

Marriage

Divorce

Homosexuality

Sexual
relationships

Contraception

Name:

Marriage and family



Family and
children

Gender
prejudice and
discrimination

The roles of
men and
women

Marriage and family – key terminology

Sacred bond	Joining together sanctified by God which cannot be broken by humans
adultery	A sexual act between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner
monogamy	Marriage to only one person at a time
procreation	Making new life
cohabitation	Living together in a sexual relationship without being married
Extramarital sex	Sex acts outside marriage (adultery)
Promiscuity	Having sex with a number of partners without commitment
stonewall	A group which campaigns for the equality of LGBT people across Britain
Civil partnerships	Legal ceremonies giving homosexual couples the same legal rights as husband and wife
polygamous	Having more than one spouse at a time
monogamous	Having only one spouse at a time
ONS	Office for National Statistics
heterosexual	Attraction to the opposite sex
Diocese	A church area under the direction of a bishop
clergy	Those ordained by the church
IDU	Intrauterine device (the coil)
Abortifacients	Substances that bring about a very early abortion
NFP	Natural family planning
Unitive purpose	Sexual activity as a source of joy and pleasure to unite a married couple
Civil divorce	A divorce according to the law of the country but not the church
Annulment	A declaration by the church that a marriage was never a true marriage and the partners are free to marry
consummate	Complete a marriage through sexual intercourse
covenant	A religious agreement made between God and a religious group
Subordinate	Of inferior importance or rank
suffragette	A woman seeking the right to vote through protest
Catholic catechism	The official teaching of the roman catholic church
Extraordinary minister	A non-ordained man or woman who assist the work of priests
apostle	One chosen by Jesus to preach his Gospel (e.g. 12 disciples)

Lesson one – Introduction to marriage

What is love?



What is love?

1. **Why do couples want to get married?**
2. **Why do some couples prefer to cohabit?**

What is an annulment?

Complete the table below:

Why do people choose to marry?	Why do people choose to cohabit?

What are five things that must be present at a wedding?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Lesson two – Christian attitudes towards marriage

Sacred bond: A joining together sanctified by God which cannot be broken by humans.

Adultery: A sexual act between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner.

Monogamy: Marriage to only one person at a time.

Sacraments: An outward ceremony through which God's grace is given.

What do most Christians believe about marriage?



Highlight three parts of the Christian marriage vow that promise something to their partner:

“I, take you, to be my wife [or husband].

To have and to hold,
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health.

To love and to cherish,
till death parts us,
according to God's holy law.

This is my solemn vow.”

What is the covenant?



What do you think are the three most important purposes of marriage?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In the New Testament, Jesus teaches that marriage was created by God:

“But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Mark 10:6-9

What do you think this quote teaches Christians?

From the video, write down key points regarding the importance of marriage for Christians.

Lesson three-four – divergent attitudes towards marriage

Key words retrial – write down the key term next to each definition.

A joining together sanctified by God which cannot be broken by humans. -----

A sexual act between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner. -----

Marriage to only one person at a time. -----

An outward ceremony through which God's grace is given. -----

Complete the table below:

Marriage is important	Marriage is not important

What do the following statistics teach us about marriage in the UK?

In 1972, there were 480,285 weddings in the UK, compared to 247,890 in 2011.

In 1970, the average age for a couple to get married was 21, compared to 27 in 2010.

In 2012, there were 12 million married couples in the UK compared to 3 million couples living together without being married.

In 2015, cohabiting couple families were the fastest growing family type in the UK.

In 1970, 75% of people living in the UK identified themselves as being Christian, compared to 59% in 2011.

What is the humanist attitude towards marriage?

Do you find anything surprising about the Christian responses to non-religious attitudes?

What are the Christian responses to the non-religious attitude?

Roman Catholic response –

Church of England response -

d) 'marriage is more important for Christians than non-religious people' (12)

- Refer to Christian and non-religious viewpoints

Sources of authority –

For	Against

Lesson five – Christian attitudes towards sexual relationships

Key terms:

Premarital sex – sexual activity before marriage.

Homosexuality – sexual attraction to someone of the same sex.

Extramarital sex - sex acts outside of marriage (adultery).

Promiscuity – having sex with a number of partners without commitment.

What does Christianity teach about sex?



What does the Bible teach about sex?

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, be fruitful and increase in number'. Genesis

This means ...

'Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.' Hebrews

This means ...

'It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable'. Thessalonians

This means ...

'You shall not commit adultery'. The 10 commandments

This means ...

Do all Christians have the same opinion?

Recap quiz:

1. What does promiscuity mean?
2. The bible teaches Christians that sex should only happen between a man and a woman when....?
3. Which denomination of Christianity does not generally regard premarital sex as sinful?

Lesson six – Divergent attitudes towards sexual relationships

Starter:

What is your opinion on sex outside marriage?

Agrees with sex outside marriage	Disagrees with sex outside marriage

What is the humanist attitude towards sex outside marriage?

Fill in the table of SIMILARITIES and DIFFERENCES between Humanist and atheist Christian views on sex outside of marriage.

Similarities	Differences

Lesson seven – Homosexuality

What do you want to ask about these pictures, and how do they make you feel?



How has the law changed regarding homosexuality in the UK?

Key words:



- Celibate – refraining from any sexual activity.
- Sacraments (Roman catholic) – 7 sacred ceremonies: baptism, Eucharist, reconciliation, confirmation, marriage, holy orders (priest vows to lead other Catholics to the sacraments) and anointing the sick.
- Homophobia – irrational hatred and intolerance of homosexual relationships.

Use the information on sheet to complete the table below.

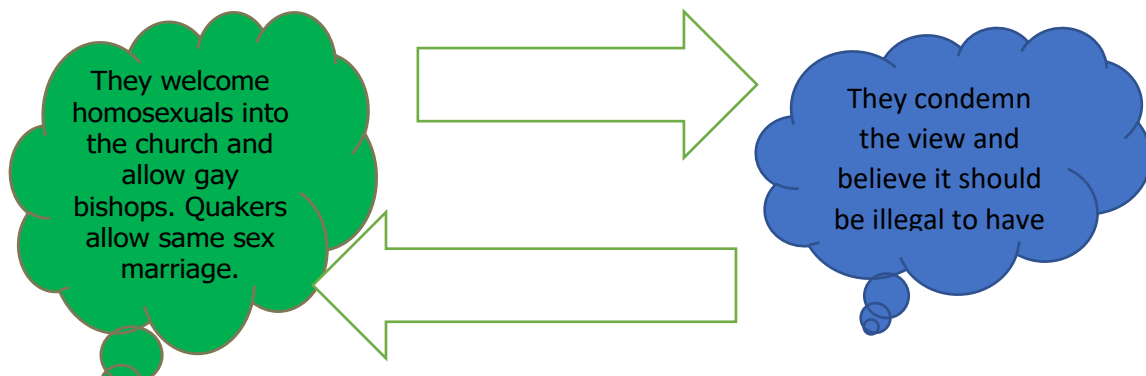
Denomination	What their beliefs are	Where their beliefs come from
Roman Catholic church		
Liberal protestant		
Evangelical church		

What do the following sources of wisdom and authority mean?

- The golden rule 'love thy neighbour'.
- Psalm 13 'For it was you who formed me'.
- Genesis 2 – marriage should be between a man and a woman.
- Genesis 2 – 'be fruitful and multiply'.

What is the humanist and atheist attitude towards homosexuality?

Christian responses to the humanist and atheist attitude. Write in the arrows which denomination holds each view.



Lesson eight – Christianity and family roles

What does family mean to you? Create a list of ideas.



What is the definition of family.



Complete the reading on different types of family and fill in the table below:

Type of family	Definition	How many of these family types in the UK?

What is the purpose and importance of the family in Christianity?

What do you think is the most important role that family has out of the information you have read above, and why?



What do the following quotes teach Christians about the role of family?

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honour your father and mother’—which is the first commandment with a promise – ‘so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. “(Ephesians 6: 1–4)

I think this means parents should...

“God blessed them and said be fruitful and increase in number”. Genesis 1:22.

I think this means that parents though...

Lesson nine – non-religious teaching on family

What should a family provide?



What is the atheist view in the importance and role of family?



What similarities and differences can you see between the atheist attitudes and the Christian attitudes that we looked at last lesson?

“A Christian parent should raise their child as a Christian”.

Agree	Disagree

Lesson ten – Support for the family in the Parish

Key words:

- Diocese—a Church area under the direction of a bishop.
- Parish priest—the clergy person responsible for a local church.
- Vicar—another name for a parish priest.
- Clergy—those ordained by the Church.
- First Communion—the first time a person receives the sacrament of the Eucharist; children receive special lessons before this important occasion.



What is the Parish?



What is the role of a priest.



Which three ways of supporting families do you think are the most important and why? Look at the six examples below to support your choice.

<p><u>Worship:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sunday service is a chance for the whole family to be together to hear the word of God and socialise with other Christians. • Most churches offer a mid-week, morning or evening worship where families can attend if they are unable to come to the Sunday service. • Volunteers from the congregation often run prayer groups during the week, where people can drop in and worship. • Bible quote: "Everyone is welcomed by the Church." 	<p><u>Guidance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vicar/priest runs classes to prepare Christians for baptism, confirmation and marriage. They will teach about the commitment to God that people are making. • The priest/vicar is always available to offer support, advice and guidance when Christians experience personal problems. • The Church teaches that the family is the foundation for leading a good Christian life and that parents and children should support each other. • Bible quote: "The wisdom of God shall be known through the Church." 	<p><u>Charity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church will put people in touch with Christian charities, such as the Salvation Army, if they need help that the church can't offer, such as for homelessness. • Volunteers from the church congregation will often run self-help groups, for example if people are suffering from depression. • Churches often ask their members for donations of food and clothing for those who fall on hard times, e.g. lose their job. • Bible quotes: "God has placed gifts of healing, of guidance, in the church."
<p><u>Family:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priest/vicar will run marriage counselling classes for couples going through difficulties. • Churches run toddler and play-groups for parents to socialise or to help with childcare. • The Church offers coffee mornings for the elderly, or people with disabilities, where they and their carers can socialise. • Bible quote: "Within the Church we are all brothers and sisters." 	<p><u>Children:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches offer Sunday school for children during the service, where they learn about Christianity through storytelling and play. • Most churches run youth clubs, such as Cubs and Brownies, where children can socialise with friends from Christian families. • The vicar/priest will work closely with Faith schools to ensure that children learn about Christian life and religious teaching. • Bible quote: "The Church opens the door to faith." 	<p><u>Spare quotes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Tell it to the Church." • "If you have disputes, ask for a ruling from the Church." • "The Holy Spirit speaks through the Church." • Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. (Matthew 19:13-14)

Why do parishes try to help families?

Why is support from the parish is important to a Christian family.

Recap:

Lesson eleven – Christianity and contraception

Keywords:

Contraception: preventing getting pregnant as a result of sexual intercourse.

Procreation: making a new life.

Sanctity of life: the belief that life is sacred.

Conception: the moment an egg is fertilised.

Adultery: having sex with someone other than your marriage partner.



What is contraception? How many different types can you name?



Positives of contraception	Negatives of contraception

The Roman Catholic attitude:

The Catholic Church teaches that sexual intercourse is a gift from God as a source of joy and pleasure to married couples (the unitive purpose) as well as a means of creating a family (the creative purpose). The Church also teaches that Christians should practise responsible parenthood by deciding on the number of children to have and when to have them. However, the Catholic way to achieve this is through using natural methods of family planning. The Church teaches that using artificial methods of contraception is going against God's intentions. Catholics believe this because:

- In 1968, Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* affirmed the teaching of Pope Pius XI which condemned all forms of artificial contraception, and the teaching of Pope Pius XII who declared that Catholics could use natural methods of contraception as these are natural and so part of God's creation. *Humanae Vitae* declared that the only allowable forms of contraception for Catholics are natural methods. This teaching God created sex for enjoyment and to cement the bonds of marriage. Within marriage, contraception allows the role of sex to be separated from making children and this is not against God's will.
- There is nothing in the Bible that forbids the use of contraception.
- In 1930, the Lambeth Conference of the worldwide Anglican Communion (Church of England) declared that it was legitimate for Christians to use contraception to limit family size. This has been followed by the major Protestant Churches and the Orthodox Churches.
- Non-Catholic Christians believe that it is better to combat HIV/ AIDS by using condoms rather than by expecting everyone to follow Christian rules about sex and marriage has been confirmed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Artificial methods of birth control separate the unitive and creative aspects of sex, which is not what God intended.
- Some contraceptives have abortifacient effects (they bring about a very early abortion) and so are against the teaching of the Church.
- The Catholic Church regards contraception as a major cause of sexual promiscuity, broken families and the rise in the divorce rate and STDs.

The attitude of non-Catholic Christians:

Almost all non-Catholic Christians believe that all forms of contraception are permissible as long as they are used to restrict the size of the family and not simply to stop having children altogether. They have this attitude because:

- Christianity is about love and justice, and contraception improves maternal health and raises the standard of living of children as families are smaller.

Question: what is the main difference between the two views and why do they have this difference in opinion?

Analyse the meaning of the two biblical quotes and explain how each could either support or oppose the use of contraception.

Jesus said, 'the man who comes to me I will never turn away.' (John.6:37)

In the Bible, it says "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28)

Why might some Christians disagree with these interpretations?

In the Bible, it says "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28)

The intention of marriage is to produce children.

*Sex was given by God for **procreation** and so should always allow for the possibility of pregnancy.*

Complete the table, tick the methods that each denomination of Christianity would support the use of.

		most non-catholic Christians?	Catholics?
Barrier Methods (condoms etc.)	Prevents the sperm from reaching the egg		
The Coil	Prevents the fertilised egg from attaching to the walls of the womb		
The Conventional Pill	Affects the hormone balance of the woman so that she is not fertile		
The Rhythm Method	Avoiding sex at the woman's most fertile part of her cycle		
Withdrawal	The penis is removed before ejaculation		
The Morning After Pill	Prevents the fertilised egg from attaching to the wall of the womb		
Sterilisation	Stops the child producing capabilities of the woman		

Lesson twelve – non-religious attitudes towards contraception

What types of contraception can you remember?



Humanist and atheist people are in favour of contraception because they assess the rights and wrongs of birth control by looking at its consequences. They argue that as contraception prevents unwanted children from being born, improves the material and emotional standard of living in families and prevents the spread of STDs, it must be morally right to use it. Humanists argue that if contraception 'results in every child being a wanted child, and in better, healthier lives for women, it must be a good thing' (British Humanist Association). Most non-religious people think that contraception should be used by people having casual sex because it is important to avoid unwanted pregnancies and STDs. Humanists played a major part in promoting contraception in modern times. Charles Bradlaugh, leader of the National Secular Society, and his partner Annie Besant were given prison sentences in 1877 for publishing a book that advocated birth control because it was thought that contraception would lead to sexual immorality. However, their advocacy of contraception gradually led to its acceptance in society: in the UK in 2010, 72 per cent of women of childbearing age were using contraception. Ethical theories are philosophical theories to apply to moral issues. One such theory is Situation Ethics which believes that Christians should make moral decisions based on looking at the moral situation and deciding which choice would give the most loving outcome. This is based on Jesus' teaching that the greatest commandment is to love God and love your neighbour. Christians who believe in Situation Ethics would say that people should use contraceptives because contraception:

- improves women's health and well-being
- prevents many children suffering, because every child will be a wanted child
- by reducing rates of unintended pregnancies, it reduces the need for unsafe abortion
- reduces the risk of unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV, resulting in fewer infected babies and orphans
- provides dual protection against unintended pregnancies and against STIs including HIV if using male or female condoms.

Question: give two reasons why Humanists support the use of contraception.

Christian responses to the humanist view:

As Protestant and Orthodox Christians agree with the non-religious attitudes to contraception, it is only the Roman Catholic Church which has responded to them. The Church continues to issue statements to Catholic couples that they must only use natural methods of contraception. It also opposes issuing free condoms to prevent the spread of HIV/ AIDS and STDs. However, Catholics seem to have responded by accepting the non-religious attitude. A survey by the US Spanish-language television network Univision of more than 12,000 Catholics in twelve countries discovered that 78 per cent of respondents worldwide supported the use of artificial birth control, and in some European and most Latin American countries, more than 90 per cent supported its use.

Question – Do you agree with the Christian response?

Lesson thirteen – Christianity and divorce

1. Do you think that when couples divorce, it should be kept private?
Give two reasons.



Why might there have been an increase in divorce rates?



Why would someone want a divorce?



“Marriages should be for life” Do you agree?

Agree	Disagree

Who does a divorce affect?



Can a divorce be the ‘lesser of two evils?’

Analyse the meaning of the quotes below.

In some places in the Gospels, Jesus seems to ban divorce and remarriage.

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?' 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"? So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.' (Matthew 19: 3–9)

What does this teach Christians about divorce?

'A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife'. (1 Corinthians 7: 10)

What does this teach Christians about divorce?

However, in others he seems to allow divorce on the grounds of adultery.

"And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." Matthew 19:9

What does this teach Christians about divorce?

Task three - Highlight through the key information and then complete the table below.

The Catholic Church does not allow religious divorce or remarriage. Catholic marriage is a sacrament, and the exchange of vows means that the only way a marriage between baptised Catholics can be dissolved (religiously) is by the death of one of the partners or if the marriage is annulled. However, the Catholic Church does allow for the legal separation of spouses if they find it impossible to live together, and even civil divorce (an ending of the marriage according to the laws of the country, but not the Church) if that will ensure the proper care of the children and the safety and security of the married partner. Neither of these routes, however, has ended the marriage: the couple are still married in the eyes of God and the Church and so cannot remarry. As there can be no religious divorce, there can be no remarriage because that would be the same as bigamy and adultery, both of which are considered to be very serious sins. Catholics who remarry may be refused communion. However, the Catholic Church does allow annulment if it can be proved that the marriage was never consummated or that it was not a true Christian marriage. Catholics have this attitude because:

- In Mark's Gospel Jesus taught that divorce is wrong, and Christians should follow the teachings of Jesus.
- The couple have made a covenant with God in the sacrament of marriage and that covenant cannot be broken by any earthly power.
- The Church teaches very clearly in the Catechism that a marriage cannot be dissolved, and so religious divorce is impossible. Catholics should follow the teachings of the Church and so should not divorce.

Most non-Catholic Churches think that divorce is wrong but allow it if the marriage has broken down. Most of these Churches allow divorced people to remarry, but the divorced people are sometimes asked to show repentance for the failure and required to promise that this time their marriage will be for life.

- Jesus allowed divorce in Matthew 19: 9 for a partner's adultery.
- They believe that there are certain situations where Christians must choose the lesser of two evils. If a marriage has really broken down, then the effects of the couple not divorcing would be a greater evil than the 'evil' of divorce itself.
- Christians are allowed forgiveness and a new chance if they confess their sins and are truly repentant. This belief in forgiveness should apply to divorce and remarriage as much as anything else. So, a couple should have another chance at marriage as long as they are determined to make it work the second time.

Using the information above complete the table below.

Question	The Roman Catholic attitude towards divorce	Non-Roman Catholic attitudes towards divorce
Is divorce accepted		
Biblical support for this view		

Lesson fourteen – divergent attitudes towards divorce

Recap

1) Explain two reasons why there may have been an increase in divorce rates.



2) Explain two reasons why remarriage is a problem for Catholic Christians

What is the atheist and humanist attitude towards divorce?



How would you apply situation ethics to the topic of divorce and remarriage?



What reasons can you think of for situation ethics allowing divorce?



Lesson fifteen – The roles of men and women

Recap:

1. What is the apparent age theory?
2. Which denomination of Christianity believes in purgatory?
3. Why is the incarnation important to Christians?



Use the two sources of authority below to explain two opposing views of the roles of men and women.

'So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:27)

'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. Whereas he tells the man, cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it...by the sweat of your brow you will earn your food.' Genesis 2

The first teaches that...

The second quote teaches that...

Recap:

1. What is the apparent age theory?
2. Which denomination of Christianity believes in purgatory?
3. Why is the incarnation important to Christians?

Traditional roles of men and women

St Paul says in Ephesians chapter 5: 21–30 that wives should submit to their husband because the husband is the head of the wife in the same way that Christ is the head of the Church. This implies that the wife should do as she is told by the husband, but St Paul also says that husbands should love their wives in the same way they love their own bodies.

However, his words that a husband feeds and cares for his body imply that men should feed and care for women, reinforcing the subservience of women. So, the biblical teaching of Genesis 1 says that men and women should have equal roles in life because they were created equal.

However, Genesis 2–3 and Ephesians say that men have the dominant role and could be used to justify the belief that the role of women is to care for the home and children and the role of men is to work and provide the material needs of the family.

What is the alternative view of roles in the Christian family?

Task three – read through the information below and complete the table.

Many Evangelicals teach that men and women have separate and different roles. It is the role of women to bring up children and run a Christian home. It is the role of men to provide for the family and lead the family in religion. Many such Protestant Christians believe women should dress simply and keep their heads covered in church. Men must love their wives as themselves, but only men can be church leaders and teachers.

This attitude is based on:

- the teaching of Genesis 2 about Adam being created first
- the disciples of Jesus being men
- the teaching of St Paul in Ephesians about the husband being the head of the wife
- the teachings of St Paul in Corinthians 11: 3–10 about women's appearance.

Many Protestant Churches now accept that men and women are equal, and should have equal roles in life and the family. This attitude is based on:

- the teachings of Genesis 1 that male and female were created at the same time and equally
- the teaching of St Paul in Galatians that in Christ there is neither male nor female
- the evidence from the Gospels that Jesus treated women as his equals. He preached in the court of women in the Jerusalem Temple (Matthew 21: 23–22: 14). He treated a Samaritan woman as his equal (John 4). He had female disciples who stayed with him at the cross (Matthew 27: 55, Mark 15: 40–41, Luke 23: 27, John 19: 25–27), unlike the male disciples who ran away. It was to women that Jesus appeared first after the resurrection.

The Catholic Church teaches that men and women should have equal roles in life and the family. Based on Genesis 1: 27, the Church teaches that men and women have equal status in the sight of God. In the new Roman Catholic marriage service, the priest says: 'May her husband put his trust in her and recognise that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace.' In most Catholic families the husband and wife have equal roles.

Denomination	Attitudes	Reason for this attitude
Evangelical		
Protestant		
Catholic		

Where do the alternative views come from?

Look at the statistics table below and explain what they tell you about the roles of men and women over time.

Activity	parent	Hours per week in 1965	Hours per week in 2011
Childcare	Mother	10	14
	Father	3	7
Housework	Mother	32	18
	Father	4	10
Paid employment	Mother	8	21
	Father	42	37

This table shows that...

Why did the role of women and men in the family change?

Lesson sixteen – Christianity and gender prejudice and discrimination

Highlight through the key information and complete the table.

Evangelical Protestants teach that men and women have separate and different roles and so cannot have equal rights in religion. They also believe that women should not speak in church, should not teach and must submit to their husbands. It is the role of men to provide for the family and to lead the family in religion. Men must love their wives as themselves, but only men can be Church leaders and teachers. They do not see this as discrimination because it is what God ordained in the New Testament, which they believe is the final Word of God. St Paul teaches that women should not teach or speak in church. He also uses the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis to show that men have been given more rights by God because Adam was created first and it was the woman who was led astray by Satan and then led man astray.

The Catholic Church is against gender prejudice and discrimination because it teaches that men and women should have equal roles in life and equal rights in society, since Genesis 1: 27 teaches that God created men and women at the same time and both in the image of God. Furthermore, it is the teaching of the Catholic Catechism that men and women are equal, and should have equal rights in life and society, and Catholics should follow the teachings of the Catechism. As far as ministry is concerned, women can study and teach in theological colleges, be extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (people who give out the bread and wine which has been consecrated by a priest), visit the sick and take funerals in certain circumstances (over half of the lectors and extraordinary ministers in the British Catholic Church are women).

However, the Catholic Church also teaches that only men can be ordained priests, although it claims this does not affect the equal status of women because it is the special function of the priest to represent Jesus at the Mass which prevents women from becoming priests. The Catholic Catechism also teaches that only men can be priests because the apostles were all men, and priests and bishops are successors of the apostles.

Liberal Protestant Churches Liberal Protestant Churches believe not only that men and women should have equal roles in the family but also that they should have totally equal rights in life and in the Church. Consequently, they have women ministers, priests and bishops (for example, Church of England, Methodist, United Reformed Church and Baptist) because:

- the creation story in Genesis 1 says that God created male and female at the same time and of equal status
- the letters of Paul teach that in Christ there is neither male nor female and therefore men and women should have equal rights
- the evidence from the Gospels shows that Jesus treated women as his equals
- there is some evidence that there were women priests in the early Church.

Denomination	Attitude towards gender prejudice and discrimination.

The Bible was written at a time when society was **Patriarchal**. From the start of the Bible, with the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis, woman was seen as inferior and the one who tempted Adam to join her in sin. Women were often seen as being unclean; during menstruation they were untouchable for at least a week. This view is connected to problems with women becoming priests and performing other leadership duties. In the New Testament St. Paul thought that women should keep quiet in the Christian community and accept that men were in charge within marriage. Jesus however appeared to treat women as equals. He had female followers, and it was the women that Jesus first appeared to after the resurrection. There were probably women priests in the early Church, although they were later banned. Christian attitudes to the roles of men and women are diverse, for example women priests and ministers now exist in some Protestant denominations, and different stances can be backed up by religious evidence from the Bible.

Key:

Biblical Teachings for men and women having equal roles. ☐

Biblical Teachings that men and women have different roles. ☐

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.
Ephesians 5:22-24 and 33

..... women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness - with good works.

1 Timothy 2 9-10

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

Biblical Views

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honour to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 3: 7

Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

1 Timothy 2:11-14

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Women priests were banned by the Church Council held at Laodicea in the fourth century.

Traditional Church of England wedding vows, going back to the time of Henry VIII, ask women to promise to obey their husband. These days you are allowed to leave that bit out but you can leave it in.

Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed and Church of England churches all have women ministers/priests.

Pope John XXIII (now Saint John XXIII) wrote *Pacem et Terris* in 1963 where he discussed women demanding their rights as human persons. He also talked about how men and women have equal rights and duties in the founding of a family.

Christian Views based on the Biblical Views

The Roman Catholic Church does not ordain women because Jesus chose 12 male disciples and they went on to choose male leaders too. This position is explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The modern Roman Catholic wedding service does not require the woman to promise to obey her husband.

The New Testament identifies female followers of Jesus.

Martin Luther (a German at the forefront of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century) said that a woman should stay at home, do the housework and be a mother.

Women priests existed in the Early Church.

Libby Lane became the Church of England's first female Bishop in 2015. The first female priests in this denomination were ordained in 1994.

Highlight through the key information.

The Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) is an organisation of Christians who believe that the Church's refusal to have women priests is gender discrimination. The group campaigned for the ordination of women as deacons and priests in the Church of England by persuading Church members to get their representatives on the General Synod to allow women priests. They achieved their first aim in 1975 when the General Synod agreed that 'there are no fundamental objections to the ordination of women to the priesthood'. But there was too much opposition to take it any further. By 1978, the movement had persuaded the lay members and the bishops to vote for women's ordination, but the clergy refused. The movement did not give up, and by 1987 the first women were ordained. The movement did not give up, and in 1993 the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained in Bristol Cathedral. Another group of Christian men and women, Women and the Church, was established in 1996 to campaign for gender equality (and especially for the ordination of women as bishops) in the Church of England, but it was not until 2013 that the first woman bishop in the Church of England was ordained (there had been women priests and bishops much earlier in the American and Canadian Anglican Churches)."

Catholic Women's Ordination began in 1993 as a British group of women and men who want the Catholic Church to accept that believing that women are equal with men (as the Catholic Church does) means not only that women have the opportunity to fulfil their own vocation, but also that women can become priests. Several such national groups formed Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) in 1996 as a network of national and international groups whose mission is to end gender discrimination and persuade the Vatican to allow Roman Catholic women to join the ordained ministries. They hold conferences and protests, and had hoped that Pope Francis would listen to them, but in September 2015 he said that 'women priests, that cannot be done. Pope St John Paul II after long, long intense discussions, long reflection said so clearly'.

How does the Vicar of Dibley portray gender discrimination in the Church?

Lesson seventeen – Divergent attitudes towards gender prejudice and discrimination.

Jesse Owen won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Hitler refused to place the gold medal around Owen's neck. Why?



Highlight through the key intro action below.

Most atheists and all Humanists believe that men and women are equal and should have equal rights. The pressure for equal pay for women and to end sex discrimination came from non-religious politicians. Humanists are against sexism and have been keen supporters of legislation to promote women's rights. Humanists believe that it is wrong for religion to be able to discriminate against women and that refusing to ordain women or have women leaders should be made illegal. However, most surveys show that there is still a good deal of gender prejudice and discrimination in the UK, perhaps showing that many non-religious people are still prejudiced:

- Two-thirds (65 per cent) of adults agreed that sexism is still a problem in many workplaces (YouGov survey 2014).
- On average, two women a week are killed by a violent partner or ex-partner in the UK (Department of Health 2005).
- Up to 3 million women and girls across the UK experience rape, domestic violence, stalking or other violence each year (academic research 2009).
- Almost one in three girls have experienced unwanted sexual touching at school (YouGov survey 2010). Activists of the Women's Ordination Advocates organisation hold a banner during their vigil in St Peter's Square at the Vatican in 2010, calling on Pope Benedict XVI to ordain women. In 2014, an MTV survey of young people's opinions found that:
 - Ninety-two per cent of males and 94 per cent of females believe that nobody should be treated differently due to their gender.
 - More than 76 per cent of males and 80 per cent of females say that favouring one gender is unfair.
 - Eighty-five per cent of males and 90 per cent of females believe that gender inequality can lead to big problems for society.
 - Only two per cent of young people say that men and women are totally equal today and only 23 per cent say that men and women are at least mostly equal.

Article title:

Summary of the article:



Is this prejudice or discrimination? Why?

What happened in the case of Betsy Bambrick?



What happened in the case of Sophie Lancaster?



How would a Christian respond to these two cases?

What can we do as individuals to prevent prejudice and discrimination in the future?

Topic content	Revised?	Confidence rating R,A,G
Marriage		
Sexual relationships		
Families		
Support for the family in the local parish		
Family planning		
Divorce and remarriage		
Equality of men and women in the family		
Gender prejudice and discrimination		

Revision questions:

A questions – ‘Outline questions’. These are three-mark questions which require you state three points. You must write in full sentences, or you will only be awarded one mark.

- Outline three Christian beliefs about marriage.
- Outline three Christian beliefs about sexual relationships.
- Outline three types of family.
- Outline three ways in which local parishes help families.
- Outline three reasons why Humanists are in favour of all methods of contraception.
- Outline three reasons why there has been an increase in the number of divorces.
- Outline three roles of ministry that Catholic women are able to perform.

B questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are four-mark questions which require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence.

- Explain two reasons why Christians get married.
- Explain two reasons why the family is important to Christians.
- Explain two reasons why Catholic Christians are against using artificial methods of contraception.
- Explain two reasons why some Christians believe that men and women should have equal roles in the family.

C questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are five-mark questions which are almost identical to B questions – they require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence. You must also use a source of wisdom and authority to support one of your points.

- Explain two reasons why some Christians are against same-sex relationships. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why parishes help families. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why remarriage is a problem for Catholic Christians. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.
- Explain two reasons why Christians have different attitudes to gender prejudice and discrimination. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

D questions – Evaluation questions – These are twelve-mark questions (two of your four will be 15 due to SPAG marks. You are required to give three points in agreement with the statement and three points against the statement. You should try to alternate your arguments, giving a flow of debate and showing chains of reasoning. You should try to include three sources of authority (you may include more). You must not give your opinion, the question expects you to give Christian viewpoints, if it requires atheist or humanist there will be bullet point stating so under the questions. You must include a conclusion, or you will be capped at nine marks. Give a justified conclusion, weighing up the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

- Couples don't need to marry to have a happy relationship.

