



Purposes of Marriage	Attitudes to Sex
So a couple can have a lifelong relationship of love	Premarital – sex before marriage Extramarital – sex between a married person & someone they aren't married to.
So a couple can enjoy sex together with the intention of procreating children	The Bible says promiscuity (sex with different partners) is sinful, marriage prevents that.
So children can be brought up in a Christian home and become members of the church	Adultery (extramarital sex) breaks the wedding vows of faithfulness. The Catholic Church teaches any sex outside marriage is wrong (+the 10 Commandments)
To establish and preserve an ordered society	Non-religious views permit premarital sex but it must be consensual (both parties freely agree to it). Cheating is still wrong.
To form a stable and legal basis for raising children	Prostitution (paying for sex) is wrong and sex ought to be safe (protection used).
To make a public declaration of a relationship that is accepted by society	Homosexuality is forbidden by many churches but accepted elsewhere. It has a legal status now, including gay marriage.

MARRIAGE

Marriage was established by God for lifelong loving relationships and bringing up children. Sex before marriage and cohabitation are now common in society but many non-religious people consider marriage as a good basis for the family.

The Catholic & conservative Protestant churches condemn sex before marriage but many Christian young people ignore this.



Types of Family	Support for the Family
Nuclear family – parents & children	Many churches are connected with local schools (some are Church Schools)
Single Parent family – usually but not always mother and children	Many churches hold family services of worship
Same sex families – two mums or two dads – one may or may not be a biological parent	Many churches run Sunday Schools to educate children and hold Toddler Groups and do ' Messy Church ' (church for young children)
Extended families – three or more generations in one household, also where uncles, cousins etc have close family ties and involvement	Churches help families through Rites of Passage such as baptism & confirmation . Most churches pray for families.
Blended families – created by remarriage when both partners bring previous children to the relationship.	Many churches host Cub, Scout, Brownie & Guide packs or Boys/Girls Brigade groups. Some employ Youth Workers .

Marriage & the Family in Christianity Knowledge Organiser

Equality of men and women in the family:

Genesis 1 says men and women are equal. **Genesis 2-3** says women are subordinate to men.

St Paul said women should submit to their husbands (but husbands must love their wives)

Evangelical Protestants say men should be providers while women stay home and bring up children

Liberal Protestants say men and women should have equal and interchangeable roles.

Catholics say men and women should have different but equal roles.

Non-religious people tend to say men and women should be completely equal.

Gender Prejudice and Discrimination:

Believing one gender is superior to another, discrimination occurs when it is put into practice. (**Sexism**) God is described as male, all the main characters in the Bible are male, as were those who wrote it, Jesus and all his disciples were male. Some say this makes Christianity inherently sexist.

Evangelicals say men & women have different roles so don't have equal rights when it comes to religion (Genesis 2 says Adam was created first so wives should submit to their husbands etc.)

Catholics says men and women have equal rights in life and religion.

The exception is the priesthood which is solely for men (as they stand in the place of Jesus).

Liberal Protestants say men & women are equal in everything as Genesis 1 says God made them equally

The Movement for the Ordination of Women succeeded in getting equality in some churches and continues to campaign in the Catholic church. Atheists are totally against any expression of sexism.

Contraception	Divorce & Remarriage
Condoms (male & female) Diaphragms, Caps the Pill (various types) Implants & Patches, IUDs Vasectomy/Hysterectomy and the Rhythm method	The law has made it easier and cheaper to divorce. Increased equality in society means less women will put up with bad marriages. Divorces have increased & remarriage of divorcees has decreased – most co-habit
90% of sexually active people use contraception. Non religious people say it improves women's lives and reduces abortions and STIs.	Catholics do not encourage divorce and religious remarriage is not allowed as the original vows can't be broken.
The Catholic church says sex is a gift for married couples (unitive purpose) & to make children (creative purpose) Only ' natural ' methods are allowed	Other Christians disapprove of divorce but do allow religious remarriage due to beliefs about forgiveness.
Non Catholics believe contraception protects children and their families from disease and poverty	Non-religious people allow divorce and remarriage if that is what's best for the couple and any children.
Many Christians agree that those methods that induce abortion (eg the ' morning after pill ') should be avoided.	Sacrament: a sign of God's grace Civil divorce – legal but not religious Annulment – declaration that the marriage was invalid