

Worksheet 6.2a: Great expectations?

Ameena (Muslim)

I come from Pakistan and in my country you only have sex once you are married. This is because my country is Muslim and we believe that sex is an act of worship which brings you closer to God, and which is meant for a man and wife only.

Chloë (Atheist – Humanist – does not believe in a God)

I do not believe in God, but I do believe you should try to treat all people well. I think it is a bad idea to have sex with someone if you are not equally committed to each other, because one of you will probably get emotionally hurt. I also think it would be weird to share something so personal with someone you didn't love.

Marie (Christian – Church of England)

Marriage is a spiritual way of life, a joining together of two people by God. Sex is a physical expression of this joining together which brings you very close to the other person. I think God made sex for marriage, so it is best to keep it this way.

Giovanni (Christian – Catholic)

I believe that having children is a really important part of sex. I think that it is best to bring children up in a family so having sex before you are married is a bad idea. I also believe that sex is a gift from God, which he intended for marriage. If I live the way God wants me to, I believe that I will be a fuller person.

Krishna (Hindu)

I have been brought up with very strict rules about sex. Our faith states that it is important to be self-controlled and focus on learning about God. So before I am married I will not have close relationships with people of the other sex. When I am married I will have sex because it will make my relationship with my partner stronger.

Ruth (Jewish)

Within Judaism, marriage is seen as an extremely important physical (sex) and spiritual (love) relationship. Having children is part of that relationship. It is a response to G-d's commandment to 'be fruitful and multiply'.

Fred (Agnostic – unsure whether there is a God)

I believe the point of life is to be happy and help other people be happy. If having lots of sex makes you and the people you sleep with happy, then that's fine. But you should not take advantage of people or treat them in a way that makes them unhappy.

Joanna (Christian – Church of England)

I believe that God has given sex as a special gift that is best kept for marriage. However, I realise that I may find it hard to stick to that. A long-term relationship may be a bit like a marriage. I know God will always love me and wants a relationship with me throughout my life whatever I do.

Jasminder (Sikh)

Sikhs are forbidden to have sex before they are married. Once married, sex is less important than helping one another along the spiritual path. Not having sex for a period of time can help this. However, every couple should aim to contribute to Waheguru's (the one God) creation by having a family.