

## 1. Nature of God

**Omnipotent**- all-powerful God

Creation: "In the beginning God created heaven and earth." Genesis 1:1

Jesus' resurrection: "He is risen." Matthew 28:6

**Benevolent**- all-loving and all-good God

Bible: "God is love" 1 John

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross: "For God so loved the world that that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

**Just**- fair and just judge of humankind

Bible: "God is fair and just" Psalms

Lord's Prayer: "Our Father

## 2. The Trinity

- **Monotheism**- the belief in one God

- **The Trinity**- one God in three persons. The three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are equal and a unity. All three persons were involved in creation and present at Jesus' baptism.

- **God the Father**- a loving parent and creator of everything '*maker of heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen.*' –Nicene Creed

- **God the Son**- became human (incarnated) "*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven...*" Nicene Creed & suffered out of love for human sin "*And the Word became flesh and lived among us.*"

- **God the Holy Spirit** is the invisible presence of God in the world. known in The Creed as "*Lord and giver of life*".

## 3. Influence of the Trinity

**Influence** on Christians today:

Baptisms and marriages are performed in the name of the Trinity.

Christians bless themselves by making the sign of the cross and offer prayers "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Christians must try to show their fellow human beings the same love and respect that flows between the three Persons of the Trinity.

## 4: 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.

## 5: 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.

## 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 .