

Year 8 Topic 1: Caring for one another



Attitudes to Homosexuality

For some Christians, **homosexual** sex is thought to be unnatural and cannot lead to pregnancy, so it is a sin and it is wrong. In places, the Bible also says it is wrong for a man to sleep with another man, which has also been used to show that homosexuality is wrong. The **Qur'an** sets out specific punishments for those who have homosexual relationships. It calls these people fornicators, and **punishment** is severe e.g. flogging or execution.



Equality

All religions actively teach against Sexism, Racism and Discrimination as a whole.

"There is neither Jew nor gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and females, for you are all one in Christ" (Galatians 3:28)
"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27)

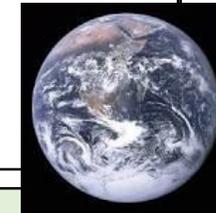


Treatment of Criminals

Christians do not disagree with discipline. They see a positive need for it: *"He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them"*. However, they may question the method used since Jesus' teachings on love and caring for people rule out any physical punishment. Instead, Christians focus on positive sanctions that help offenders to realise the error of their ways and reform. Jesus always treated people with respect, and Christians believe they should follow his example.

Corporal punishment: to punish the offender by causing physical pain. It is illegal in the UK but allowed in some other parts of the world. For example some Muslim countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, allow caning as punishment for offences such as gambling and sexual promiscuity.

Community service: offers offenders a chance to make up for what they have done and receive help in reforming their behaviour. Christians are in general agreement that it is a suitable punishment for fairly minor offences.



Understanding the world and the need to preserve the environment

Some Christians believe that the universe was created by God in 7 days. This is described in the bible in the book of **Genesis**. The bible says that Adam and Eve were the first man and women. Christians who believe the literal truth of the bible are known as **Creationists**. Other Christians think the creation story is a metaphor for the creation of the Universe, but do not believe that the world was created in 7 days.

Scientists believe that the Universe was created billions of years ago and is constantly evolving. This is known as **the Big Bang Theory**. **Charles Darwin** was a famous scientist who came up with the theories of evolution and natural selection. This theory explains that humans are descended from apes and that species are constantly evolving to adapt to their changing environment.

Stewardship: the idea that God created the world and that humans have a responsibility to look after it.

Dominion: the belief that God gave humans the right to decide what happens to the world and the species in it.

Sanctity of Life

Many religions believe that life is **sacred** because God created it, including Islam and Christianity. Christians believe that all life is sacred, and precious. Some Christians do not believe that anyone should take their own life or the life of someone else. Therefore some Christians believe that euthanasia and abortion is wrong, as it is wrong to end a human life. In all legal systems **murder** is the worst crime you could commit.

"Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith"

Year 8: The Five Pillars of Islam

RISALAH: The Prophets

Prophethood

- Allah appoints particular people to spread his messages
- These people receive **revelation** from Allah through his **Angels**
- There are 25 key **prophets** of Allah identified in **the Qur'an**, including Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus)

Adam

- Created specially by Allah.
- Given **dominion** over the earth by Allah
- The first human to communicate with Allah
- The first Muslim

Ibrahim

- One of Allah's most faithful servants
- Opposed **idolatry**
- Risked his life to argue for **monotheism**
- A great role-model
- An ancestor of **Muhammad**

Muhammad

- Allah's final and greatest **prophet**
- Received the **revelation of the Qur'an**
- A great teacher
- A great role-model
- A military commander
- Set up the first Muslim community in **Makkah**
- Must be respected but not worshipped

Sunni and Shi'a Islam

Sunni Muslims (majority)

- See the elected **Caliphs** as the successors of **Muhammad**
- Follow the 6 'articles of faith': **Tawhid**, the **Day of Judgement**, the **Prophets**, **Angels**, the supremacy of **Allah's will** and the authority of **the Qur'an**.

Shia Muslims (minority)

- See the **Imams** (descendants of **Muhammad**) as **Muhammad's** successors
- Believe each **Imam** must choose his successor before he dies
- Follow the 5 'roots' of Usul ad-Din: **Tawhid**, **Prophethood**, **Allah's Justice (Adalat)**, **Resurrection** and the **Imamate**

The Five Pillars

Shahadah



Faith in Allah:

A declaration of faith in Allah that Muslims remember all the time

Salah



Prayer:

Saying prayers to Allah five times a day

Zakah



Giving to charity:

Giving 2.5% of their income each year to support the poor

Sawm



Fasting:

Not eating during daylight hours for the holy month of Ramadan

Hajj



Pilgrimage:

A journey to Makkah that Muslims should undertake at least once in their lives

The Qur'an

- The word of **Allah** given to **Muhammad** through Jibril
- Originally dictated in Arabic
- The original words have never been altered
- Infallible: corrects all previous **revelation** from God
- Divided into '**Surahs**
- Supplemented by **the Hadiths** and **the Sunnah**