

Relationships and Marriage		✓
Commitment	To dedicate one's self to another. Most Christians believe that marriage is a very important statement of <i>life-long</i> commitment between a man and a woman. In the Bible it talks of men and women <i>'becoming one flesh'</i> and <i>'two becoming one.'</i>	
Vows	During the marriage ceremony, the husband and wife will make promises to each other	
Fidelity	This means <i>'faithfulness'</i> and is very important to Christians. This belief is supported by the 7 th Commandment <i>"Do not commit adultery"</i> .	
Adultery	Adultery happens when a married person enters a sexual relationship with someone who is not their husband/wife. Children growing up in a home where the parents' faithfulness to each other is seen as so important are likely to feel more secure.	
Cohabitation	When a couple live together in a relationship but without being married. Some Christians (e.g. C of E) may accept that a couple can live together in a meaningful relationship and see <i>'co-habitation'</i> as a step towards marriage.	
Pre-marital sex	Many Christians believe that the only place a sexual relationship should take place is within a marriage and, therefore, they believe that sex before marriage is wrong. The R.C. denomination believes that the only place that sex should take place is within a marriage. R.C. Christians believe that sexual relationships between a man and wife serve two purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To communicate committed love between a man and wife. (ii) To create the possibility for new life to be created. 	
Civil Partnership/Same Sex Marriage	In December 2005 UK law was changed to make it legal for a man to start a civil partnership with another man, or for a woman to start a civil partnership with another woman. The C. of E. and the R.C. Church do not perform civil partnerships or same sex marriages, as they believe that marriage is the only place for a true relationship to take place, in which children should be born. In 2014 the law in England and Wales was changed so that people of the same sex could be legally recognised as married in the eyes of the law. Some religious denominations in the UK, like the Quakers, will perform ceremonies to allow a same sex couple to be legally married. In 2015 the American Episcopal Church (part of the C. of E. overseas) voted to change its rules so that it now carries out same sex marriage ceremonies.	

Relationships and Marriage- continued		✓
Celibacy	<p>A person who chooses to live an unmarried life, without sexual relationships, is known as celibate. Some Christians choose to practise celibacy as a lifestyle so that they can fully focus their lives on serving God. In the Bible the apostle Paul encouraged believers to be celibate, but also said that if this was too difficult then they should be encouraged to get married.</p>	
Contraception	<p>This is sometimes called 'birth control' and it is practised by a couple who want to be in control of how many children they have. In general, there are two types: Artificial contraception: e.g. the use of a device such as a condom, the choice to have a vasectomy (a surgical procedure), the taking of a contraceptive pill etc. Natural contraception: e.g. when the couple plan to have sex during the woman's monthly cycle when she is least fertile.</p> <p>Because the R.C. church teaches that sexual relationships between a man and wife should always include the possibility of procreation, the only method of contraception they will allow is natural contraception (sometimes called 'the natural method').</p>	
Abstinence	<p>Some Christians choose to abstain from all sexual relationships until they are married. Some organisations such as <i>Teen-Aid</i> promote the practice of abstinence through campaigns. Often they will promote the idea of love and life-long commitment of marriage between a man and a woman, and they will also point out the health benefits of choosing abstinence. Other organisations who promote abstinence are <i>Love Waits</i>, and, <i>The Silver Ring Thing</i>.</p>	
Divorce	<p>Divorce is the legal ending of a marriage, and over the last few decades there has been an increase in the number of marriages that end in divorce.</p> <p>When a Christian marriage experiences difficulty, however, most denominations will offer some sort of counselling and support to help the couple get back on track. The church may also recommend a secular counselling service such as <i>Relate</i>.</p> <p>The R.C. Church believes that marriage is for life and that it cannot be ended, and the couple cannot be separated. The Roman Catholic Church will also refuse to re-marry divorcees.</p>	
Annulment	<p>If a couple who were married as R.C.s can prove that the marriage was never real in the first place (e.g never consented to (forced) or never consummated, then the church may allow the marriage to be annulled.</p>	

Raising Christian Children		✓
Procreation	The continuation of the human race. In the Bible, Christians are told to ' <i>be fruitful and multiply</i> ' and so having children is seen as a direct order from God. They are also told to ' <i>raise their children in the way of the Lord</i> ' and see having children as a way of extending the Christian family.	
Discipline	Teaching children to obey and follow rules. Disciplining children so that they grow up into responsible individuals, who have their own faith in God, is seen as an important part of raising children within the Christian family. The Bible teaches that children should ' <i>honour their parents</i> ' and that parents should respect their children.	
Infant Baptism	The R.C. Church and the C. of E. both practise infant baptism and, therefore R.C. and C. of E. babies are baptised/christened, usually within their first year.	
God Parents	During an infant baptism service, the child's parents will have appointed godparents who will make public promises to bring the child up in the Christian faith. They will also commit to pray for the child as he or she grows up.	
Confirmation	When a C. of E. or R.C. Christian develops his or her own faith, he or she may want to make a public commitment of faith. In many other denominations such a public demonstration of faith is achieved by an adult baptism service. However, because C. of E. and R.C. Christians have already had a baptism service (when they were infants) they may choose instead to get confirmed in a special confirmation service.	
Nurturing	Care for and protect children whilst they are growing. Christians believe that they should bring their children up with a strong understanding of the Christian faith and Christian parents will try to <i>practise</i> what they <i>believe</i> at all times. For example, Christian parents may pray before meals (this is called "saying grace"), and they will take their children with them to church on Sundays. Also, if one parent makes a mistake towards the other (in a disagreement for example) then they will also demonstrate their ' repentance ' by saying sorry. On such an occasion, the previously offended person will also demonstrate forgiveness. On a more practical level, the family may choose to demonstrate their Christian faith by supporting a charity (e.g. Tear Fund or Christian Aid), and the children may even be encouraged to give a percentage of their pocket money to help others too.	

Equality-Men and Women		✓
Complementarianism	The R.C. Church believes in complementarianism , a belief that the different roles that God has given to men and women, mean that they can complement (help) each other as equally loved children of God. R.C. Christians believe that men and women are equally precious to God but have different roles. God made women to give birth, but this does not make them more or less important than men, just different. This belief means that they do not allow women to be leaders in the R.C. Church and may expect a more traditional role from their women, as mothers and as helpers to their husbands.	
Egalitarianism	The idea that God made men and women in His image and therefore they are seen as equal in authority and responsibilities. For centuries the C. of E. did not recognise women as leaders in the Anglican church. However, after a vote of the Synod in 1990 women were allowed to be ordained as vicars.	