

**1: How and why have attitudes changed?**

**Cohabitation-** *a couple living together without being married/ in a civil partnership*

Today, more people cohabit than in the past. The number of people choosing to marry has reduced compared to the 1950s when most people married in a church.

**Pre-marital sex-** *having sex before marriage*

Today, many people have multiple sexual partners compared to the past when most had 1-2 sexual partners in their lifetime. Most people in the past believe sex should be saved for marriage.

**Why have these changes occurred?**

- Less religious society
- Contraception readily available
- Divorce rates increased as they are cheaper and more accessible
- Social and political change – homosexual relationships legalised, equal rights for both genders in the work place

**3. Nature and purpose of marriage**

**Marriage-** a legal union between two people

**Civil partnership-** legal union of same-sex couples

**Same-sex marriage** – is marriage between partners of the same sex

Christians believe marriage is a gift from God ***“This is why a man leaves his father and mother and united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”*** They agree that marriage is the rightful place to procreate as part of God's plan . The Bible states marriage should be homogamous between a man and woman for life.

They believe it is a lifelong union of love blessed by God ***“till death do we part.”*** **Many** believe it is a sacrament- a sacred blessing from God. Christians believe it is a spiritual bond of trust that reflects the love of Christ. It is a covenant(agreement) before God in which the couple promise to live faithfully ***“to love and to cherish”***.

Christians do not have to marry. Jesus himself was not married. Some Christians believe they have a vocation from God to be a priest/monk/ nun.

**5: Types of families**

- **Nuclear-** two parents and their children living together
- **Family with same-sex parents-** two same-sex parents and their child(ren)
- **Blended family-** stepfamilies that have joined together through marriage
- **Single-parent family-** one parent and child(ren)
- **Extended family-** parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles

**2: Purpose and role of sex**

- **Sacred-** holy and connected to God
- **Adultery-** marital infidelity/ cheating on your marriage partner
- **Procreation-** creating new life/ off-spring
- **Promiscuity-** having casual sexual relationships
- **Faithfulness-** lasting loyalty and trustworthiness in relationships

Christians believe sex is a gift from God and most agree it should only take place within a marriage as part of God's plan as an expression of love. They believe this is the best place to create a family. ***“Go forth and multiply.”***

Christians believe a married couple must be faithful and all disagree with adultery ***“Do not commit adultery.”*** as it goes the 10 Commandments and the marriage vows.

**Some** Christians accept cohabitation if you are truly in love and intend to marry to ensure you are compatible before marriage ***“Test the milk before you buy the cow.”*** However, St. Paul taught pre-marital sex was a sin.

**4: Non- religious attitudes- sex and marriage**

**Sex:**

Consenting adults should be allowed to share sexual relationship, provided it does not hurt anyone else, so sex outside marriage is fine.

Most agree that a sexual relationship should be based on truth and respect. This relationship should be exclusive (one partner at a time).

Many humanists agree with Christians that adultery is wrong as it breaks the trust and may involve breaking the promises made.

**Marriage:**

Humanists believe marriage is the best environment to raise children, but are happy to cohabit too. They do not agree with religious ceremonies, as they believe marriage is a human institution. Many marry to show their commitment to their partner.

Many atheist have similar views to humanists, although some accept multiple sexual partners.

**6: Purpose of family**

- **Procreation** – a key purpose of marriage is a for a couple to have children. The family reflects Christ's relationship with the Church.
- **Stability and protection-** create a loving, safe and nurturing environment based on Christian values such as generosity, compassion, tolerance, enabling them to develop loving relationships.
- **Educating children-** teach children how to pray, take them to church and having their children baptised.
- ***“Honour your mother father”***- is particularly important when parents are elderly and need support.
- ***“Love one another”*** - it is in the family children learn to love .