

Religion & Relationships

Marriage	A legal union between a man and a woman.
Commitment	Promise to be faithful.
Vows	Promises made by a couple to be faithful to each other.
Contract	A formal agreement or legal bond.
Marriage contract	A contract between a bride and a groom.
Covenant	An agreement.
Responsibility	The legal or moral duty which a person has.
Heterosexual	A person who is attracted to the opposite sex.
Homosexual	A person who is attracted to the same sex.
Age of consent	The age at which someone can legally have sex.
Contraception	Artificial ways of preventing pregnancy.
Civil partnerships	An alternative to marriage for homosexuals (gay marriage).
Celibacy	Choosing to remain unmarried and not having sex.
Family	A group of people who are related by blood, marriage or adoption.
Parenting	Acting as a parent.
Divorce	The legal ending of a marriage.
Adultery	An affair. Having sex with someone else when you are married.

Heterosexual - a human who is sexually attracted to only members of the opposite sex.

Homosexual - a human who is sexually attracted to only members of the same sex.

Age of consent - the age at which someone can legally have a sexual relationship.

The Christian view on sex before marriage

Christians believe it is wrong to use people as 'sex objects' and is irresponsible because of the risk of pregnancy and STD's. **In the Bible St Paul said people should have control over their sexual urges.** The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church both teach that sex outside of marriage is wrong. **Sex is a gift from God, given to create children and as Christians believe that children should ideally be raised by married parents sex should stay within marriage.**

THE BIBLE: Honour your father and mother. (Exodus 20:12)

New Testament: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)

Roman Catholic Christians...

Divorce is always wrong.

Marriage is a sacrament that cannot be broken.

'until death do us part.'

The Church of England / Protestant Christians

Divorce should be the last resort.

The Muslim view of homosexuality

For Muslims sex is a sacred gift from Allah. Sex is to be between a married couple and for the creation of children. Therefore homosexual sex is a sin. Gay marriages are not recognised and therefore gay sex is outside marriage and cannot create children. The Prophet Muhammad married and had children and so it is seen as a Muslim duty to do the same.

Contraception

Roman Catholic Christians

teach that **artificial**

contraception is wrong. God's

purpose for marriage is to have

a **family.** Contraception could

increase **infidelity.** Parents

should use the **rhythm method**

to space the births of their

children. Many Catholics

disagree. The **population**

explosion and spread of **AIDS**

present new challenges to these

teachings.

Other Christian groups: **Other Christians** will say that barrier methods of contraception are acceptable for married couples to use. They believe that the physical element of sex is important to hold a relationship together and couples should not be burdened or fear having lots of children. **Most Christians** think that it is acceptable to **PREVENT** conception but not to destroy a fertilized embryo.

Christian Values

- **Righteousness;** believing in God's will, doing what is 'right' following strict moral codes. Following rules in the Bible and trying to live your life as Jesus did. Set a good example to others through good behaviour.
- **Hope;** based on Jesus' promises that he will provide eternal life. This means patience and perseverance even when things are not going well.
- **Value God;** seek God's advice when making decisions, especially moral (right & wrong) decisions.
- **Respect & tolerance;** for others in society and your family. Even when relationships become difficult.
- **Forgiveness;** do not hold grudges against others. The Lord's prayer says 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us'.
- **Love;** the Bible teaches Christians to 'love your neighbour' and love your enemies.
- **Fairness;** always act in a fair way to members of your family and people in general.

Remember religions do not agree with sex before marriage, so when they talk about contraception they are talking about its use by a married couple.

Some people believe they are called to dedicate their whole life to their religion and therefore become celibate. This would include **Roman Catholic priests, monks and nuns.** **They do not marry so they can focus their energies on their religious responsibilities**

Types on contraception.

All forms of contraception prevent pregnancy; however they all work in different ways. This means that some are acceptable to certain Christian groups while some are not. Roman Catholic Christians disagree with the use of ALL contraception.

Natural (rhythm) method - the couple avoid having sex around the time of the month she can get pregnant.

Permanent method - an operation a man or a woman can have to permanently prevent pregnancy.

The coil - stops the fertilized egg from implanting in the womb.

The morning after pill - stops the fertilized egg from implanting in the womb.

Spermicidal creams - kill the sperm directly.

The Pill - stops the woman producing an egg.

The diaphragm (cap) - acts as a barrier to stop the sperm meeting the egg.

