam:</u> Conservatives - Homosexuals are going beyond what God thinks is an acceptable way to live and is considered forbidden. They should control their desires and not break God's laws. "Must you lust after males and abandon the wives that God has created for you? You are exceeding all bounds." (Qur'an) Liberals - God is the only person to judge and might accept homosexual couples who are in a committed and loving relationship.</p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u> Sex expresses deep, lifelong union that requires the commitment of a marriage and sexual immortality threatens it. "...whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body... Do you not know your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit..."(Bible) Liberals - sex before marriage can be a valid expression of love for each other, particularly if the couple are intending to marriage.</p> <p><u>Islam:</u> Sex is a gift from God and should only happen within a marriage. The Quran forbids sex before marriage. Under Shari'ah Law it is considered a serious sin, like adultery and rape. "The only way to protect all within society is to maintain a society where only a man and his wife share the act of sex." (Quran) In Britain, sex before marriage is widely accepted as it can help develop a relationship.</p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u> Adultery goes against the Ten Commandments as it breaks the marriage vows couples make before God and threatens the stable relationship needed for family security. You shall not commit adultery." (Bible) Liberals - Jesus forgave a woman caught in adultery but ordered her to leave her life of sin. If Jesus can forgive then so can Christians.</p> <p><u>Islam:</u> Muslims should avoid situations that could lead to sexual sins like meeting up with friends of the opposite sex. "A man should not stay with a woman in seclusion unless he is a Dhu-Mahram [relative]." (Quran) The Quran forbids adultery → "And do not go anywhere near adultery: it is an outrage, and an evil path." (17:32) Muslim couples should not have to go outside of marriage for fulfilment.</p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u> Catholic and Orthodox- The purpose of sex is to "be fruitful and multiply" (Bible) (having children) and contraception goes against God's natural laws as it can encourage infidelity/selfishness. Anglican/non-conformist - Contraception allows couples to develop their relationship first/space out pregnancies to avoid harming mother's health.</p> <p><u>Islam:</u> Conservative - contraception goes against God's will and gives them strength to cope with any children. Some believe it can be considered as sinful as abortion as you are preventing a life from forming. Liberal - God does not want to make life difficult for people so would accept contraception. "God wishes to lighten your burden; man was created weak." (Quran) Prophet Muhammad used natural forms of conception himself.</p>

<p><u>Marriage</u></p> 	<p><u>Divorce and Remarriage</u></p> 	<p><u>The Roles of Husbands/Wives</u></p> 	<p><u>The Role of Children</u></p> 
<p><u>Christianity:</u></p> <p>It is a covenant (agreement) before God in which the couple promises to live faithfully till death. A spiritual bond of trust. "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Bible)</p> <p>Catholic and Orthodox - marriage is a sacrament. They oppose same sex marriage and cohabitation as a sexual relationship could take place.</p> <p>Protestants - cohabitation can take place if it helps strengthen the relationship. Some churches like the United Church of Christ are more open to homosexual relations.</p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u></p> <p>Christians have different attitudes towards divorce because it seems to be allowing it for unfaithfulness. "If a man divorces his wife for any cause other than unchastity (unfaithfulness) he involved her in adultery." (Bible)</p> <p>Catholics - marriage is a sacrament that is permanent that cannot be dissolved. They can separate but not remarry while partner is alive.</p> <p>Annulment can be applied for stating the marriage was never truly valid.</p> <p>Protestants - allow divorces and simple remarriages as long as couples take the vows seriously.</p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u></p> <p>Christian parents raise children in Christian faith, teaching them to pray. Traditional role of the husband is to provide for the family financially and if not, they are going against God. "Anyone that does not provide for their family is worse than an unbeliever." (Bible.)</p> <p>The traditional and more conservative role of the wife is to look after the household duties and children/extended family.</p> <p>Liberals - husband and wife share household duties and work.</p> <p>Extended families - customs and traditions were passed to the next generation and helped strengthen the religious bond.</p>	<p><u>Christianity:</u></p> <p>Christianity teaches to obey, love and respect your parents and honour them by taking care of them when they are older or in need of support. "Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old." (Proverbs 23:22)</p> <p>"Honour your father and mother."</p> <p>Children are gifts from God so parents must respect their dignity. The family reflects Christ's relationship with the Church.</p>

<p><u>Islam:</u> Marriage is a place to enjoy sex, raise children in a religious faith and provide lifelong support and companionship. "There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage." (Hadith)</p> <p>It helps people develop spiritually by avoiding sexual sin and by adding value to worship. Husband and wife are "like a garment for each other," (Quran) so should support and love one another.</p> <p>Conservatives - Same sex marriage and cohabitation is forbidden (zinah.)</p> <p>Liberal - some mosques are opening for LGBT members to feel accepted.</p>	<p><u>Islam:</u> Quran encourages couples to reconcile their differences and come back together. Divorce is considered "Hateful to Allah." (Hadith)</p> <p>Husband must declare divorce (talaq) to wife verbally/in writing followed by a waiting period of 3 months (iddah) to see whether his wife is pregnant. If so, must wait till the baby is born to secure the family. Husband must support children financially. Wife can divorce but if husband is not at fault for breakup the women must repay her dowry and receives no financial support.</p>	<p><u>Islam:</u> Muslim parents bring up children in Islamic faith by teaching them halal and haram. Help children find suitable marriage partner and read the Qur'an. A Muslim mother commands great respect and obedience from her children as she looks after the household and raises the children = holds significance in Islam. "Heaven is under the feet of the mothers." (Quran)</p> <p>Extended family including elderly should be respected - basis of Islamic society, they cared for their children when young.</p>	<p><u>Islam:</u> Children have a duty to respect their parents, even in adulthood. To be unkind or disrespectful towards your parents is a great sin. "He who is good to his parents, blessing be upon him..." (Hadith)</p> <p>Children are a blessing from God and parents have a duty to provide a stable environment and raise children to be good Muslims.</p> <p>Most Muslims would not consider putting parents in a care home but value their wisdom and experience and feel honoured to repay them for their love and support in life.</p>
---	--	---	---

