

- Christian beliefs, attitudes and teachings about:

Families, Roles of women, marriage, cohabitation, adultery, divorce and remarriage

## Key Concepts

<b>Adultery</b>	Married person choosing to have sex with someone else.	<b>Contraception</b>	Methods to prevent a woman becoming pregnant.
<b>Divorce</b>	Legal ending of a marriage.	<b>Gender Equality</b>	All genders have the same rights.
<b>Cohabitation</b>	Living together without being married or in a civil partnership.	<b>Responsibilities</b>	Actions or duties you are expected to carry out.
<b>Commitment</b>	Making and keeping a promise.	<b>Roles</b>	The position of a person e.g. teacher.

## Families and the roles of men and women

Families are very important in Christianity. **Pope Francis** described the family as 'the essential cell of society.' Through the family **values** are learnt, **faith** is developed e.g. through family **prayer** and festivals are celebrated e.g. **Easter**. There are rites of passage e.g. **baptisms, weddings, and funerals** which include all family members. Men and women are expected to play equal roles in the family but those roles might be different. Children are expected to respect parents as in the **Ten Commandments**.

## Nature and purpose of marriage

### Marriage outside the religious tradition and cohabitation

Marriage is considered as **God's intention** and the basis of family life. Many Christians consider it a **sacrament**. The wedding **vows** taken show a **commitment** ('till death us do part') and responsibilities (in sickness and in health) to each partner. More people are now marrying partners from a different or no faith background. This results in decisions regarding **worship; religious upbringing** of children, **rites of passage**, different **beliefs** e.g. about **contraception**. As sexual relationships are considered **sacred** some Christian **denominations** e.g. **Catholics** do not accept **cohabitation** believing it devalues sex.

## Adultery, divorce and remarriage

As many Christians believe marriage is a **sacrament** **adultery** is wrong and breaks one of the **Ten Commandments** and the **wedding vows**. There are different views amongst Christians about divorce. For some divorce is accepted but seen as a last resort. Some Christians believe that as marriage is a **sacrament** it cannot be broken and therefore **remarriage** is not possible. In the **Catholic Church** it is possible to apply for an annulment if certain conditions have been met which makes the marriage void.

## Key Sources of Authority

- Importance of respecting parents - from the Ten Commandments
- You shall not commit adultery - from the Ten Commandments
- Marriage is God's intention. - Jesus's teachings in Mark 10
- Teachings of Pope Francis
- The Wedding vows
- Remarriage (except in cases of sexual immorality) considered as adultery - Matthew 19

## Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity). Consider how...

- the purpose of marriage relates to *sexual relationships* (Component 1)
- Divorce and remarriage relate to *beliefs about sacraments* (Component 2).

## Exam Practice

Describe ways in which families are important in a faith community. (5)

Sex outside marriage is always wrong. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (you must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

- Christian teachings about:
  - i. the nature and purpose of sex
  - ii. use of contraception

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## Nature and purpose of sex

Sex is a **gift from God**. After the **creation** of human life **God** gave a **blessing** to **'be fruitful and multiply'**. Sex should only take place within a **committed** relationship which many Christians believe means marriage. **Adultery** is against the **Ten Commandments**. **Catholics** believe that sex should allow the possibility of life. Through sexual relationships husbands and wives are showing a special **commitment** to each other. In some **denominations** of Christianity, e.g. Catholic, monks and nuns are expected to be **celibate** so they can devote their lives to serving **God and humanity**.

## Use of contraception

There are different views depending upon interpretations of **Jesus's** teachings and other passages from the **Bible**. Many Christians believe that contraceptives are allowed as long as both partners agree. **Catholics** believe that artificial methods of **contraception** should not be allowed as it goes against **Natural Law** associated with **Thomas Aquinas**. He set out **five precepts** of how humans should live their lives. The second of these precepts refers to continuation of humanity through reproduction.

## Same-sex relationships

There are different views depending upon interpretations of **Jesus's teachings** and other passages from the **Bible**. Many Christians refer to **Leviticus** and **1 Timothy** to say marriage should only be between a man and a woman e.g. Catholics. There are different views depending upon interpretations of these passages. **Society of Friends** accept same-sex marriages while **Anglicans** do not allow same-sex marriages but some ministers may give a blessing.

## Key Sources of Authority

- **Second Primary Precept - Thomas Aquinas**
- **Teachings from the Bible forbidding homosexual acts - Leviticus 20:13; 1 Timothy 1:8-10**
- **You shall not commit adultery - from the Ten Commandments**
- **Command from God to 'be fruitful and multiply' - Genesis**

## Key Connections

**Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity).**

**Consider how...**

- **Sexual relationships relate to *relationships* (Component 1)**
- **Same-sex relationships relate to *human rights and social justice* (Component 1).**

## Exam Practice

- Explain attitudes to same-sex relationships. (8)**
- Describe the purpose of sex for religious believers. (5)**



- Diverse attitudes towards the role of men and women in worship and authority (Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican)
- Interpretations of 1 Timothy 2:11-12; Galatians 3:27-29

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Attitudes to the role of men and women in worship (Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican)

There are different practices in different **denominations**. Many Christians argue that all of **Jesus's disciples** were men and so men should take the lead in **worship**. Others argue God **created** humans in the **image of God** so all are equal, that **Jesus** taught you should not discriminate (e.g. story of the **Good Samaritan**) and showed respect to women who were some of his closest followers. In **Catholic** and **Orthodox denominations** women can take active roles such as being **nuns** and helping **ministers** lead **worship**. Women can't however be **ordained** to become **priests**. In the **Anglican church** women are now allowed to lead **worship** and become **Bishops**. Individual Christian's attitudes are often supported by their **interpretations** of **biblical** passages and teachings and actions of **Jesus**.

Interpretations of 1 Timothy 2:11-12

**Paul** in **1 Timothy** refers to 'women should learn in quietness' and that women should not teach or assume 'authority over a man. Some Christians take a **literal** view of this while others say it was a letter written for one particular circumstance at one particular time and that it is not relevant to modern day equal opportunities.

Interpretations of Galatians 3.27-29

**Paul** in **Galatians** refers to all being equal as long as there is faith in Jesus '...there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Some Christians use this quote to argue that if there is no difference then there should be no difference in the roles they are expected to carry out.

## Key Sources of Authority

- 'Women should not assume authority over males' 1 Timothy 2:11-12
- 'There is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Galatia
- Teachings of Jesus e.g. The Good Samaritan
- Practices of Jesus e.g. all the disciples were male

## Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity). Consider how...

- Roles of men and women relate to *human rights and social justice* (Component 1)
- Roles of men and women relate to *prejudice and discrimination* (Component 1)
- Roles of men and women relate to *Creation* (Component 3).

## Exam Practice

**Women and men should have equal roles in worship. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer).** (15)