

Key Terms: Relationships & Families



Sex, Marriage, and Divorce

Human Sexuality: Sexual orientation, including heterosexuality (opposite-sex) and homosexuality (same-sex).

Heterosexual Relationships: Romantic or sexual relationships between people of opposite sexes; often viewed as traditional.

Homosexual Relationships: Romantic or sexual relationships between people of the same sex; views vary across religious traditions.

Sex Before Marriage: Premarital sexual relationships; debated in terms of morality and religious teachings.

Adultery: Sexual relationships outside of marriage; condemned by most religions as breaking vows.

Contraception: Methods to prevent pregnancy, including artificial methods (e.g., condoms) and natural family planning.

Family Planning: Decisions about having and spacing children; supported in some traditions within ethical guidelines.

Marriage: A legally or religiously recognised union, seen as sacred and for love, companionship, and procreation.

Same-Sex Marriage: Legal union of two people of the same sex; supported by some but opposed by others.

Cohabitation: Living together without being married; opinions vary across religious and secular contexts.

Divorce: The legal end of a marriage; often seen as a last resort.

Sanctity of Marriage: Belief that marriage is sacred and ordained by God.

Compassion in Divorce: Divorce may be the most loving option in cases like abuse or irreconcilable unhappiness.

Remarriage: Marrying again after divorce; accepted in some traditions but discouraged or prohibited in others.



Families and Gender Equality



Nuclear Family: A family unit of two parents and their children, often seen as the traditional model.

Extended Family: A family structure that includes relatives beyond the nuclear family.

Procreation: Having children; considered a key purpose of marriage and family.

Stability: Providing a secure and supportive environment for family members.

Protection of Children: Ensuring children's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Education in Faith: Teaching children about religious beliefs and practices.

Same-Sex Parents: Families led by two parents of the same sex; debated within religious and secular contexts.

Polygamy: Having more than one spouse; allowed in some religions but illegal in many countries.

Roles of Men and Women: Traditional gender roles, often challenged by modern views of equality.

Gender Equality: The belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities.

Gender Prejudice: Prejudging someone based on their gender, leading to stereotypes.

Gender Discrimination: Treating someone unfairly due to their gender; opposed by most ethical perspectives.

Religious Teachings and Ethical Arguments

Agape: Selfless, unconditional love; promotes compassion and equality.

Sanctity of Life: The belief that all life is sacred, influencing family and gender ethics.

Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated; supports respect and equality.

Complementarianism: The belief that men and women have different but complementary roles.

Egalitarianism: The belief that men and women are equal and should share roles equally.

Civil Partnership: A legal relationship offering similar rights to marriage, often for same-sex couples before legalisation of same-sex marriage.

