

An Introduction to Ethics		✓
Ethics	Ethics is to do with right and wrong, good and bad, a bit like the word ' <i>morals</i> '. It's about what we ' <i>ought</i> ' to do.	
Dilemmas	Ethical issues often create difficult <i>dilemmas</i> (difficult decisions). A dilemma tends to have very strong arguments both 'for' and 'against' a particular course of action.	
Conscience	Sometimes we can feel uncomfortable with the views we hold or the decisions we make, but what is important is that we have studied all the information available and have made a decision which <i>pacifies our conscience</i> (<i>our inner voice which guides us in making ethical decisions</i>).	
Prejudice	To pre-judge something or someone without knowing anything about them.	
Discrimination	To act upon a prejudice usually to the detriment of the other person/people, for example, not paying women the same as men or racial profiling by police.	
Scapegoat	Scapegoat - to unjustly blame an individual or group for problems in society, for example blaming all Muslims for terrorism or refugees being blamed for economic decline.	
Equality	<p>Equality isn't about everyone being the same. It's about fairness, not being exploited and having the opportunity to access things like education, health care and the right to vote. People in the UK are protected by law from discrimination based on age, race, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, sexual harassment, or because they are pregnant/ on maternity leave. (Equality Act 2010).</p> <p>The Bible teaches that all people are equal before God.</p> <p>The golden rule of Christianity (in fact all religions) is to "<i>love your neighbour as you love yourself</i>." In other words, treat others in the way that you want them to treat you. All people are created in God's image and are equally valuable to God.</p> <p>Even though people have differences, tolerance and harmony should be maintained.</p>	
Racism	Racism is prejudice and discrimination against a person or people on the basis of their race. Some people believe that a person's race fundamentally determines their capacity as a human and regard people of other races as inferior to their own. This can lead to systemic oppression of a racial group and the social, economic and political advantage of others.	
Abortion	<p>'Abortion' means the termination or ending of the life of a foetus in the womb of its mother. Abortion was illegal in the UK until 1967. The law was changed because many women were dying as a result of bad or un-sterile 'back-street' abortions.</p> <p>Some people and politicians would like abortion to be illegal again because they believe it is the same as murder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRO-LIFE: The campaign to protect the life of the unborn child. • PRO-CHOICE: The campaign to protect a woman's right to choose. <p>The dilemma for Christians: You shall not kill -v- Love your neighbour</p>	
Euthanasia	<p>Euthanasia is the deliberate ending of someone's life to relieve suffering. Some believe that we should have personal autonomy over our own lives and be able to decide if we want to die. Euthanasia is illegal in this country and anyone found guilty of assisting someone in suicide can be prosecuted for murder or manslaughter. In some countries such as Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Canada and New Zealand Euthanasia is legal, in certain circumstances. The four types of euthanasia are: voluntary euthanasia, involuntary euthanasia, active euthanasia and passive euthanasia.</p> <p>Some believe in the 'Sanctity of Life' and that all life is God given, sacred and we do not have the right to end life. Others believe that it is too much of a burden to put on a doctor who's job it is to save lives. Some also believe that if legalised it could be open to abuse. The Hospice movement was started in the 1950s by a woman called Cicely Saunders who believed that people had right to die with dignity, pain free and stress free.</p>	

<p>Same Sex Relationships</p>	<p>Although gay marriage has been legal in the UK since 2014, The Church refuses to perform same sex marriages as they believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation. The Bible teaches that homosexuality is wrong but it also teaches not to judge people and to 'treat others how you wanted to be treated.'</p>	
<p>Marriage</p>	<p>The Christian Church teaches the importance of marriage and teaches that marriage offers 3 blessings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -a safe place for sexual relations - a place for the nurture of children -provides the couple with life- long companionship. <p>Most Christians believe that marriage is a life- long commitment and because God has brought the couple together, they should not divorce. In the Bible it says " Man must not separate what God has brought together.' They believe that God is a part of the union. Because of these teachings many Christians do not approve of divorce.</p>	
<p>Forced Marriage</p>	<p>Marriage can only take place if both consent to the marriage. Although many cultures still practise arranged marriages, forced marriage is illegal in the UK. An arranged marriage is arranged by the parents or guardians of the couple but both the bride and groom must consent to the marriage. If found guilty of coercion, a person can receive a two-year prison sentence. Marriage can only take place at the age of 16 with parental consent or 18 without.</p>	
<p>War and Violence</p>	<p>The Christian Church teaches that killing is wrong. One of the Ten Commandments is 'Thou shall not kill.' Most Christians consider violence wrong and would never consider violence as the first way of dealing with things. However, some Christians believe that in some situations, war for example, can be justified but only as a last resort. They believe that war can sometimes be the only thing to bring about change and peace. In the Bible Christians are told to 'defend the weak and the fatherless and uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.' Christian members of the armed forces regard their work as carrying out this commandment and accept that violent conflict is a part of achieving this.</p>	
<p>Just War Theory</p>	<p>Christians believe that all war must be 'just', must meet certain conditions and certain behaviours must be observed, e.g. war can only be started by a proper government, civilians must not be harmed and only appropriate force is to be used. This is called just war theory. The Just War theory was first developed by St Thomas Aquinas, a monk from the 13th Century. The theory set out conditions against which to judge whether a war should be waged and if it could be justified, <i>how</i> it should be waged. There are three areas to the modern version of just war theory;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conditions that must be met before a war is waged. 2. Actions and behaviors to be observed during war. 3. Actions to be taken into consideration after the war. 	
<p>Pacifism</p>	<p>Some Christians believe that any form of violence is always wrong. People who believe that violence is always wrong are called absolute pacifists. Absolute pacifists believe that Jesus was an example of an absolute pacifist and that we should follow His example. Even when tortured and beaten before his crucifixion, he did not retaliate.</p>	
<p>Sermon on the Mount</p>	<p>The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' longest, most detailed teaching recorded in the New Testament. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that 'blessed are the peace makers' (Matthew 5:9) and that we should 'Love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you' (Matthew 5:43-44). He also taught that revenge was wrong and that if someone is violent to us, we should 'Turn the other cheek.'</p>	
<p>International Day of Peace</p>	<p>Since 1982 every year on the 21st September, there has been an 'International Day of Peace'. A day introduced at the United Nations General Assembly. It is a day when peace is promoted. There have been temporary cease fires agreed on this day so that humanitarian aid can be sent into conflict zones. UNICEF also have a campaign which aims to promote the education of children on this day.</p>	