

Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings

The Nature of God

Christians believe there is only one God. This is called **monotheism**. They believe God is:

- **Omnipotent** – all powerful (He can perform miracles)
- **Omnipresent** – all around us (He can be found anywhere)
- **Omniscient** - all knowing (He knows everything about us)
- **Omnibenevolent** – all loving (he loves everyone)
- **Transcendent** – beyond the human world (He does not exist on Earth like humans do. He is spiritual.)

The problem of suffering

Many people struggle to believe in God because they think an omnipotent (powerful), omnibenevolent (loving) God would stop the suffering in the world.

Christians believe suffering is a result of our own **free will** (the ability to make our own decisions) and the **Devil** tempting us into **sin** like he did to **Adam and Eve** in the Garden of Eden. When God created humans he gave them free will to make their own decisions. If people make bad decision like Adam and Eve did, suffering can happen. God does take over our decisions because that would stop us from being human.

Some Christians believe suffering is a test of faith in God and can help us to appreciate times when life is good. In the Bible God let the Devil test **Job's** faith by making him suffer. Because Job kept his faith in God he was rewarded. Job accepted that suffering is sometimes part of God's plan.

The Holy Trinity

The **Holy Trinity** refers to the three persons of God. The **Father, Son** and **Holy Spirit**. Christians only believe in one God but they believe God is three persons. The Holy Trinity is referred to in the **Apostles Creed** or **Nicene Creed** which outline the roles of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- **Father** – the person of God that created heaven and earth
- **Son** – Jesus Christ or God in human form that came to Earth to die for the sins of humanity
- **Holy Spirit** – Giver of life and forgiver of sins. The person of God that exists inside Christians and guides our decisions

Creation

In the first book of the Bible, **Genesis** it states that God made the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. The Bible says that **'In the beginning the Earth was formless and desolate'**.

- Day 1 – Night and day *'God said "Let there be light" and there was light.'*
- Day 2 – Separated land and water
- Day 3 – Plants
- Day 4 – Sun, moon and stars
- Day 5 – Birds and fish
- Day 6 – Humans **'Let us make man in our image.'** **'Let them have dominion.'**
- Day 7- Rested

Literal Christians – believe the Bible to be exact fact	Non-Literal Christians – believe the Bible is symbolic or a representation of events
Literal Christians will believe the story of creation word for word and believe God made the world in 6 days and that Adam and Eve were the first human beings on Earth. They will believe that Eve was created from Adam’s rib and not through a process of evolution.	Non-Literal Christians will believe God made the world and humans but not necessarily in the way Genesis says. They may believe 6 days represents 6 longer periods of time. They may believe in the Big Bang and evolution but they will believe God played a part in causing these to happen.

Jesus Christ and Incarnation

- **Incarnation** – God in human form *‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.’*

In the Bible it says that God was incarnated through the Virgin Mary who gave birth to Jesus among the animals. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and Joseph separately and told them that Mary would have a son who they should call Jesus and would be the son of God.

Jesus Christ and Crucifixion

- **Crucifixion** – death by hanging on a cross

Jesus became known as the **Messiah** (the anointed one or son of God) because he had performed many miracles. The Roman authorities wanted Jesus dead because they were worried he was becoming too popular and would take over from them. They bribed Judas into betraying Jesus with a kiss after the Last Supper. Pontius Pilate asked the Jewish crowd if they would like to crucify Jesus or Barabbas the murderer. The crowd chose Jesus. The Romans gave Jesus a crown of thorns to mock the fact that people called him the King of the Jews. Two other criminals were crucified next to Jesus. Before Jesus died he said *‘Father forgive them, they know not what they do.’*

Jesus Christ and Salvation and Atonement

- **Salvation** – to be saved from sin
- **Atonement** – to make up for the sins of others

Christians believe Jesus was crucified so he could die or **atone** for the sins of others. Mankind’s relationship with God had been broken and God sent Jesus to Earth to mend their relationship with God. Only the death of a perfect human would be the perfect sacrifice for sin. People who believed that Jesus was the son of God would be granted **salvation** in the form of eternal life in heaven. Jesus knew he was going to die at the Last Supper because he told his disciples to drink his blood and eat his body. Because they believed in him Jesus said they would one day eat with him again in heaven.

Jesus Christ and Resurrection

- **Resurrection** – coming back to life from the dead

The Bible says Jesus’ body was placed in a tomb before it could be buried. When Mary Magdalene and some other women went to prepare the body the stone had moved and Jesus’ body had vanished. Jesus appeared to Mary first and told her he had risen and to tell the disciples. Thomas said he would not believe until he could see Jesus and put his fingers in his wounds. *‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies.’*

Jesus Christ and Ascension

- **Ascension** – Jesus going up to heaven

After Jesus resurrected he spoke to his disciples and some other followers and told them to **'Go and make disciples of all nations.'** He also told them **'I will be with you always.'** Some Christians believe Jesus' body literally rose up in the air towards heaven. Other Christians believe the ascension refers to Jesus leaving simply leaving Earth and disappearing.

Law and the Bible

Most Christians use the Bible for guidance but to varying degrees. **Literal Christians** will follow the Bible more closely and believe the events told to be truth and that the rules should be followed. **Non-literal** and **Modern Christians** will believe the Bible should be considered alongside modern law and will consult their **conscience** (gut feeling influenced by the Holy Spirit) or ask a Vicar or Priest for advice if they need to make a difficult decision.

Grace, Sacraments and the Holy Spirit

- **Grace** – gift from God (gift of eternal life in heaven)
- **Sacrament** – something Christians do to show dedication to God and in turn receive God's gift or grace i.e. **Baptism/Eucharist**

After Jesus ascended the Holy Spirit visited the disciples and flames appeared on their heads and they started to be able to speak in many different languages. This event is celebrated and is known as **Pentecost**. Today when Christians perform sacraments like **Baptism** and **Eucharist** they believe the Holy Spirit comes upon them. This is sometimes demonstrated by people **speaking in tongues**.

Eschatological beliefs and Judgement

Christians believe that when they die their actions in this life will be judged by God. This is exemplified in the **Parable of the Sheep and Goats** where Jesus sends the sheep to heaven because they have fed the hungry, clothed the naked and nursed the sick. Jesus sends the goats to hell because they have not fed the hungry etc. Jesus tells them **'Whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done for me.'** Christians believe that it is important to help people in need in this life in order to be judged well by Jesus.

Eschatological beliefs and Heaven, Hell and Purgatory

- **Heaven** – eternal life with God
- **Hell** – eternal punishment without God
- **Purgatory** – (Roman Catholic belief) a place where purification of sins happens by punishment before people can enter heaven

Heaven – a place of paradise	Hell – a place of suffering
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'My Father's house has many rooms'• 'There will be no more crying'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth'• 'blazing furnace'

- **Eschatology** – beliefs about the last days

Christians believe that when the world ends, Jesus will return to resurrect the dead and raise those who believe in him to heaven. Some Christians believe everyone will be raised to heaven together at the end of the world whereas

other Christians believe those who are dead now are already in heaven. Some Christians believe our physical bodies are resurrected and some Christians believe we have spiritual bodies in the afterlife.

Christianity: Practices

Forms of worship

- **Worship:** showing respect to God eg. praying, singing, reading the Bible
- **Liturgical worship:** following a set structure eg. Eucharist
- **Informal worship:** no set structure
- **Individual/private worship:** worshipping alone

Type of Christians	How do they like to worship?
Church of England and Roman Catholic	Liturgical worship in the form of the Eucharist in Church. They believe it is important to re-enact the Last Supper by eating Jesus' body and blood. Usually performed on Sundays and at special occasions. <i>'Take this and eat it, this is my body that is broken for you for the forgiveness of sins.'</i>
Evangelical/Modern	Less traditional churches prefer not to follow a set structure and worship informally . This usually involves music, singing, clapping and waving arms in the air. They focus on channelling the Holy Spirit and may speak in tongues .
Quakers	Prefer to worship in silence and use reflection and meditation . People may speak if they are 'moved' to by God. This is called ministry .
All Christians	All Christians believe it is important to worship as a group <i>'Where two or three gather in my name, I am with them.'</i> However most Christians will also worship privately at some point to share personal issues with God.

Prayer

- **Prayer:** communication with God
- **Adoration:** showing respect to God
- **Contrition:** saying sorry
- **Thankfulness:** giving thanks
- **Supplication:** asking for something

Prayer is extremely important to Christians to help them develop a **personal relationship** with God. Many Christians will practice set prayers as well as making up their own personal prayers. Jesus encouraged the disciples to pray and taught them the **Lord's Prayer**; *'Give us this day our daily bread.'* *'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'* *'Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.'*

Sacraments

Sacrament: outward sign of an invisible gift or blessing from God eg. Baptism

Type of Christian	What sacraments do they follow?
Church of England	Infant Baptism followed by Confirmation (confirming promised made at Baptism when you are old enough to understand) and Eucharist
Roman Catholic	Baptism Confirmation Eucharist Penance – confessing sins to a Priest in Church Anointing the sick – Priests apply oil to people who are sick and dying Holy Orders – becoming a Priest Marriage – spiritual union and starting a family with another person

Other Christians i.e. Quakers	Do not believe sacraments are necessary to live a holy life but may have Baptism or Dedication ceremonies to welcome people into the church.
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Baptism

- **Baptism** – ceremony involving water washing away sins and symbolising being re-born into the Christian Church
- **Original sin** – belief that people are born with the potential to sin after Adam and Eve betrayed God in the garden of Eden. Sin should be washed away so that the person has a chance of entering heaven

Type of Christians	How do they Baptise people?
Church of England and Roman Catholic	Like to perform infant Baptisms in Church using a font. Water is splashed on the child's head to symbolise washing away original sin . Children are formally welcomed into the church and are given a candle to symbolise Jesus as the light of the world guiding them through life.
Baptists	(Adult Baptism) Believe people should only be Baptised when they are old enough to understand the commitment they are making to God. People are lowered backwards into a pool and are fully submerged. This re-enacts Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist and symbolises their new life as a Christian. Baptists do not believe it is necessary to Baptise babies before they can get to heaven but do accept people have potential to sin,

Eucharist

- **Eucharist** – service where bread and wine is offered in Church
- **Transubstantiation** – the belief that bread and wine turns into Jesus' body and blood during Eucharist

The Eucharist service re-enacts the **Last Supper** where Jesus gave bread and wine to his disciples and told them to eat it in his remembrance. ***'Take this and eat it, this is my body that is broken for you for the forgiveness of sins.'*** The Eucharist is important because it gives Christians an opportunity to come together and remember Jesus' sacrifice.

Type of Christians	What do they believe about the Eucharist?
Church of England	Eucharist is a sacrament – those who take it receive God's blessing of eternal life in heaven. They do not believe in Transubstantiation but believe the bread and wine symbolises Jesus' presence at the service.
Roman Catholics	Eucharist is a sacrament – those who take it receive God's blessing of eternal life in heaven. Believe in Transubstantiation because during the Lord's supper Jesus told the disciples the bread was his body and the wine was his blood.

Celebration: Christmas

- **Christmas:** Christ's Mass – celebration of the birth (incarnation) of Jesus
- **Nativity:** Accounts of Jesus' birth from the Bible

Christmas celebrates the birth (incarnation of Jesus) and remembers the story of the Nativity:

- The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would have a Son
- Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey to sign the census
- Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable/manger because there was no room at the inn
- Shepherds and Kings visited Jesus and brought him gifts because they were told he was the Son of Man

Christians celebrate Christmas by:

- Singing Christmas carols e.g. 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'
- Exchanging Christmas Cards with religious pictures from the Nativity
- Observing Advent using calendars or candles, counting down the days/weeks to Christmas
- Having a Eucharist service at Midnight on Christmas Eve

Celebration: Easter

- **Celebration:** Coming together as a community to remember or mark a special occasion
- **Easter:** Celebration of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection
- **Lent:** 40 days leading up to Easter where Christians practice sacrificing (giving up) something to remember Jesus' 40 days and nights in the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil. The First day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday** where Christians may get an ash cross put on their forehead to symbolise sacrifice.
- **Palm Sunday:** The day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, signifying the start of **Holy Week** (last week of Jesus' life)
- **Maundy Thursday:** The day when Jesus had the Last Supper with his disciples
- **Good Friday:** The day Jesus was crucified
- **Easter Sunday:** The day Jesus resurrected

Christians celebrate Easter by:

- Receiving crosses made out of Palm Leaves on Palm Sunday
- Having Eucharist on Maundy Thursday to remember the Last Supper
- Carrying the cross through the street on Good Friday
- On Easter Sunday Christians will exchange flowers and Easter eggs symbolising Jesus' new life after resurrection. There will be a special Eucharist service in Church

Pilgrimage

- Pilgrimage: religious journey

Place of Pilgrimage	Why do Christians go there?
<p>Lourdes In France where A vision was seen of the Virgin Mary. Spring water collected there is believed to have healing powers. Over 60 miracles have been recorded there.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find a cure for their illness • To pray for a sick loved one • To meet other Christians • To pray/meditate • To learn more about their religion/faith • To get strength and hope
<p>Holy land (Jerusalem/Bethlehem) The area where Jesus was born and lived his life and was crucified and resurrected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet other Christians • To pray/meditate • To learn more about their religion/faith • To walk in Jesus' footsteps • To feel closer to Jesus • To visit special Churches/shrines

Christianity in the UK

	<i>Is Britain a Christian country?</i>
Census – survey completed every 10 years gathering information about people in the UK	59% of people in 2011 said they were Christian 25.1% said they had no religion 7.2% religion not stated 4.8% said Muslim The majority of people in the UK identify as Christian but not everyone is Christian
Festivals – times of celebration	Bank Holidays, school holidays and festivals are still linked to the Christian Calendar. Many people enjoy celebrating Christmas and Easter and plan their year around these events however the commercial meaning has taken over the religious meaning for some people.
Tradition –common practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting married in Church • Swearing on the Bible in court • Singing hymns at Remembrance day services • Having Sunday as a day of rest 'Keep the Sabbath day Holy'
Law – rules of the country	The Queen is the Head of the Church of England. New rules must be signed by the Queen before they become law. Many laws today are based on the original 10 Commandments in the Bible. e.g. 'Do not kill', 'Do not steal'.

Role of the Church in the Community

Other than providing a place for worship the Church is used many things that bring the community together:

- **Community** – group of people that have something in common
- Marriages
- Baptisms/Confirmations
- Food banks and soup kitchens for the homeless
- Youth clubs/Sunday school/Brownies/Scouts/Guides
- Parties – birthdays/anniversaries

Mission and Evangelism

- **Mission:** helping others to build a relationship with God **'Go and make disciples of all nations.'**
- **Evangelism:** sharing faith with others
- **Convert:** to change belief/religion

Samuel Morris was an African boy who heard God's voice telling him to run away from a tribe who were going to kill him. Samuel travelled to America to learn more about God and shared his story with a University. People believed his story and became Christians themselves. Some of them travelled back to Africa to teach people about God and Christianity. People who do this are called **missionaries**. Some people believe it is wrong to try and persuade others to convert to a particular religion.

Many missionaries today travel to disadvantaged parts of the world and help people by setting up schools or hospitals. They may demonstrate Christian values to others without putting pressure on them to convert.

Tearfund and Charity

- **Tearfund:** donation funded charity who work to reduce poverty around the world
- **Charity:** giving to others less fortunate
- **Short term aid:** emergency help e.g. Food and shelter
- **Long term aid:** help that lasts a long time e.g. medical training, buildings like schools

Christians believe charity is important because Jesus said *'it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven.'* This means Christians will be judged by God on how they have used their wealth. The Parable of the Sheep and Goats also demonstrates the importance of helping those in need. The sheep provide food, water, and care in the same way that Tearfund provide long and short term aid to people who have experienced natural disasters, war and poverty.

Persecution of Christians

Persecution: to be punished, often for religious belief

Richard Wurmbrand lived in Romania during the Communist regime. Communism outlawed the practice of Christianity. Richard Wurmbrand still practiced Christianity and held secret Bible meetings with other Christians. He was imprisoned and tortured because he refused to give up his faith. He lived by the teaching *'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'* because he forgave his captors. Eventually Communism ended and Richard told the courts about his ill treatment. Persecution happens to many different religions (Jew's during WW2) and still happens today. For example in the Middle East Christians are being attacked by terrorist organisations like ISIS. The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** states that people have the right to practice any religion they wish.

Reconciliation and the Ecumenical Movement

- **Reconciliation:** making up after a conflict or argument
- **Ecumenical Movement/Ecumenism:** different types of religion or different religions working together for peace
- **Corrymeela:** Ecumenical reconciliation organisation in Northern Ireland who work with Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians

Because different religions and different types of religions like Christians have different beliefs they sometimes fall out and argue. In some circumstances this has led to war.

In Northern Ireland, **Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians** have been in conflict due to religious differences and arguments about whether Northern Ireland should be part of Ireland or Great Britain. Violence was particularly bad in the 1980's and involved many bombs and shootings. Today the violence has calmed but many Protestants and Catholics go to separate schools and housing estates are separated by large 'peace walls'. Corrymeela are an organisation who work to bring these groups together on neutral ground where they can **discuss their problems** and take part in **workshops** where they can learn about each other. Reconciliation and ecumenical work is seen as important because Jesus said *'blessed are the peacemakers, for they will become children of God.'*

Religion and Relationships

Different Types of Family:

- **Nuclear Family:** Mum, Dad and children
- **Reconstituted Family:** Families that have joined together (step parents and siblings)
- **Single Parent Family:** One adult and children
- **Childless Family:** Two adults and no children

Roles in the Family:

- Looking after the children
- Working for money
- Housework

Christian Attitudes to Family: Most Christians would view the nuclear family as the ideal family because Christians are expected to marry as man and wife (Adam and Eve) and have children (<i>Go forth and multiply</i>)	
Traditional Christians (Some CofE and RC)	Modern Christians (Some CofE and RC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women have the responsibility to look after the Children and do the house work • Men have the responsibility to earn money • <i>God told Adam he would have to work for his food and he told Eve she would suffer in Childbirth</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles can be shared • <i>Everyone is equal in the eyes of God</i>

The purpose of marriage:

Christians see getting married and having children as one of the most important rites of passage. God presented Adam and Eve as the first married couple and told them '***Go forth and multiply***'. For Roman Catholics marriage is a **sacrament**.

- **Rite of passage:** important life event that changes who you are
- **Marriage:** legal/spiritual bond between two people in love
- **Commitment:** promise/dedication made to someone or something
- **Responsibilities:** something you should do
- **Vow:** promises made in wedding ceremony
- **Sacrament:** something that is done to show commitment to God and to receive God's grace

The Wedding Ceremony:

The Wedding Ceremony emphasises the importance of marriage to Christians and to God. The vows demonstrate the commitments and responsibilities that are expected in marriage.

Church of England Wedding	Roman Catholic Wedding	Humanist Wedding (non-religious)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of Rings – eternity • White dress – chastity • Church – presence of God • Prayers • Bible readings • Vows – '<i>Till death do us part</i>', '<i>To love and to cherish</i>', '<i>In sickness and in health</i>' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the Church of England but they may have a mass (Eucharist) • Marriage is seen as a sacrament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No link to God/Bible • Not conducted in Church • Legal ceremony of couples choice

Interfaith marriage it when people from different religions or different religious groups get married	
<u>Church of England</u>	<u>Roman Catholic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow interfaith marriage to other types of Christians • Allow interfaith marriage to non-Christians (people who have not been christened or confirmed) if they accept God and Jesus and show respect for the Church and Christian values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow interfaith marriage if the partner is a Christian and agrees to have children • Marriage will not be seen as a sacrament for non- Catholics who marry in the Roman Catholic Church

Arranged marriage is when parents or relatives find someone a partner to marry. Arranged marriage is more common in Islam than in Christianity. Christians and Muslims do not have get arranged marriages but may choose to because it follows a family or cultural tradition	
<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family will approve of the partner • Saves time dating and finding someone yourself • You will not be alone in life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not be in love before you marry • You will not know the person very well before you marry • Divorce will disappoint the family

Divorce and Separation

- **Bigamy:** to get married to someone when already married to another person (illegal in UK)
- **Annulment:** to declare a marriage illegal (forced, mentally ill, intoxicated)

Divorce is the legal termination of a marriage. Divorce rates have risen because it is cheaper and easier to divorce. There is less stigma. People may divorce because of conflict in relationships for example adultery, money problems, abuse	
<u>Church of England</u>	<u>Roman Catholic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow divorce for a good reason for example adultery and abuse • Allowing divorce shows <i>'love your neighbour'</i> because it is the loving thing to do to allow a person to escape an abusive marriage • Divorce should be the last resort and couples should seek help/counselling first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow divorce under any circumstances • 'What God has joined together, let no man part' – Marriage is a promise to God and a sacrament that cannot be broken • 'Till death do us part' • Couple who cannot live together should live separately until death

Re-marriage is getting married to another person after a divorce. Re-marriage is more common today as divorce rates have risen, people live longer and there is less stigma	
<u>Church of England</u>	<u>Roman Catholic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow re-marriage if there was a good reason for divorce • Allowing re-marriage shows <i>'love your neighbour'</i> because it is the loving thing to do to give people a second chance at love • Couples must prove they are committed before re-marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow re-marriage unless a partner has died • 'Till death do us part' • 'What God has joined together, let no man part'

Attitudes to sex

- **Chastity** – not having sex before marriage (Some Christians may do this)
- **Promiscuity** – casual sex (sex is a gift from God for the purpose of love and children not ‘fun’)
- **Adultery** – cheating on your married partner (*‘Do not commit adultery’*)
- **Fidelity** – being faithful to your married partner (*‘To love and to cherish’*)
- **Procreation** – having children (*‘Go forth and multiply’*)

Cohabitation is living together but not being married
 Many couples cohabit before they decide to marry as a ‘trial run’. If a couple cohabit it is assumed that they will have **pre-marital sex** (sex before marriage)

<u>Church of England</u>	<u>Roman Catholic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow cohabitation/premarital sex if a couple are committed and intend to marry • Allowing cohabitation shows ‘love your neighbour’ – it is the loving thing to do to allow a committed couple to express their love through sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow cohabitation and pre-marital sex under any circumstances • Cohabitation and pre-marital sex should only happen after a couple are married when they have shown full commitment to their partner and God that they are ready to raise children • Couples should remain chaste until marriage

Contraception is something that stops pregnancy i.e. a condom
 Many couples wish to use contraception because they are not ready to have children but still wish to show their love for one another through sex.

<u>Church of England</u>	<u>Roman Catholic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow contraception to be used between committed couples who want to plan for a family in the future. • Allowing contraception shows ‘love your neighbour’ because it is the loving thing to do to let a committed couple express their love • Casual sex (promiscuity) is wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow artificial contraception under any circumstances • Only natural contraception (rhythm method) can be used • Sex should be for having children because children are a gift from God ‘go forth and multiply’ • Couples should remain chaste until marriage • Casual sex (promiscuity) is wrong

Same sex marriage (gay marriage). Gay marriage is now legal in the UK. Some churches (Quakers, Church of Scotland) are allowed to make their own decision about whether to marry gay couples or offer a blessing.

<u>Church of England and Roman Catholic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow same sex couples to be married in church • Marriage is traditionally between man and wife for the purpose of children ‘go forth and multiply’ • God made Adam and Eve as man and woman not man and man or woman and woman • Same sex couple cannot have children naturally like God intended

Men and Women in church: Traditionally, only men have been allowed to lead services in Church. Recently the Church of England have changed their rules to allow women to be vicars and bishops but some Christians still disagree with this.

<u>Church of England</u>	<u>Roman Catholic</u>
<p>Allow women to be vicars and bishops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Everyone is equal in the eyes of God’ • ‘Love you neighbour’ • Jesus was friends with Mary Magdalene and treated women as equals 	<p>Do not allow women to be priests or bishops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus was a man – only men should represent Jesus in church • Jesus had male disciples not women • Jesus conducted the Eucharist – only men should give out bread and wine in church

