

**1: Family Planning and contraception**

- **Family planning-** the practice of controlling the number of children one has and when to have them
- **Contraception-** aims to prevent pregnancy

**The Catholic Church** – teaches every act of sex should be an expression of love and one of its key purposes is to procreate.  
*“Every sexual act should have the possibility of creating a new life.”*  
 Source: Humane Vitae 1968.

**Protestant Christian groups-** they also teach sex should be an expression love but is not exclusively for procreation. Therefore, they allow artificial contraception to regulate the size of the family and to prevent suffering.

*“Love one another...”* Source: Jesus- New Testament

The Anglian Lambeth Conference (1930) approved the use of artificial methods of contraception if used *“in the light of Christian principles”*

**2: Humanist and atheist attitude to contraception**

- **Contemporary-** modern times
- **Secular-** less religious society
- Contraception access should be a human right
- They believe access to contraception ensures equality in society
- Humanists believe access to contraception supports the Golden Rule and Situation Ethics.

*“results in every child being a wanted child, and in better, healthier lives for women, it must be a good thing.”*

Source: UK Humanist Society

**3. Divorce and remarriage**

- **Divorce-** legal ending of marriage
- **Remarriage-** when someone marries again while their former husband/wife is still alive
- **Annulment-** is a Catholic Church ruling that a marriage was never valid

**Church of England-** does not advocate divorce but it is allowed as an act of compassion and Jesus said it was acceptable of sexual immorality. *‘I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.’* Matthew

**Catholic-** does not recognise divorce because marriage is for life. The vows are sacred as made before God. Jesus also said divorce is wrong. *“Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”* Mark

**4. Non-religious view and ethical arguments**

**Humanists-** accept divorce can sometimes be necessary. As marriage is only a legal union, they allow legal divorce if this will bring about less suffering and ensure more happiness for those involved.

**Atheists** - may hold similar views and use situation ethics to decide the best action in each individual situation.

- **Lesser of two evils-** is accepted by the Church of England. It is the principle that when faced with selecting from two immortal options, the least immortal one should be chosen
- **Situation ethics-** is based on Jesus’ teaching to love one another. When faced with a moral dilemma, you decide what is right by considering what is the most loving thing in the situation.

**5. Contemporary Issues**

**Same-sex parents-** most Christians believe that this was not God’s plan *‘Go forth and multiply’ ‘Honour your father and your mother’.*

**Polygamy-** Christians do not accept polygamy. Marriage is a sacred union made before God to be exclusive between one man and one woman.

**Role of men and women**

*‘I will make a helper suitable for him’* Genesis 2:18 suggests woman is a ‘helpmate’ to man. This can be interpreted literally as the man is the head of the household with woman looking after the home and children. Others interpret it as men and woman work alongside each other as equals.

*‘So God created humankind in his own image’* Genesis 1:27 suggests men and women are equal as made in his image.

Today, many Christians support gender equality but some still follow a traditional understanding. Catholics don’t allow female priests as they argue it goes against tradition because Jesus’ closest twelve were all male.

**6. Human Sexuality**

**The Roman Catholic** attitude is that being homosexuality is not a sin, but homosexual activity is a sin. They believe the Bible condemns homosexual activity:

*“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”* Leviticus

St Paul taught that it is immoral *‘men who have sex with men, will not inherit the kingdom of God.’*

The Catechism teaches that marriage is for a man and woman to join as one and to raise a family.

**Some Christians** are more tolerant believing homosexuality is natural and all humans are created in God’s image so deserve respect and equality. They base their attitude on Jesus’ teachings

*“Love one another as I have loved you.”*

*“love your neighbour as you love yourself.”*