

Religion and Early Life

Abortion—The deliberate termination (ending) of a pregnancy, usually before the foetus is 24 weeks old.

Adoption— The legal process where a person (child) is taken (adopted) into the family as a son or daughter.

Embryo - Fertilised ovum at about 12– 14 days when implanted into the wall of the womb.

Foetus-Fertilised ovum at about eleven weeks when the organs have developed.

Conception – when sperm and egg meet

Viable – the point at which a foetus could survive if it were to be born.

Miracle of life: the idea that life is wonderful, amazing or special.

Blessing: the idea that God has favoured a couple with a child.

Fostering - The taking of a child from a different family into a family home and bringing them up with the rest of the new family. Can be short term or longer term. In Britain are paid by the Government.

Pro-life: opposed to abortion; in favour of the life of the foetus.

Pro-Choice: in favour of a woman's right to choose abortion.

Quality of life— A measure of fulfilment. Life is worth living when it is of a particular standard.

Application of Quality of life: Child should have a certain quality of life. If the child will suffer greatly may be better to have an abortion. If child will have a high quality of life should continue with the pregnancy. Mother should have a certain standard of life. If having a child would mean that her quality of life, through illness or other problems arising, would be unacceptable then perhaps she should have an abortion.

Sanctity of Life— is sacred because it is God-given. Only God can take life away.

Application of Sanctity of Life: Foetus' life is sacred and therefore should not be taken. Mothers life is sacred and so should not be destroyed. If she will die as a result of the pregnancy then her life should be saved by having an abortion.

When does life begin? This is important because when a person is alive they have human rights. These include the right to live, which means that killing them is unlawful. The answer depends on what is meant by 'life'. Does life begin at conception, when the spine has developed or at 22 weeks when the child could survive outside the womb?

The rights of those involved: The law gives certain rights to mothers, the unborn child and the mothers existing children (their physical and mental health). However no rights are given to the father.

Rights Considered when discussing abortion include:

Some argue for the Right to life of the foetus, or a foetus' right to protection from harm.

Mother's rights might include: right to choose, right to safety, right to equality of opportunity, right to make the final decision.

Father has no rights but has legal responsibilities for their children.

Alternatives to abortion: Keeping the child, adoption, fostering. Most religions follow the adoption laws of the country in which the believers live, so customs vary. Some religions restrict adoptions to children of the same religion. Muslims believe blood ties are important so probably would not officially adopt a child even if they brought them up as a member of the family.

Catholic Christianity teaches that abortion is always wrong: Some teachings Christians follow are: *Genesis:1:26- 27*— 'Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.....'. We are special because we are made in the image of God. *Jeremiah 1:5* 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'. *God knows us before we are born, therefore it is wrong to have an abortion. Also life is sacred and the 10 Commandments say 'Do not murder'*. The Church teaches that life begins at conception (at the moment the sperm and egg unites) They believe in the sanctity of life – that it is a gift from God. If a Child has a disability they are still a child of God and has equal value. (Will allow life saving treatment for a woman that as an unintended consequence results in the loss of a pregnancy but never an abortion – Law of Double Effect)

Some **Protestant Christians (Church of England)** accept that abortion can sometimes be the 'lesser of TWO evils'. They would allow an abortion to take place if the woman had been raped, the foetus was severely brain damaged or the mother's life was at risk. These would be considered times when a woman's circumstances should be treated sympathetically and abortion may be a 'necessary evil'. Further some argue for choice because God gives us free will to make our own decision. They suggest the Bible's command is to 'love one another' and Jesus taught his followers to have compassion for the weak may mean the most loving thing in many cases may be to allow an abortion e.g. in the case of rape. The golden rule of Christianity is 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:33) Quality of life is important for the future child as well as the parents.

Islam teaches that abortion is wrong. Muslim teachings include: 'Do not kill your children in fear of poverty. We shall provide for both them and you. Killing them is a big sin' (*Qur'an 17:31*). Therefore you should not have an abortion even if you are in a difficult situation. 'No sever of womb relationship ties will ever enter paradise'. (*Hadith (Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad)*). This means you won't go to heaven if you have an abortion. Also life is sacred and Allah decides when we live and die. Muslims allow abortion to save the mother's life. Muslims believe that there is potential life from the moment of conception, but a foetus receives a soul after 120 days. This is therefore when human life really begins. Abortion is allowed to save the mother's life where it is considered to be the 'lesser of TWO evils'

Religion and Planet Earth

Sanctity of Life - means that life is sacred because God created it and should not be ended by humans.

Awe: a feeling of respect; insight into meaning greater than oneself.

Wonder: marvelling at the complexity and beauty of the universe.

<p><u>The law</u>: Before 1967, abortion was illegal in the whole of the UK. In England, Scotland and Wales, under the 1967 Abortion Act and the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, abortion is permitted if two doctors agree on set conditions over possible risks.</p>

Creation – Created world, the environment

Responsibility - duties

Conservation - preserving the natural environment by taking steps to conserve natural resources.

Stewardship - Christians and Muslims believe the world is God's creation, and continues to belong to God. They believe they have a special responsibility to care for the planet on behalf of God.

Affects of modern life style: Some people say we are a 'throw-away society' Household waste (food waste, packaging, furniture) all goes to the tip and much of it is not biodegradable. Global warming, deforestation, pollution (acid rain, oil spills, toxic chemicals, pesticides), depletion of natural resources (e.g. coal, oil, gas), carbon emissions, greenhouse gases, waste.

Industrial Waste: Harder to deal with than household waste because it may contain dangerous chemicals that take a long time to disappear. Waste from nuclear power stations is particularly dangerous because its radioactivity lasts for thousands of years. Some people argue against nuclear power because of concerns over dealing with the waste produce and also fears of an accident or that a terrorist organisation could target a plant would be disastrous.

Natural Habitats– The places where species of plants or animals live in the wild.

Deforestation– the cutting down of large amounts of forest, usually because of business needs.

Pollution—the contamination of something, especially the environment.

Acid Rain– rain made acid by contamination through pollution in the atmosphere as a result of emissions from factories, vehicles, power stations etc.

Toxic chemicals—poisonous chemicals

Pesticides—substances (poison) used to destroy insects and pests that attack crops.

Oil spills-leaking oil into the environment usually the sea (e.g. Exxon Valdez)

Droughts-long periods of abnormally low rainfall.

Famine-starvation owing to drastic, far-reaching food shortage.

Global warming and developing countries.

It is predicted by scientists that:

- As global temperatures rise so will the sea level (partly due to: melting of polar ice-caps and snow on world's highest mountains)
- 1m rise in Sea level would flood 17% of Bangladesh—tens of millions live in this area.
- Rice growing capacity of Bangladesh would be affected so prices of rice would rise as production is lost.
- Fresh water supplies would be scarce and diseases (e.g. diarrhoea) associated with floods and drought would lower life expectancy.
- People and animals would flee their homes and move into neighbouring countries.
- In countries in Africa where it is already hot and desert like higher temperatures could mean complete loss of agricultural land to the desert and greater starvation than already present.

The origins of life: *Christian* teachings in Genesis, the first book in the Bible tells us how God created the heavens and the Earth out of nothing, filled the earth with living creatures and made human beings. Light and Darkness was created on Day 1, Humans and land animals on day 6. God rested on Day 7. Humans were made in the 'image of God'.

Muslim teachings in the Qur'an teach that Allah made the heaven and the earth in six days.

Christian teaching on the Natural World: In Genesis it says that *God made the world and everything in it and he saw that it was good.* The Psalms say that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Pope John Paul II the previous Head of the Catholic Church taught that we should look after the earth as a *duty and that it was an act of worship.* Catholic teaching suggests that we should protect nature and that *God will judge us* according to how we have cared for the world. Many Christians would see the exploitation and abuse of the Earth's resources as a sign of sinfulness and greed. They would follow principles of good stewardship, sanctity of life, love of neighbour, compassion for the poor and living in harmony with the natural world.

How can Christians help the planet: be less wasteful with food and fuel, recycle, use public transport rather than the car, vote for candidates that want to help the environment, join organisations such as Green peace and the World Wide Fund for Nature, pray for the future of the planet. CAFOD has a 'Live Simply' Campaign and Christian Aid has projects on climate change and fair trade. Both are Christian charities and Christians could support these campaigns to help the planet.

Muslim teaching on the Natural World: The Qur'an teaches that Muslims should be responsible stewards of the earth and that they must play a leading part in protecting the environment. Allah has created the world and humans have the responsibility of looking after all the other creations. To abuse this authority is insulting Allah. Humans will be answerable to Allah on the Day of Judgement for their use or misuse of the Earth's resources. Allah has made the things in nature available to man to use, but not to destroy them. Life on earth is established with natural balance. 'We are God's stewards' (The Muslim Declaration on Nature). Muslims believe that the universe belongs to Allah not to humans. God's oneness or unity is reflected in the oneness of humans with nature. Creation is like Allah's family. Allah loves the most those who are kindest to his family.

Religions and the balance between the planet and their fellow human beings: Both Islam and Christianity teach that although humans have a duty to care for the planet they also have a duty to care for their fellow human beings. This makes some issues complicated because the welfare of people must be weighed against the welfare of the planet in years to come. Religions see both going hand in hand to conserve the world and its peoples.

Looking after the world: In order to encourage conservation councils are encouraging people to be 'green' and recycle or buy organic food. Environmental pressure groups educate, campaign and protest about activities that damage the planet.

Earth Summits: informal name for the United National Conferences on Environment and development. These summits push for **sustainable development**, for example targets are set to reduce carbon emissions. E.g. Kyoto 1997 where the Kyoto protocol was agreed (cut CO2 and other Greenhouse gas emissions-carbon trading) and Johannesburg 2002. Religious believers would generally support Earth Summits and some religious believers try to put pressure on their own government through lobbying before the summit starts to ensure they set goals that will help to look after the world.

Sustainable development: development which takes into consideration the impact on the natural world for future generations. Religious beliefs such as stewardship, responsibility for the earth and concern about inequality of resources have prompted

religious leaders and believers to join in campaigning for conservation and sustainable development.

Climate Change (global warming): Some scientists argue for climate change and others are saying there is no evidence that humans are affecting climate change. Climate change could mean severe weather, droughts, floods, famine, and destruction of crops. All of these changes impact on the world's environment and therefore affect plants and animals.

Natural resources: Since 1830, population growth has 'exploded'. **The population explosion** is stretching the Earth's natural resources to the limit. **Fossil fuels** such as oil, gas and coal are non-renewable (cannot be replaced) and these will soon run out. Fossil fuels are used by motorised transport and to generate electricity.

Industries use vast amounts of **metals** and little gets recycled. Many elements will run out before the end of the century.

Renewable energy sources: these are alternative renewable energies such as wind/wave power and nuclear power.

Destruction of natural habitats: (the places where species of plants and animals live in the wild). As human populations grow, bigger cities are created. Providing the resources needed to support people in them results in the destruction of natural habitats.

Deforestation: the cutting down of large amounts of forest, usually because of business needs.

Carbon Emissions: release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon monoxide from vehicles into the atmosphere.

Greenhouse effect: the trapping of heat from the sun in the lower atmosphere due to an increase in carbon dioxide, methane and other pollution.

Conservation is looking after the environment and protecting animals. There are groups dedicated to conserving e.g. the great apes, polar icecaps to local parks. Councils encourage recycling, buying organic food (no artificial fertilisers or pesticides) and finding alternatives to using the car. Environmental pressure groups educate, campaign and protest about activities that damage the planet.

Recycling: reusing old products to make new ones

Religion, War and Peace

Peace: An absence of conflict that leads to happiness and harmony.

Conscientious objector-an individual who refuses to fight in a war because of their beliefs, e.g. Quakers during WW2 or Muhammad Ali and the Vietnam War.

Pacifism- It is wrong to use violence in any situation. There is no situation in which the use of violence can be morally justified. Human rights abuses happen and the innocent are killed.

Justice- sense of fairness applied.

Jihad means to 'strive or struggle in the name of Allah'. (Islam) The Greater

Jihad is the struggle within oneself against temptations and the Lesser Jihad is military struggle in defence of Islam, self-defence and Justice.

Peacekeeping Forces: **NATO** was created in 1949. It is a military alliance. 26 countries in Europe, the USA and Canada are now members. If a NATO country is attacked, the others view it as an attack on their own nations. **The United Nations** was set up at the end of WW2 and now has 192 member states. It seeks to persuade countries to settle their differences without fighting.

Sanctity of Life: The idea that all human life is precious and should not be destroyed is the basis for religious attitudes towards war and peace. If life is God-given and sacred then it is not up to humans to take it away.

Why do people go to war: to defend their country. To defend their beliefs, religion and way of life or to extend these to others. To remove their own leader or government. To defend ally or weaker countries who are unfairly attacked. To gain land or territory. To gain wealth, power or important resources. To stop atrocities such as genocide in another country.

Victims of War: War has many victims besides the soldiers that are injured and killed. Survivors can have long-lasting physical and mental injuries. Cities are destroyed, homes lost, families and friends separated and children orphaned. Those fleeing war torn countries become refugees.

Holy War- (Christian) a war fought in the name of God, for a religious purpose, with God on your side. A Holy War must be started by a religious leader, can be to spread the faith, to recover Holy places or can be for revenge for things done by another faith against believers. *E.g. The Crusades were to recover the Holy Land for Christianity (sacred places where Jesus lived) which was under Muslim control. Also rescue Christians from Muslim occupation. The Pope said it was the 'will of God' and that as a 'soldier of God' they would have all their sins forgiven- a huge spiritual reward. Historians are concerned about the war as a lot of the Christian nobles who went made a lot of money and took land, the big Christian cities were more interested in trade than the spiritual reward.*

Just War- is a war which is morally right to fight. Military force can never be aggressive.

In the 13th Century St Thomas Aquinas set down guidelines for a war to be Just. It must be started by the authority of the state, for a Just Cause, for the right intention (to remove evil), a last resort, only enough force must be used to achieve the goals. The good achieved as a result of the war must outweigh the evil which led to war. WW2 is considered to be a just war. It was a last resort, started by the British Government, Hitler had invaded other countries, and peace has now been restored. It is however questionable whether bombing civilians was proportional or not.

Muslim teachings about War: Islam means peace- Muslims are taught to work to maintain peace and that negotiation and mediation are better than war. The Qur'an teaches that peace and reconciliation are better than fighting. Muslims should not seek revenge as it is wrong to return evil with evil. Muslims should forgive others. In warfare Jihad (meaning 'to struggle') is permitted in self defence, to protect an individual's life, family and home and also to fight oppression. It can be to defend Islam against external threats and must have a Just Cause. It must be started by a Muslim leader, be a last resort, and end when enemy suggests peace. Civilians should also not be targeted and crops should not be destroyed. Suffering should be kept to a minimum. The Qur'an says 'To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged.' Those killed in jihad are seen as martyrs who will enter paradise.

The Vietnam War: From 1959 to 1975 a war took place in Vietnam, in Southeast Asia. The Communist party of North Vietnam, supported by other Communist countries, fought against the government of South Vietnam, supported by the US and others. Despite the superior equipment and power of the USA, the North won the war. Besides the many millions killed in the conflict, the war created a massive problem of refugees.

Christian teaching against War : The Christian faith has always preached peace. Early Christians were Pacifists and followed Jesus' example. Jesus did not resist arrest and Christians believe he allowed himself to be crucified for the sins of humankind. Jesus taught his follows to be peaceful. He said *'do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also'* (Matthew: Bible). They are also taught to 'love your enemy' and 'blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called Sons of God'. The Ten Commandments say 'Do not kill' (Exodus). Quakers are strict pacifists and will not fight. Life is sacred and so should not be destroyed.

Pacifism: 'Turning the Tide' is one way Quakers work for peace. It aims to show how cycles can be broken through non-violent strategies. The Quaker office at the UN promotes the peaceful prevention and resolution of armed conflict.

Christian teaching for War: The Bible teaches Christians to defend the weak and fight against evil. In the Old Testament, God commands people to go to war. *'Proclaim this among the nations; prepare for war!'* Joel 3:9. Also Jesus came in contact with soldiers but didn't say they were wrong to do this job. Jesus turned over the tables and benches on the Temple when he saw people misusing it. Some Christians believe fighting a war can be a way of showing love, because soldiers are willing to risk their lives in order for the people of their country to live in safety. It could also be argued that Just War is necessary to protect innocent lives and defend the sanctity of life. War may be needed to restore Justice.

The work of a religious believer who has worked for Peace:

Irena Sendler - a Roman Catholic who was a social worker in Poland's capital city Warsaw. During the Second World War Irena was a member of the Polish resistance. She offered Jews food and shelter, helped create over 3,000 false documents so Jewish families could avoid arrest. She organised the smuggling of Jewish children from the ghetto, carrying them out in boxes, suitcases and disguising babies as packages. The children were placed for safety with Polish families. In 1943 she was arrested and severely tortured and sentenced to death. The resistance saved her by bribing German guards. She was left unconscious in the woods, with broken legs and arms, and was officially dead. She continued her work in hiding. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 *'Every child saved with my help is the justification of my existence on this Earth, and not a title to glory'*

WMD's are weapons that can kill large amounts of people at once. These include biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Weapons: cause huge devastation. Afterwards, radioactive fallout kills more than the original explosion. The weapons today could, if used, destroy life on Earth.

For: Act as a deterrent. *Against:* pose an unacceptable risk to humanity. The proliferation of nuclear weapons makes the chances greater that an irresponsible government or terrorists might obtain them. The destruction they would cause cannot be justified for any reason. All religions oppose the use of nuclear weapons and support disarmament.

Proliferation: spreading to other countries and getting more numerous.

Terrorism: Terrorism is the unlawful use of extreme violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal. Terrorists are motivated by religion and believe God will reward them for doing what they see as his will.

The Red Cross: The Red Cross was started by Henry Dunant who witnessed a battle in Solferino in 1859 in which 40,000 soldiers were killed or left dying. He later organised a committee with the aim to establish voluntary relief organisations and treaties to protect neutral staff and field hospitals on the battlefield.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent now has about 97 million volunteers Worldwide. All members are seen as neutral. Their aims are to protect and ensure respect for human life and health; and to prevent and alleviate suffering without any discrimination based on nationality, religion, race, class or political opinions. The ICRC organises medical care for wounded soldiers, supervises treatment of prisoners of war, searches for missing people, protects civilians and can act as a neutral intermediary. The International Federation of the Red Cross or Red Crescent societies co-ordinates and supports the work when there is a major disaster or large-scale emergency and organises campaigns against the use of landmines.

Religion and Prejudice

Discrimination-To act against someone on the basis of sex, race, religion etc. This is usually a negative action.

Equality- That people should be given the same rights and opportunities regardless of sex, religion, race etc.

Sexism—prejudice or discrimination because of gender.

Treating people unfavourably because of their gender.

Non-violent Protest— A form of demonstration or protest which refuses to use violence to get its point across. E.g. Desmond Tutu or Martin Luther King.

Prejudice— unfairly judging someone before the facts are known.

Racism— Showing prejudice (an action) against someone because of their ethnic group or nationality. Belief that the colour of a person's skin determines their ability.

Stereotype— Claim that all members of a group are the same.

Different Types of Prejudice- religion, race, colour, gender, ageism, disability, lifestyle, looks etc.

Desmond Tutu became the first black general secretary of the South African Council of Churches in 1978. He used his position to campaign for against apartheid for equal civil rights. He worked to get rid of the unfair 'pass' laws. He supported **non-violent protests** e.g. he led a peaceful march through Soweto to protest the actions of the police which had killed 600 black young people at a previous protest. **He organised petitions and called for other countries to support economic sanctions** against South Africa. He also spoke out in his **preaching and writing**. He was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1984** for his leadership and for the *'courage and heroism shown by black South Africans their use of peaceful methods in the struggle against Apartheid.'* In 1994 he led the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**. As a Christian he believed people should admit what they had done wrong and ask forgiveness from God and others. He spoke about the new South Africa as the 'rainbow people of God.' Archbishop Tutu believes that being a Christian involves working for justice and equality.

Women's Rights – in the past women had few rights: they were not allowed to vote, divorce a husband, or inherit property. After World War I their status began to change. It is only in the last 50 years or so that it became accepted that married women could work. However, many women still earn less than men.

Religious Prejudice: people of all religions have been discriminated against throughout the centuries.

Ageism: Prejudice against someone because of their age, leading to discrimination.

Disability Discrimination: Can occur in the workplace or when someone is denied access to services. Sometimes it is unintentional, facilities, lifts and ramps have only recently become the norm in public buildings.

Prejudice based on Class, Lifestyle and Looks: social class was often determined by their family background, education, job and wealth – today people move between the classes. Money is the biggest influence on a person's life style. Celebrities are paid great attention and those who do not conform to these images (clothes, body shape, looks and fashion) can often experience prejudice.

Tolerance: accepting all people and valuing their contribution to life and society. All religions teach tolerance.

Justice: all religions teach that people are equal. This does not mean all people have equal advantages in life but that they should be treated with justice, fairly and according to a just law.

Harmony: living at peace with others. It requires people to act justly and have tolerance and understandings of others, even when they are different.

Positive discrimination - treating people more favourably because they have been discriminated against in the past.

The Law: Britain has a number of laws against discrimination based on Human Rights and Democracy (these are founded on the religious principles of equality and justice). People should have equal rights at work and equal pay, equal chances to education and health care. If someone thinks that they are being discriminated against they can take that person to court.

Value of the Individual: Human rights are based on the religious belief that each individual is created by God and has a special value to him. Therefore humans should treat each other as equals and all should have the same rights and opportunities.

Why are some people prejudiced?: Lack of education - if someone doesn't know or understand people of a different culture or background then it is easier to stereotype and reject them. Lack of education can lead to ignorance that breeds prejudice and this can turn into fear in case they change the way of life people are used to. A previous bad experience, the way they have been brought up by parents or conditioning from society, the Media or scape-goating (blaming certain people for the problems in society particularly where there is fear and uncertainty about the future. e.g. Jewish community were scape-goated in Nazi Germany)

Teachings about Race

Christian Teachings: Everyone is *made in the image of God*. All races are equal. Jesus also taught his followers to '*love your neighbour as yourself*'. The story of the Good Samaritan told by Jesus teaches Christians that they should care for people from other races and cultures. St Paul also taught in Galatians '*There is no Greek or Jew.... Slave or free, but all are one in Christ Jesus*'.

Beliefs into Practice: Martin Luther King fought for equal rights for black people in America by using speeches, marches and protests. Christians such as Trevor Huddleston also used non-violent methods by becoming the President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and encouraging countries to boycott goods to campaign against Apartheid in South Africa e.g. Apples and Wine as well as International Sports such as rugby and cricket . Can also join antiracist organisations, make ethnic minorities feel welcome in their local community; ensure equal opportunity policies are carried out at work.

Islam, Muslim Teachings: Teaches that all races are equal because they were created by Allah. '*Among his signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the differences in your languages and colour*' Qur'an. Differences in race are a sign of Allah's creativity. All Muslims are part of the *Ummah, the world wide brotherhood of Islam which is multi-racial and multi-lingual*. There are also teachings about tolerance and equality in the last sermon given by Muhammad. '*You must live at peace with one another*'. The Qur'an makes it clear that all people are equally God's creation. The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad confirm this saying '*All God's creatures are his family*' (Hadith)

Beliefs into Practice: Hajj demonstrates equality. All pilgrims wear simple garments and men wear white garments (Ihram) showing everyone is equal before Allah. All Muslims pray facing the same direction which shows unity. Wealth, Status and Colour don't matter. The Ummah which is the world-wide community of Muslims is multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi lingual. This means you can be of any colour or nationality and still be a Muslim. The 'Million Man' March organised by the Nation of Islam and the non-violent work of Muslims Against Racism are also examples.

Teachings about Gender

Islam, Muslim teachings: Allah created men and women as equal but different. They have different roles. Men are responsible for providing for the family and women are responsible for the home. '*All people are equal No Arab can claim merit over a non-Arab.... Nor male over female*' (Hadith) A woman cannot be an imam (prayer leader) and men and women pray separately at the mosque (so they focus on Allah). The Prophet Muhammad taught that *any believer (man or woman) who does good work for Allah's sake would be rewarded*.

Christian teachings: Christians are taught that men and women are equal and should be treated equally. (see teachings on racism above) The Church of England allows women to be vicars but the Catholic Church does not allow women to be priests because traditionally men have had this role in the Church.

Church of England: Allows women to be vicars: Jesus had female followers, the first person to see Jesus alive after the resurrection was Mary (a woman), Early Church leaders included Priscilla, women and men are made in the image of God, teachings in Galatians says there is no difference between us, we are all one in Jesus.

Catholic Church: Jesus just had male disciples, traditionally all priests have been men. St Paul taught that it is a man's role to lead. Men and women are equal – they just have different roles.

Teachings from sacred writings about racial equality can equally apply to gender equality, ageism etc.