

YEAR 1 + 2 RELIGION

DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE

KINGDOM OF GOD

- AS PRESENT MORAL AND SPIRITUAL STATE
 - Jesus' teaching presents kingdom as if it has already started
 - **Inaugurated eschatology**
 - **Eschatology: 'discussion of the last things'**
 - Healing miracles such as giving sight to blind and hearing to the deaf are signs of age to come promised by Old Testament prophets
- AS FUTURE REDEEMED STATE
 - Jesus teaches that is a state where the righteous live in redeemed world, perfect harmony with God
 - **ST PAUL:** resurrection = first sign fallen world is restored, humans can at last 'see' and 'know; God face to face (**1 CORINTHIANS 13:12**)
 - Before Christ= see heavenly state through 'dark glass'
 - After Christ= glimpse the future 'clearly'
 - **JOHN THE DIVINE (AUTHOR OF REVELATIONS):** Jesus' death washed away sin, so righteous can experience joy of god's presence
- PUNISHMENT AND JUSTICE
 - Matter of justice, wicked excluded from future kingdom
 - **LUKE 16:19-31: RICH MAN AND LAZARUS:** poor man found himself with the righteous, the rich man in hades
- PROBLEMS
 - DELAY OF PAROUSIA
 - Waiting for judgement day/return of Jesus Christ
 - **MATTHEW 25:36:** not Jesus or angels know when judgment day is, only god
 - PLACE
 - Would kingdom be same place as heaven?
 - **JTD:** after final vanquishing of Satan, world replaced 'new earth and new heaven'
 - TIMING
 - **LUKE 23:43:** 'today you will be in paradise with me'
 - **MILLENARIANISM:** based on **revelation 20:2-5** idea that Jesus will return and rule on earth for 1,000 years after judgment day
 - PURGATORY
 - Allows person who isn't prepared for god's judgement to do so

HELL

- **SPIRITUAL STATE: ORIGEN**
 - 'each sinner kindles his own fire ... and our own vices from its fuel'
 - Punishment not inflicted by Satan via god but '**internal anguish**' at being separated from God
 - Not a permanent state, pass when world redeemed
- **CONSCIENCE: GREGORY OF NYSSA**
 - Judgement and torture are result of guilty conscience when placed in front of Christ

- **DANTE'S VERSION OF HELL**
 - From Divine Comedy
 - Created at moment of Jesus' death, **(Matthew 27:51-53)**
 - Earthquake caused dead to arise from their tombs
 - 9th circle has Judas and Cassius, represent those who deliberately established God-given moral/spiritual/political order
- **AS SYMBOL OF ALIENATION: TILlich**
 - 'heaven and hell must be taken seriously as metaphors for the polar ultimates in the experience of the divine'
 - If god reconciles all things out of love, ten contradictory and immoral to exclude some of his creatures
 - **Hell maintains psychological power as life alienated from God**
 - No purpose in life, to lie to oneself, to escape from reality into trivia, find no joy in music/art/nature
 - **Not place but state of being**
- **AS ETERNAL SEPARATION: CATHOLIC CHURCH**
 - **Mortal sin: sin which is morally gravely deficient, deliberately willed and in defiance of god's law**
 - **Venial sin: errors of judgement and lack of moral knowledge, solved through repentance**
 - Eternal for those who commit mortal sin
 - God didn't actively choose hell for humanity, result of free choice, self-imposed/ 'self-exclusion'
 - God doesn't will it for creation, **reserved for those who persistently reject goodness**

PURGATORY

- **FORTASTE OF HEAVEN AND HELL: AMBROSE**
 - Place for souls to wait for judgement and taste what's in store for them, heaven or hell
- **PROBATIONARY SCHOOL: ORIGEN**
 - Soul is given opportunity over 'many worlds' of experience to develop/perfect itself
- **REDEMPTION OF WHOLE CREATION: GREGORY OF NYSSA**
 - Emphasises purifying purpose, all people (wicked and good) can be cleansed of sins and enter heaven
 - God completes his purpose to redeem and restore whole of creation
- **DANTE'S VERSION**
 - For those who believe in Christ + have repented before death, purge wrongful desires and actions
 - Unable to sin, process is positive
 - Soul ascends various 'terraces of mountains', goal is **beatific vision**
 - **Allegory of how life should be lived now**
 - Earth has various temptations soul must conquer during journey to salvation
- **CATHOLIC TEACHING**
 - Acknowledges no specific teaching in new testament
 - Ideas such as 'cleansing by fire' suggest that some sins can be forgiven in this age and age to come

- Purgatory as post mortem and interim state, another stage in soul's journey to redemption
- Explains why church prays for the souls of the dead
- **IMMEDIATE STATE: HICK**
 - Lack of biblical support = protestants reject it
 - Makes sense morally and philosophy to consider state after death as continued journey of soul
 - Continuation of the 'person-making process' started on earth, many intermediate states people pass through in journey to god

HEAVEN

- Humans see god 'face to face' (**1 Corinthians 13:12**)
 - State of pure knowledge, sin is purged and soul experiences fullness of joy (**John 15:11**)
- **DANTE'S VISION OF HEAVEN**
 - 'to go beyond human cannot be put into words'
 - End of journey is '**empyrean**', god's light (source of knowledge and illumination) descends
 - 10 heavens, each representing different intellectual level of truth
- **CATHOLIC TEACHING**
 - Heaven= 'perfect life with the most holy trinity' 'state of supreme, definitive happiness'
 - God reveals himself and gives capacity to know/contemplate him in new way
 - **BEAUTIFUL VISION: final and perfect human state of everlasting happiness and no end of god**
 - Community of immortal souls who continue to be obedient to god's will (**Revelation 22:5**)

ELECTION

- **LIMITED AND UNLIMITED ELECTION**
 - LIMITED: salvation and reward of heaven in afterlife is only for those who are chosen by god out of graciousness and judges to be righteous
 - LIMITED ATONEMENT: Christ died only for the sins of the elect
 - UNLIMITED: God of love calls all people to salvation + to achieve perfect
 - Promise of heaven in afterlife is possible for all
 - UNLIMITED ATONEMENT: Christ died only for the sins of the whole world
- **ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION**
 - AUGUSTINE: even Christ's redemption is insufficient to overcome sin and concupiscence. Will is so weak that lacks any capacity to achieve sufficient merit for eternal life, only possible through god's mercy and grace
 - **SINGLE**: god elects people into heaven
 - **DOUBLE**: god elects people to heaven and hell
 - **DIVINE DECREE: GOD'S JUDGEMENT OR RULING**
 - **ANTE-LAPSARIAN**: decreed the elect as moment of creation, before fall (original sin is taken into account so basically everyone is going to hell)
 - **POST-LAPSARIAN**: decreed the elect after the fall, the fall/original sin is ignored so just based off of how you are in your life

- **JOHN CALVIN**
 - God's will is hidden, shouldn't presume what he has in store
 - What he reveals considers our limited knowledge
 - Both elect and non-elect have duty to act morally
- **AQUINAS + CATHOLIC CHURCH**
 - God elects people to heaven, the wicked elect themselves through their sins
 - Elect are chosen because he knows they will accomplish good end
- **ELECTION AND PREDESINATION**
 - **APOKATASTASIS: belief that hell is not eternal, goal of cosmos is restoration of world to perfect/pre-fall state**
 - God's goodness and love requires all humans to achieve salvation
 - **HICK**
 - **Universalism: everyone goes to heaven**
 - The god Jesus preaches about isn't one of judgment and exclusion
 - Emphasis of new testament is reconciliation with god
 - If existence on earth is journey of moral and spiritual education, makes sense for hell to be continuation of this rather than end
 - **KARL BARTH**
 - God as elector and the elected
 - **As subject and elector:** god in Christ elects to redeem fallen humanity by dying + overcoming death
 - **As object and elected:** god in person of Jesus reveals friendliness to humanity by entering its fallen state and dying on cross
 - Not for humans to speculate on mystery of salvation+ fate of individual

PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS: **matthew 25**

CHRISTIAN MORAL PRINCIPLES

THEONOMOUS ETHICS

- **DEFINITION:** ethics governed by Gods law or commands

Theos: God and Nomos: law

- Only source of God's moral command is the bible
- **BIBLE AS ONLY AUTHORITY OR CHRISTIAN ETHICAL PRACTICES**
 - "all scripture is inspired By God, as is useful for teaching ... for training in righteousness" (2 TIMOTHY 3:16)
 - **BIBLICISM:** belief that the bible is the revealed word of god, writers of it directly inspired by God
 - Ethics not only spelled out as separate commandments but also illustrated in real life situations
 - **Ten commandments:** summary of both social and personal ethics, provide basic moral guidance **EXODUS 20:1-17**
 - Allows for peaceful living, not only in society but general life/friendship
 - **Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7):** 'Christians are to be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect'
- **LITERALISM AND INTERPATATION: BARTH**
 - Coined the term 'biblitalary'
 - Take the bible literally and run the risk of taking it as a god itself. Message from God, not literal in itself
 - Not everything written in the bible should be taken literally
 - Uses human reason to contextualise scripture and decide whether moral issues should be metaphorical, symbolic or literal
- **CONTRADICTIONS:**
 - Jesus = new testament prophets stress the ideal of kingdom of heaven
 - Killing + other warlike behaviour in the old testament are a 'necessary evil' given the context Israelites were in
 - Contradictions are necessary is Christians are to wrestle with moral issues/think for themselves

HETERNOMOUS ETHICS

- **DEFINITION:** ethics governed by several sources of authority or law.
- Bible is important part of ethics, but not exhaustive as peoples understanding of ethics has changed
- People inspired by god to reflect and write their thoughts, strange to thinks this would simply stop with the bible
- **ROMAN CATHOLIC:**
 - 4 ways in which catholic church accept Christians can understand ethics
 1. **ETERNAL LAW:** underlying principles of universe, only god fully knows
 2. **DIVINE LAW:** Gods laws revealed in bible
 3. **NATURAL LAW:** primary precepts/premises, goals that all beings share. Secondary precepts are goals humans share with animals eg reproduce. Third is to develop reason, worship god and live in ordered society
 4. **HUMAN LAW:** secondary precepts deducted by reason from primary ones. They are not fixed and can change according to circumstance

- **MAGISTERIUM:**
 - **DEFINITION:** Official and authentic teaching of the church, vested in the pope and his bishops
 - **VERITATIS SPLENDOR:** recent encyclical on moral theology, issued by Pope St John Paul II in 1996
 - Important as reasserts centrality of reason, conscience, natural law and magisterium in catholic moral theology
 - Argued that moral law is knowable to all people
- **LIBERATION THEOLOGY**
 - Places the bible at the centre of ethics and used ideas of Karl Marx
 - Theme of 'ethics from below; to understand the unfair and immoral way in which society operates
 - Stated that the church should aim to bring about social change + ally with working class to do so
 - Controversial as used an atheist theory
- **PROTESTANT ETHICAL HETERNOMY: STANLEY HAUERWAS**
 - Argued that Christian ethics can only do done in a Christian worshipping community
 - Part of a narrative which develops out of the bible + continue through Christian history and tradition
 - **Sermon on the Mont:** aimed at all member of a Christian community
 - **Examples all the values Christians must develop in their communities in response to the caring, loving god**
 - Role of Christian communities is to question society's values by living and practising the Christian societal truths.
- **WEAKNESSES**
 - Secondary information, through a person so tainted by humans

AUTONOMOUS ETHICS

- **DEFINITION: ethics are self-governed**
- **AGAPE: love, refers to Jesus' sacrificial and generous love for others**
- Bible is not s specially revealed document but a 'Christian Classic', like Shakespeare is an 'English classic'
- **"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud" (1 CORINTHAINS 13)**
- **LOVE AS A CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE**
 - One guiding principle in Christian ethics, Jesus' command to love
 - Highlights the idea of 'other-centeredness'
 - **"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (JOHN 15:12-13)**
- **ROMAN CATHOLIC/ GLOBAL ETHIC: HANS KUNG**
 - Was a liberal catholic advocate for greater autonomy in Christian decision making
 - Nothing in Christian ethics that you wouldn't find elsewhere by 'any person of good will'
 - 'global ethic' needed to solve world issues, eg climate change, poverty and conflict
 - Argue that Jesus challenged rule/law based ethics himself and challenged disciples to think for themselves
 - Eg. Euthanasia is contrary to official catholic moral teaching but not to catholic reasoning and conscience.
- **PROTESTANT: FLETCHER AND GUSTAFSON**

- Goodness isn't revealed by god nor is it intrinsic (essential) or part of natural law, simply condition of being human
- Christian highlights it explicitly as principle of love (agape)
- Ethics are essentially autonomy and theological in all other respects, aims for most loving situation
- **FLETCHER:**
 - Every situation judged relatively to principle of love and guided by '4 working principles'
 1. **PRAGMATISM:** most loving action, heart of Christian life. No moral action is intrinsically right/wrong, must be judged against command to love
 2. **RELATIVISM:** no absolute duties make people less important than rules. 'be relative' to love
 3. **POSITIVISM:** religious laws (eg 10 commandments) aren't god given or natural but human
 4. **PERSONALISM:** all humans should be treated as people because god is personal end humans are made in his image. People should never be treated to an end

Weaknesses

Lacks the basis to be Christian, doesn't include other parts of Christian ethics

Self sacrifice quote

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S EXISTENCE

- Various arguments for existence of God, I know vs I know of vs I know that
- **TRUE KNOWLEDGE = INCORRIGIBLE FACTS: facts which are unshakable or unalterably the case**
 - True knowledge could also = knowledge of god. God is source of life, then knowledge of him leads to profound understand of one's own life and purpose
- **BONAVENTURA: human mind has 3 ways to know god's existence, analogy of an eye used**
 - **EYE OF FLESH:** incorporates empiricism, eye we use to gain knowledge of physical world
 - **EYE OF REASON:** let's use work out mathematical/philosophical truths using logic
 - **EYE OF CONTEMPLATION:** allows us to come to knowledge of god by going beyond scope of sense + reason by gaining knowledge through faith
- **ROBERT BOYLE: created metaphor of 'God's two books'**
 - One being 'the natural world', other being 'the bible'
 - Both created by the same author, complimentary and enhance one another
 - Allows us to deepen understanding of god

NATURAL THEOLOGY

- **DEFINITION: god can be known through reason and observation of the natural world**
- **point of contact: Gods revelation in the world which provides humans with the first step to knowing him as a redeemer**
- Supported by all branches of Christian church + official teaching of Roman Catholic church
- **INNATE SENSE OF GOD: CALVIN**
 - **Sensus divinitatis: 'sense of god' or 'sense of the divine'**
 - Knowledge of god is innate or imprinted in human consciences
 - Calvin's *institutes of the Christian religion* and *Catechism of the catholic church*
 - "desire for God is written in the human heart because man is created by go and for god"
 - **INNATE KNOWLEDGE**
 - One argument is that ever human society has some form of religious practice = humans naturally disposed to know god
 - **THE UNKNOWN GOD:** speech of Paul to Athenians is biblical supports, tries to convince them there worshipping true god. One altar dedicated to 'the unknown god'
 - Argues that desire to know the 'unknown god' has been constant quest of Greek philosophers, even if they weren't aware
 - **UNIVERSAL CONSENT ARGUMENT (CICERO):** So many people believe in the gods or od, then they must exist. Even if doesn't prove existence, at least suggests that it is reasonable to believe in them
 - **HUMANS ARE REGLIOUS BEINGS:** Catechism also concludes that practices of prayer, sacrifice, ritual, and mediation are so widespread that 'despite the ambiguities' they are 'so universal that one may well call man a religious being'
 - **HUMAN SENSE OF BEAUTY + MORAL GOODNESS**
 - Caused by reading an inspiring book, admiring a natural landscape. Indicates that humans have an 'openness to truth and beauty' which leads to apprehension of gods existence

- **NATURAL LAW:** Catholics particularly see natural law to be an indication of human innate knowledge of god. Rests on supposition that all humans have innate sense of goodness, fairness etc
 - **CONSCIENCE:** Calvin considers it to be particularly important in knowledge of god/moral goodness. Argued it to be a God-given faculty as made in image of god. **Joint knowledge between ourselves and god.**
- **ABILITY TO REFLECT ON/RECOGNISE GOD'S EXISTENCE**
 - Based on Aquinas's 5 ways
 - We can recognise there must be an initial mover/cause a reflect on what god means to us
 - Provides a strong reason to believe
- **ORDER OF CREATION**
 - **Duplex cognitio domini: 'two-fold knowledge of god'. Calvin's distinction of knowing god as creator and redeemer**
 - As creator the most powerful indication of his existence and presence in the world is the ordering and design of nature
 - **Principle of accommodation: god manifests himself through creation in ways finite human minds can understand**
 - What we know of god in nature is a 'sort of mirror' of his invisible nature. What we see in nature is not his essence, but appearance, aspects which mean something to us.
 - Contemplating/reflecting on these aspects ('sparks of glory') allows us to form some idea of god's essential (love, power, justice and mercy)
 - **PURPOSE: WILLIAM PALEY**
 - Order, design and purpose show for god's nature
 - Watch analogy
 - **HOWEVER:**
 - nature is more brutal than beautiful = cruel god?
 - Darwin's natural selection, nature has no final cause just develops to merely survive. Nature without purpose makes god redundant
 - **PROCESS**
 - **Process theology: latest version of 'design' natural argument, influenced by quantum physics and principle of quantum uncertainty**
 - Argue that god and the world act in tandem; god isn't independent from natural processes but works with them to maximise their greatest potentials at any moment of time.
 - No grand end for nature, every moment is an end in itself
 - Aka God's 'persuasions'

REVEALED THEOLOGY

- **DEFINITION: god can only be known when he lets himself be known. Also through a prophet, scripture, prayer etc**
- **FAITH AND GOD'S GRACE**
 - **THE FALL AND HUMAN FINITENESS**
 - **si integer stetisset Adam:** latin phrase used by Calvin meaning 'if adam remained upright'
 - Simple knowledge overlooks the corruption of humanity due to the fall
 - If the fall hadn't happened everyone would have known god and achieve a state of perfect happiness and blessedness

- Knowledge of god as redeemer than bring humans into full and complete relationship with god = being regenerated
- Catholics believe that the fall didn't cut humans off from god but confused and distracted desire for him
 - Effects of original sin are seen through 'religious ignorance or indifference; cares and riches of this world; the attitude of the sinful man which makes him hide from god'
 - Divine revelation is needed to overcome this

○ FAITH

- **RICHARD DAWKINS: faith is a 'cop-out' or way of not having to give reasons for religious belief**
- **AQUINAS**
 - **UNFORMED FAITH:** faith which may find intellectual reason why, eg a person may believe the afterlife is possible but not accept it as true
 - the devils believed in god but didn't trust him to save them
 - **FORMED FAITH:** wills to accept or 'assent' what it can believe through intellect. Eg faith is willing to believe evidence of Jesus's resurrection. Takes time and effort, requires discipline of prayer/worship to know/accept what is good and perfect
- **CALVIN**
 - **FIRM AND CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE:** 'of god's benevolence towards us'. Only possible as revealed by Christ + sealed by the holy spirit
 - **WILLINGNESS TO BELIEVE:** faith 'is given to anyone who is willing to accept it'. A cognitive process when a person is willing to believe uncertain knowing of redemption/salvation in Christ. Not just moment but emotional and spiritual experience of assurance

○ GRACE

- Catholic + Calvin's protestant theology agree that faith alone isn't sufficient to know god
- Faith is an assent of mind and spirit, requires god's gracious act to complete relationships
- Aquinas argues faith can only ultimately be justified by grace via the holy spirit
- Catechism/ Calvin describes this as moment a person enters real intimacy with god, gift of holy spirit is to aid in creation of faith + repair damage of original sin

● REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN JESUS

- Scripture offers knowledge of god as creator, only final revelation in Christ/new testament which resolves the contradictions of the old testament
- **Trinitarian view: god is one but reveals himself as three 'persons (father, son and holy spirit)** bible should be read from this view
- **Through god as father:** prophets and writer are witness to his revelation
- **Through Christ as mediator:** clarity is given to god's promises
- **Through the holy spirit:** Christians are inspired, sustained and led in process of interpretation

○ BIBLE AND THE CHURCH:

- Bible more than historical collection of religious experiences, witness to god's active and specific action in the world instead
- Christianity must not be reduced to the bible
 - 'the Christian faith is not a "religion of the book", but a religion of the 'eternal word of the living god'

- **BARTH-BRUNNER DEBATE**

- **Immanence: 'being a part of', when applied to god refers to the way he participates in all aspects of the world and the universe**
- **EMIL BRUNNER: Swiss reformed minister and theologian (supported Aquinas)**
 - Follows Calvin's notion that god's general revelation in nature as point of contact enables humans to become aware of god's commands/their sinful state.
 - **HOWEVER**, Brunner argued this is insufficient to achieve redemption via Jesus
 - Limited purpose of natural theology is to offer 'possibility of a discussion pointing towards evidence of god's existence'
 - **Imago Dei**: image of god in humans only destroyed at material physical and emotional level, formal/spiritual level human image of god is uncorrupted
 - Makes humans unique from animals
 - This formal image allows god to address humans
 - Material image almost completely sinful and corrupt
 - **General revelation**: god communicates through nature which reflects his nature. Due to sin, humans are blinded and almost incapable of receiving this communication of grace.
 - **Nature provides a point of contact but no more**
 - **Conscience**: conscience and the experience of guilt makes humans aware of god's law
 - **True knowledge**: available through grace and renewal of material self, only to the person who has faith in Christ.
 - Revelation of Christ 'far surpasses' general knowledge via nature
- **KARL BARTH: German reformed minister and theologian, rejected natural theology**
 - **The formal self cannot inform the material self of god's existence**
 - The fall blotted out this ability, formal self is utterly unable to inform corrupted material self of god's existence by itself
 - **No point of contact**
 - Argued that nature, conscience and guilt don't provide points of contact, they are only experienced after a person has received god's grace, not before.
 - They aren't points of contact but instead results of god's mercy and grace
 - **Order of creation**
 - Order in nature isn't basis for morality or salvation. Moral commands in the bible are entirely different from any natural laws humans think they can perceive.
 - We only see order in creation after faith + the bible has revealed it to us.

- **ALVIN PLANTINGA (AGREES WITH CALVIN)**

- Retired professor at Notre Dame university
- **REFORMED EPISTEMOLOGY: belief that knowledge of god is a 'property of basic belief'**
- **Atheological objector: Plantinga's term referring to those who reject all theological claims**
- Christian beliefs are justified whereas natural theology can never offer sufficient reason to believe in god, no knowledge of the god of love and grace.
- Certain Christian truths are basic truths, like science

○ 'sensus divinitatis' exists but it isn't knowledge, it enables knowledge of god

○ Christ removes sins, holy spirit helps behaviour overcome defeat

○ **CRITICISMS:**

▪ Knowledge of god isn't basic, claims millions have claimed to have had a sense of god for thousands of years. Either people misinterpret their experience or many people haven't had it, not strong enough evidence

▪ Plantinga assumes Christian beliefs (eg incarnation and holy spirit) are true, given no reason as to why they are true. Faith and the bible isn't enough

▪ His argument supports any firmly held beliefs believers consider to be basic, could apply to atheists or bizarre beliefs like existence of goblins

● **CRITICISMS OF NATURAL THEOLOGY**

○ **FIDEISM: requirement that revelation is essential for the human mind to know anything about god with certainty**

▪ Falls error to fideism

○ **IS IT CHRISTIAN**

▪ Doesn't really justify Christian claims such as divinity of Christ, resurrection, existence of heaven/hell etc

▪ Natural theologies tendency to reduce these claims to human rational level the means that

● Jesus was no more than an inspired teacher and prophet

● Resurrection is no more than experience of hope over despair

● Heaven is just a political goal of this world transformed

○ **DOUGLAS HEDLEY**

▪ Faith to religion as imagination is to philosophy, intentional and conscious

▪ Philosophers often use thought experiments to deal with complex issues which cannot easily be explained in solely rational terms

AUGUSTINE'S TEACHING ON HUMAN NATURE

BACKGROUND + KEY BELIEFS

- St. Augustine believed that humans are naturally sinful
 - Sin = distance from God
 - Humanity created this distance by disobeying God (the Fall of humanity) – Adam and Eve
 - Born as sinners (Original Sin) and must get back towards God
 - Battle of good v. evil in everyone
- Genesis 3 proves that humans have a sinful nature
 - Temptation by Satan (serpent), but responsibility lies with Eve (and Adam!) for their pride
 - Gained forbidden (sexual) knowledge against God's will – sexual awakening
 - Fall of humanity damaged human nature – will became divided between the forces of good and of sin
 - People unworthy of salvation, but God's grace allows us to get to heaven
 - People gained free will...at huge cost
- Inspirations:
 - Manicheism: small influence
 - Both believed in duality of human nature
 - Neo platonism: strong influence
 - View of the soul + its relationship to the body
 - Early writings share the platonic optimism that the soul can find wisdom and happiness through its own efforts

KEY WORDS

- **The fall** = The moment in genesis 3 when Adam and even rebelled against god
- **Cupiditas** = Self-love
- **Caritas** = Generous love
- **Akrasia** = Weakness of will
- **Contenance** = Self-restraint especially to abstain from sexual pleasures
- **Concupiscence** = Sexual lust but also uncontrolled desires
- **Post-lapsarian** = The world after the fall
- **Grace** = God's generous, undeserved and free act of love for the world
- **Redemption** = When humans are freed from sin. Suffering and death

PRE-FALL

● THE WILL

- Cupiditas = self love
- Caritas = generous love
- God given, humans can chose to do good or evil
- Will is love driven by cupiditas and caritas
 - both necessary and worked together

● SEX AND FRIENDSHIP

- Argued that Adam & Eve were married as friends
- Equally + mutually participated in the friendliness of God
- **Genesis 1:28** (be fruitful and multiply)
 - Friendship included reproduction as well as sexual pleasure
- Friendship is highest expression of human existence

- Even after the fall, caritas is expressed as **amor dei** (love of god)
- True friendship is only possible for those who love Christ first

POST-FALL

- **PRIDE + DISOBEDIENCE**
 - Adam + eve ate from the tree of knowledge, sign of desire to be like God
 - Knowing good and evil and having its powers
 - Pride means cupiditas and caritas are separated, never again enjoy a harmonious relationship with God
 - Satan was fallen angel
 - Disobedience not the cause of the fall, provides stimulus to disobey God's commands
 - Act of rebellion, entirely result of human free will
 - Obedience = 'mother and guardian of all other virtues'
- **DIVIDED WILL**
 - Akrasia = weakness of will
 - Continence = self-restraint, especially from sexual desires
 - Rational enough to know what is moral good, damage done to it in the fall means ruled by desires
 - Humans don't voluntarily choose to do sin, but are inevitably prone to it whether they like it or not
 - Even monks or nuns will never be free or strong enough to resist concupiscence
- **CORRUPTION AND INSTABILITY IN ALL HUMAN SOCIETIES**
 - Due to the fall, people are selfish
 - Putting the needs of yourself over others leads to instability and following evil will instead of rational will leads to corruption

ORIGINAL SIN

- Sin of Adam and eve is an ontological condition of human existence, not just description of behaviour on occasions, no one is ever truly good
- Describes original sin 2 way
 - 1) **double death**
 - Adams rebellion kills relationship of friendship between humans and god
 - Second death is mortal state of every human and is god's punishment for the first disobedience
 - 2) **transmission of sin**
 - Original act is transmitted by "chain of disasters"
 - Every act of sex is tainted by concupiscence so every human is "born in sin"
 - Except Mary
 - "corruption at the root"

CONCUPISCENCE

- Unmoderated, the body craves, power, food, money and above all intercourse
- "human nature then is, without any doubt, ashamed about lust, and rightly ashamed" city of god chapter 20

- Since fallen, man can't control libido and desiring aspect of his soul is completely dominated by concupiscence.
 - Body isn't sinful but human will be dived and human existence dominated by it
 - Even affects platonic friendships

GOD'S GRACE

- **Grace is the action of God within the human will, making us *want* to do what is right and giving us the power to do it.**
- We need God's free gift of *grace* to do good.
- We have been given free will so that we can do what is right, but without God's grace this freedom leads to evil.
- Everyone is predestined – either by sin to do what is wrong, or by grace to do what is right.
- For reasons known only to God, he has predestined some people for salvation as a display of his unmerited mercy, while most people he has predestined for damnation as a just consequence of the Fall.

CRITICISMS

- **Jean-Paul Sartre**
 - "Existence precedes essence"
 - No such thing as 'human nature' – no pre-existing soul or blueprint
 - Make our own 'nature' through our choices and decisions'
 - People must make **authentic choices**
 - *Existentialism and Humanism*, 1946
 - "Existence precedes essence"
 - No such thing as 'human nature' – no pre-existing soul or blueprint, Make our own 'nature' through our choices and decisions'
 - People must make authentic choices
- **Richard Dawkins**
 - He viewed original sin to be contrary to evolution, absurd and dangerous
 - Symbolic account of the Fall doesn't rid Christianity of its unhealthy obsession with sin associated with sex
 - Goes against our evolved nature, suggests that we should suppress our instincts
 - Absurd to imagine the corruption of all humans rests on two individuals
- **Reinhold Niebuhur**
 - Would disagree with Augustine's ideas of sin, viewed original sin to be 'inevitable but not necessary', with sin appearing in both good and evil acts.
 - He did agree that only a proper relationship with God/ God's grace will save the human ego
 - However, thinks that the idea of humans as sinners is a useful idea. Reminds us that we have a capacity for evil
- **Freud**

- Rejects Augustine's connection between original sin of Adam and Eve and transmission to future generations through sex
- Augustine fails to acknowledge pleasure in sex is part of natural relationship men and women enjoy in marriage

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTOLOGY: study of Jesus Christ

SOTERIOLOGY: How the works of Christ lead/leads to salvation (especially death on the Cross)

PNEUMATOLOGY: study of the holy spirit

- Jesus did exist, and did lead to the creation of humanity
 - Were Jesus' teaching new or recycled
 - Was he enlightened or simply an important teacher
 - Prophet or messiah
- To Christians, Jesus has authority as the son of God, a teacher of wisdom and liberator

JESUS' AUTHORITY

- Recognition of authority means that we accept that a person/ institutions have a special powers we defer to
 - Experience
 - Knowledge or skill in a specific field
 - Transferred by proxy

JESUS AS UNIQUE

- E.P. Sanders (1937-) : history cannot prove Jesus as unique Son of God
 - Jesus very different from others, but not proven to be unique
 - Cf. resurrection
 - Requires faith as well as history
 - Reliance on texts and accounts, especially for resurrection
- John Macquarrie (1919 – 2007): question of uniqueness is unhelpful, and ought to be disregarded
 - All lives are unique to a degree
 - Jesus' role in history is more important – Christ-event
 - Jesus' entire life as significant moment in our relationship with God

SON OF GOD

- Christology
 - Christology from above: emphasises the divinity of Jesus
 - Christology from below: emphasises the humanity of Jesus
- Knowledge of God through Jesus
 - Miracles as a sign of salvation from God
 - Miraculous virgin birth of Jesus from Mary
 - Jesus as incarnation of God, Mary as theotokos (producer of God)
 - Many different views (all rejected as heresies):

- Nestorius (451): divine and human were separate in Jesus until followed God's will
- Apollinarius (310-390): Jesus' will was replaced by divine will – no human will, so couldn't sin
- Docetic Christianity: Jesus appeared human, but wasn't truly human

RESURRECTION

- Resurrection
 - Pharisees of the period taught that the righteous would be resurrected into the Kingdom of God on judgement day
- Jesus resurrection:
 - Sign of things to come for the righteous
 - Marking start of a new relationship between humanity and God
 - Gives Jesus authority as teacher
 - *W. Pannenberg*: Jesus only reveals himself as divine with resurrection (until then, doubt over divinity)
- *Mark 15:39*
 - "This man was God's son"
 - ✓ Even Senators could see Jesus' divinity
 - Just one man saying this, could be wrong
- *John 14:6*
 - "I am the way, and the truth and the light"
 - ✓ No one can reach God without going through him first, let alone normal humans
 - Could be viewed as spiritually/technically wise
- *John 10:30*
 - "The father and I are one"
 - ✓ He is connected with God, above human
 - Could be viewed as human but connected spiritually to God
- *Isaiah 35:5*
 - "The eyes of the blind shall be opened"
 - ✓ Implies miracles = divine powers and influence
 - Could be a religious experiences/ revelation rather than a miracle due to Jesus' divine nature
- *Mark 6:47*
 - "When they saw him walking on the lake, they thought it was a ghost"
 - ✓ Walking on water is a beyond human capability
 - Passage could be symbolic rather than literal + may be exaggerated
- *John 9:1*
 - "I came into this world for judgement so that who do not see may see"
 - ✓ Divine as preformed a miracle
 - Could mean spiritual blindness rather than physical
 - Amazing grace

TEACHER OF WISDOM

- Three most important moral teachings:

- **Forgiveness and repentance:** takes effort to reach true metanoia (radical change of mind/heart), but is essential and worthwhile
- **Inner purity:** high standards for humanity; respected Pharisees for trying to reach purity, even though critical of their approach
- **Personal responsibility:** cannot follow 'rules' blindly; must make active choices to engage with the reasons why actions are taken
 - Intent is more important than result
 - Religious practices are there to serve humanity; Pharisees and lawyers criticised for hiding behind Sabbath rule to avoid duties

FORGIVENESS AND REPENTANCE

● Parable of the last son, *Luke 15:-32*

- MESSAGE:
 - God will always forgive those who were lost and came back, we should forgive those when they do
- GUIDANCE
 - It's never too late to turn to God, he will always welcome you with open arms
- DIVINE WISDOM:
 - Demonstrates God's forgiveness
 - Above human nature, humans tend to be jealous

SPIRITUAL PURITY

● Maintaining spiritual purity, *Mark 5*

- MESSAGE:
 - Jesus heals and helps those who believe and turn to God for help
- GUIDANCE:
 - We should turn to Jesus/God with our problems as they are able to do things that we cannot

● Maintaining spiritual purity, *Matthew 5:17*

- MESSAGE:
 - Everyone sins, you must try your best to stop/prevent it and be as perfect as God is, clarifying the rules of Jesus
- GUIDANCE:
 - Not very useful, quiet extreme of a message, hard to follow, helping people understand the old holy book better

LIVING RESPONSIBLY

● Keeping Sabbath holy – *Mark 2*

- MESSAGE:
 - Sabbath is needed to remind us to live responsibly as we aren't inherently good
- GUIDANCE:
 - Good moral guidance as it reminds us that God made the day so we'd have the time to reflect and live better lives
- DIVINE WISDOM:
 - Others may have viewed it to be the other way round

● *Luke 13*

- MESSAGE:
 - Sabbath isn't a day to do nothing
- GUIDENCE:
 - People were turning people away/not helping those, the day is to help people
 - We should follow the principle of the law (ius) not the word of it (lex)

PHILOSOPHER SUPPORT

- **Leo Tolstoy:**
 - five moral commandments from Jesus
- **Ludwig Wittgenstein:**
 - Jesus as teacher of wisdom for mortal life, not for redemption in afterlife
 - Jesus as guide to living authentic life
 - Jesus' commitment to truth, courage, honesty, simplicity, then acceptance of death
 - Jesus as clarifier of language and meaning – lebensform
- **John Hick**
 - Teachers of wisdom (e.g. Jesus, Buddha, Moses, Lao-zi, Muhammed [pbuh]) are 'gifts to the world' – Jesus' 'supernatural' aspects = metaphor for closeness to God

LIBERATOR

- **Liberator of the poor**
 - Jesus showed preference towards poor and marginalised
 - *Camilo Torres Restrepo (Colombian priest)*
 - Jesus as Zealot (rebels against Rome), misrepresented by later gospels as pacifist
 - Protector and champion of the poor
 - *Gustavo Gutiérrez*
 - Jesus may be seen as Zealot, but is much greater
 - "universal and integral" liberation for all people (Gutiérrez, 2001:213)
- **Liberator of the marginalised**
 - Kept table-fellowship with hamartoloi ("missers of the mark")
 - Samaritans, bleeding woman
- **BUT Jesus did not advocate political revolution in Gospels**
 - Rebuke of disciple for drawing sword in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:47-56)
 - Rejects title of messiah (John 6:15)

LIBERATING THE POOR

- *Matthew 19:24*
 - "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God"
 - Inspire richer people to give to the poor, benefitting those who receive it
 - Telling the rich that they'll never get to heaven if they're selfish
- *Luke 6:20*
 - "blessed are those who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God"
 - The poor won't be confined by their wealth forever, there's a better life waiting for them
 - Knowledge as to the nature of heaven

- *Luke 10:21*
 - “Sell what you own and give it to the poor”
 - Liberated the poor as they aren’t often helped, encourages people to help
 - “You will find treasure in heaven”

LIBERATING THE MARGINALISED

- *Luke 10:25 – Good Samaritan*
 - Encourages to care for everyone, including the marginalised
 - Divine wisdom as Samaritans were viewed to be less than, breaking social standards
- *Mark 5:24*
 - “She felt in her body that she was free from suffering”
 - Could be a miracle or religious experience
 - Healing those who were viewed to be sickly, pushed to the edge of society and ignored because of it
 - Jesus/God doesn’t ignore those people, still loved and can receive his blessings

CHRISTIAN MORAL ACTION

BONHOEFFER

DUTY TO GOD V THE STATE

- State must follow God’s will, not the other way around
 - Mark 12:17 – God v. emperor
 - Autonomous ethics not enough – morality cannot be truly human, otherwise God would be reduced to human idea
- Independence of Church and state
 - Church acts as state’s conscience – needs to be separate to state

LEADERSHIP

- Leadership is a set of ideal qualities, which goes beyond the imperfect leader themselves
- Cult of leader is wrong; creation of tyrant in Nazi Germany, as leader is seen as perfect

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

- If ‘reasonable people face unreasonable decisions’, then government should be disobeyed
- Tyrannicide is still murder, but God will forgive the “man who becomes a sinner in the process”

CHURCH COMMUNITY

- The importance of a ‘world come of age’
 - Ethical practices must not be outdated and outworn; focus on modern requirements
 - Liberal societies have thrown out Christian values along with superstitions – allowed Nazism to fill the void
 - Answer: Christianity without the religious elements
 - No rusty swords – no outdated ethical practices

- Value of church community
 - God reveals self at moment of action
 - Need church community to discuss this with in order not to misinterpret – heteronomous ethics
 - Christian morality through community, not isolation
 - Church community to offer moral and spiritual guidance to society in general
- Role in Confessing Church
 - Barmen Declaration – Church acts for Christ, rejects that which is not revealed in Christ (Barth)
 - Bonhöffer became disillusioned, as Confessing Church seemed introspective and less engaged with world
- Finkenwalde religious community
 - Closed down in 1937 by Nazis (following appointment of Reich Bishop and Himmler Decree)
 - Development of practical Christian living:
 - Discipline (basic, monastic lifestyle)
 - Meditation (foundation for prayer)
 - Bible study (Bible as heart of Christian life)
 - Brotherhood (community bound in Christ)
 - Community for others (i.e. engaged with world, as Christ was)

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

- “No rusty swords”
 - Ethical practices must not be outdated and outworn; focus on modern requirements
 - Liberal societies have thrown out Christian values along with superstitions – allowed Nazism to fill the void
 - Answer: Christianity without the religious elements
- Ethics come through action
 - God reveals self at moment of action
 - Need church community to discuss this with in order not to misinterpret – heteronomous ethics
 - Ethics through action are liberating, but involve conflict
 - Luke 10: Martha & Mary – Martha acts, but doesn’t heed Jesus’ teachings; needs to heed teachings, then act ethically
- Cheap grace v. costly grace
 - Merely going through rituals (cheap grace) will not ‘buy God off’; true grace can cost one’s life
- Sacrifice & suffering

- 'Crisis' – sinfulness of world leads to God revealing his justice and redemption to world (Theology of Crisis)
- Must commit selves to God, willing to lose everything, to gain from this judgement and redemption
- Adopted from Barth, but developed as a way of life, not just an idea
- Solidarity against injustice
 - A suffering God acts in solidarity with His creation
 - Solidarity against injustice – Church much question if state actions are legitimate, then help all victims of injustice, and finally reverse injustice
 - Solidarity with Jews in Nazi Germany – publicly rejected common view of God punishing Jews on Kristallnacht

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND THEOLOGY

EXCLUSIVISM

- Holds that only those who hear and respond to Christ may be saved

REASONS FOR EXCLUSIVISM

- The first christians saw themselves as having a unique relationship with god
 - Made possible through death + resurrection of Christ
- Came to see following Christianity as the key to salvation

- Must convert, otherwise will miss out

SUPPORTING BIBLE PASSAGES

- **Acts 4:12**
 - *"Salvation is found in no one else for there is **no other name** under heaven given to mankind by which we must be served"*
- **John 13:6**
 - *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life"*
- **John 14:6**
 - *"Jesus answered "I am the way and the truth and the light. **No one comes to the father except through me**"*
- **2 Corinthians 5:18**
 - *"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation"*

SUPPORTERS OF EXCLUSIVISM

- **Hendrick Kraemer**
 - Christian message to the non-christian world
 - "God has revealed the Way and the Truth and the Life is Jesus Christ"
 - Argued that this revelation is in a category of its own
 - Can't be set alongside revelation ideas of other religions
 - Suggests that there is a real knowledge of God outside of Christ
 - God shining through "in a broken, troubled way, in reason, in nature and in history"
- **Karl Barth**
 - No knowledge of God to be had apart from Christ
 - Salvation is only possible through Christ
 - Insists on the **ultimate eschatological victory of grace over unbelief**
 - God's grace will triumph completely and everyone will come to faith in Christ

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

✓ Clear and precise in how to achieve salvation ✓ All Christians get the equal opportunity to go to heaven	□ D'Costa: exclusivism ignores the idea of the Trinity. To say that God can only be known through Jesus is binatarian because it ignores the role of the Trinity. □ Matthew 35 (sheep and goats: implies that judgement is done on the basis of works not of faith. People will be sent to hell if they have not helped those in need, not if they're not Christian □ People may follow Christ just for salvation, not out of faith □ A perfectly moral atheist may not go to heaven □ People who lived before Christ would go to hell, if got wants the salvation of the whole world why would he create a criteria of salvation which is only open to some?
---	--

INCLUSIVISM

- Argues only Christianity has the truth, because only Christianity has Jesus. However they believe that **salvation is still possible for people of other religions.**
- Main points:
 - God is loving and fair so must make it possible for all people to be saved.
 - Jesus died for everyone so his actions must affect non-Christians.
 - Members of non-Christian religions often behave in a way that would be regarded by Christians as good.
 - Religions have significant differences (so cannot all be true) but also have significant similarities (implying some shared knowledge).
 - God is creator, thus revealed in creation so you do not need to read the Bible to have some knowledge of God.

KARL RAHNER

- 4 points that argue non-Christians can achieve salvation
 1. Christianity is the **absolute religion** (God became a man!) although **some people do not get the chance to be Christian**
 2. For these people, **as God is all loving**, Salvation must be possible
 3. The faithful follower of a non Christian religion is an '**anonymous Christian**'
 4. **All religions** will continue to exist on this basis
- Some inclusivists take the view that truth found in religions other than Christianity is the work of Jesus even though followers don't think it is.
 - They might call Jesus other names but are still really following him and accepting him

BIBLICAL SUPPORT

- **Acts 17: Paul preaching to the men of Athens**
 - Suggests that non-Christians might have knowledge of God but not the same detailed knowledge and personal relationship that Christians have
- **Matthew 25: Sheep and the Goats**
 - People are judged and go to heaven or hell on the basis of how they behave rather than what they believe. This could be used to support the idea of the anonymous Christian.

<i>STRENGTHS</i>	<i>WEAKNESSES</i>
✓ Better pluralism because it maintains the unique position of Jesus and of the Church and it does not ignore the fact that religions sometimes teach opposing things	□ John Hick: suggested that the notion of 'anonymous Christian' is paternalist ○ Insulting and patronising to suggest that people are a part of Christianity even though they haven't asked to be □ Arrogant to suggest that other religions may seem to have elements of truth, but they're not actually true

PLURALISM

- There're many paths to salvation, Christianity is just one of them

SIX BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT

- Often used by pluralists
- Each religion has different aspects of God
 - When put together can create a deeper and larger view of God, rather than just each religions individual aspects
 - We need a "God-centred" approach
 - The reality of God will never be known as religions offer different interpretations
- **God = ultimate reality**

PANKARS WINDOW ANAOLGY

- We view the world through a window, our window is clouded by our **religious// cultural knowledge and experiences**
- We should understand our window is different to other people, **we all see the world differently**
- We can understand more about different world views by talking to others (inter-faith dialogue)
- **GEOGRAPHICAL MODEL: ways to a mountain peak**
 - We don't know the shape of the summit, prophets etc have said many things about it
 - Religion claims to lead to the summit, tradition has marked a way but you have to follow it on your own

- The peak has many names, its ineffable and inaccessible to humans
- *PHYSICAL MODEL: the rainbow*
 - All religions come from one source, God
 - When white light (God) is reflected through a prism, a rainbow of religions appear
 - Just as green ≠ yellow, Hinduism ≠ Islam
 - Any religion, like any colour, can reach the source of white light/ salvation

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND SOCIETY

WHY BRITAIN IS A MULTI-FAITH SOCIETY

- Multi-faith society: many religions living in one society
- Following WW2, Britain experienced mass migration from former parts of the former British empire
- Immigration was sought after and welcomed by the government due to a significant shortage of labour
- Modern issues like Brexit, growing tensions between different faiths. A lot of misinformation and prejudice
 - Religious hate crimes rose 40% from 2016/17-2017/2018
 - 52% of all offences aimed at Muslims

<i>ADVANTAGES</i>	<i>DISADVANTAGES</i>
✓ Increased tolerance / decreased prejudice ○ Likely to know more about other religions ○ Prejudice/ racism often come from ignorance ✓ Provides choice ○ Freedom of religion is a human right ○ Better choice if have access to multiple religions ✓ Diversity is exciting ○ Different religions have different festivals etc ○ Dull to live in a place that everyone does the same thing ✓ People can learn from each other ○ Discussions with followers of different religions can teach new perspective	□ Difficult to meet the needs of all theists (practical issues) ○ E.g. schools may need to provide kosher or halal food, businesses may need to account for different holy days and festivals □ Incompatible to customs ○ Some practices and customs are difficult to incorporate into society ○ E.g. Islam allows 4 wives, UK doesn't allow polygamy □ Loss of identity ○ Some people may be concerned that increasing variety = loss of national identity □ Marriage and family life ○ If multi-faith relationship then difficulties may arise in how to celebrate marriage or raise kids

INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE – add notes from booklet

- Definition: co-operative, constructive and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions
- Not always about trying to convert or getting people to agree, more about understanding and learning

Does inter-faith dialogue conflict with the Christian mission?

YES	NO
✓ The aim of C.M is to convert ✓ C.M cannot fully accept alternative Christian beliefs ✓ C.M fails if people only dialogue and don't believe in Christianity by the end	□ Inter-faith dialogue can spread understanding of Christianity ○ Dialogue may lead to willing conversion

CHURCH OF ENGLAND: *sharing the gospel of salvation*

- **Paul Eddy** asked the Synod of CofE whether or not Christians should be trying to convert people of different faiths
- He thought Christians had become too fearful of giving offence, to the extent that they no longer proclaimed that Jesus was the way to salvation,
 - Instead kept quiet and went along with the idea that everyone should be free to have their own beliefs and not be challenged.
- Document 'Sharing the Gospel of Salvation' came about as an outcome of this discussion and was published in 2010

CATHOLIC CHURCH: REDEMPTORIS MISSIO 55-57

- Means "The mission of the redeemer", a Papal encyclical written by the Pope in 1990
- **55**
 - Inter-faith dialogue is a part of the churches evangelising mission
 - Dialogue is not in opposition to the mission ad gentes (???? Check this)
 - The mission is addressed to those who do not know Jesus and his gospel
 - *The church sees no conflict between proclaiming Christ and engaging in inter-faith dialogue*
 - *Dialogue should be conducted and implemented with the conviction that the Church is the ordinary means of salvation and that he alone possesses the fullness of the means of salvation*
- **56**
 - Other religions constitute a positive challenge for the church
 - They stimulate both to discover and acknowledge the signs of Christ and the working of the spirit
 -

SCRIPTURAL REASONING

- An inter-faith method founded by **David Ford** and **Peter Ochs**
- Primarily for monotheistic religions, scriptures are a cornerstone of each religion
 - Reasoning refers to the close reading and explanation of the texts
- It's a tool for inter-faith dialogue whereby people of different faiths come together to read/reflect on their scriptures

GUILD LINES FOR SR

1. ***Stick to the texts***
 - More fruitful discussion if focussed on the texts
2. ***Use the original languages to expand, not shut down, conversation***
 - No English translation is perfect, not everyone will be familiar with the original language
 - Discussion should be based primarily on English
3. ***Feel invited to explore others' texts***
 - SR is all about hospitality, inviting others to cross boundaries
4. ***Listen carefully to others' comments***
 - Allow for other's readings to be expressed/explored even if you have very clear ideas otherwise
5. ***Be honest***
 - No one is expected to be an expert, be honest about things you don't know/understand about your own faith
6. ***Avoid generalisations***
 - No one represents their whole faith
7. ***Be present***
 - Full participation is crucial, having a mindful presence
8. ***Be respectful when handling the texts***
 - Different religions have different views on how scriptures should be treated, care should be taken

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
✓ Promotes inter-faith dialogue ○ Allows better understanding of other religions = more cohesive society ✓ Each religion asserts its uniqueness w/o having to pretend to share beliefs ✓ Allows people to go deeper into their own faith and beliefs ✓ Explains similarities and differences between faiths ✓ Begins trust and friendship, break down boundaries ✓ Relativisation of a whole religion can be avoided ○ People speak on behalf of their own opinion rather than the whole religion ✓ Inter-faith dialogue can spread understanding of Christianity ○ Dialogue may lead to willing conversion	□ People may misrepresent religious views □ Who decides on the "reasonableness" of an interpretation □ Can it be done by exclusivists? □ Can it be extended to non-Abrahamic religions? □ SR effectively treats all religious beliefs as valid ○ Relativises religious beliefs □ Meaning of the text may be lost

GENDER AND SOCIETY

CHANGING VIEWS OF GENDER ROLES

HISTORICAL

- PLATO:
 - “It is only males who are created directly by the God’s and given souls” *Timaeus*
- ARISTOTLE:
 - Argued that women are “naturally” inferior to men
 - According to Aristotle women are “defective” because they don’t produce eggs
- AQUINAS
 - Inferior to men in terms of mental intelligence and physical strength
 - However, believed that women have a special place in heaven (virgin mary etc)

MORE MODERN

- 1940’s: men went to war, women went to factories and offices
- 1960’s-1970s: many social and legal changes caused by cultural revolution
 - Abortion, divorce, homosexuality legalised
- 1975: The Sex Discrimination Act, protected men and women from discrimination on the grounds of sex or marital status
- 1980’s and 90’s: more women working and men looking after children
- 2010: The Equality Act prohibited discrimination in employment or education
 - Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, maternity, race, religion

ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN SOCIETY

- “So God created mankind in his own image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” **Genesis 1:2**
 - Eve was tempted by the snake

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

“Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the lord”

“The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church”

“He who loves his wife loves himself”

- Husbands should love and cherish their wives but a lot more is expected of women
 - Respect, submission, compliance
- Sexist in modern western terms, but the context of the passage is important
 - Paul’s main message isn’t about marriage at all, but about Christ and the Church
 - Key point that Jesus wants to sanctify the Church + present to himself the Church in all its glory
 - Must remember the bible was written in a different time, would be a mistake to interpret as externally valid something that might only have temporary significance
- However, extremely hard to interpret this passage as offering anything other than conservative gender views

CATHOLIC CHURCH: MULIERIS DIGNITATEM 18-19

- Pope John Paul II wrote an apostolic letter concerning the 'dignity of women'
 - Argues for the view that the roles of men and women are complementary
 - Celebrates the Virgin Mary as the 'Theotokos' (i.e. the God-bearer), the church as the bride of Christ and the role of women in the bible as the first witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
- **MOTHERHOOD**
 - *"motherhood is the fruit of marriage"*
 - *"the woman discovers herself through a sincere gift of self"*
 - Both parents take part in parenthood, but motherhood constitutes a "special part"
 - Father must realise that he "owes a special debt to the woman"
 - Motherhood's contribution is "decisive" in laying the foundation for a new human
- **MOTHERHOOD IN RELATION TO THE COVENANT**
 - The woman *"as mother and first teacher of the human being has a specific precedence over the man"*
 - A woman's motherhood presents a *"special call"*
 - Outlines the suffering of women
 - Falling sick
 - Death of loved ones
 - Loneliness of a mother forgotten by her children
 - Loneliness of a widow

CONTEMPORARY SECULAR VIEWS

MODERN VIEWS

- Men and women have equal worth but have different skills and aptitudes
- Certain occupations are better suited to men, not that a specific gender is better
- Because of the different skills, women should not become priests or have other positions of authority within the church
 - E.g. the Catholic Church do not ordain women to priesthood as Jesus only had male disciples
- God chose Jesus to be a man, not a woman
- Christianity is therefore sometimes blamed for perpetrating injustice by giving support to sexist ideas

MOTHERHOOD/PARENTHOOD

- Motherhood is put forward as an important expression of female dignity
 - Both the roles of man and woman are an important reflection of God's nature and purposes, but they are different in some important aspects and ought not to be merged
- Many feminists view the identification of femaleness with motherhood/ role of nurturer as sexist and patriarchal
 - This Christian response to shifting views of gender is dismissed as inadequate
- Little agreement between Christianity on the bible's representation of women
 - Some focus on the fact women had a prominent place in the 'Jesus movement'
 - Argue for the ordination of women + breaking down of traditional gender stereotypes

- Many Christians still view motherhood as the essential female calling + assign women a lower status when it comes to leadership and authority
- **ANNE OAKLEY – MOTHERHOOD AS RESTRICTING**
 - Sociologist who interviewed women
 - Concluded that a woman's feeling that she needs to become a mother isn't biological but entirely a result of socialisation
 - No such thing as maternal instinct
 - Wrote about the many ways in which women feel powerless during childbirth
 - Described the frustrations women feel when they have to stay home while their children are young
- **POPE JOHN PAUL II – MOTHERHOOD AS LIBERATING**
 - Claims that becoming a mother is the ultimate fulfilment of female potential
 - Motherhood enables women to put into practice their skills or nurturing, patience, feeding, care and compassion
 - His Papal letter (Mulieris Dignitatem) explores this in a Christian context
 - Motherhood can give women the opportunity to develop their best characteristics and gain a new and dignified status in the family/ community
- **MOST WOMEN**
 - Argue that motherhood is both
 - Not the same for every woman
 - Experiences will vary wildly, depending on a woman's relationship with her partner, her physical/mental health, money and family support
 - Many women find that motherhood is both far better and far worse than they expected
 - Labelling motherhood fails to take into account the uniqueness of each relationship

DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAMILY

- Secularism -> shift from traditional nuclear families
 - Pope Francis + Benedict both defended the baptism of children who's parents are non-nuclear/ don't conform to church teachings
 - Children are not to blame for their parent's situation
 - Their baptism can have an evangelising effect
 - A pastor has to consider whether the couples intentions are sincere or just are seeking a form of legitimacy to their union

GENDER AND THEOLOGY

FEMINISM AND THE BIBLE

- Exclusive use of male language for God
- The view that men are more like God than women
 - *"the man is the head of the wife, and Christ the head of the Church"* **ephesians**
- The view that women are created to be subordinate to men and if they reject this then they are sinning
 - *Genesis, Eve's original sin*
- *Feminist theology is a movement found in several religions which reconsiders the traditional, procedures, scriptures and theologies of those religions from a feminist perspective*

MARY DALY

- Former Roman Catholic theologian turned radical feminist
 - Christianity must be abandoned in favour of post-Christian spirituality
 - The Church and the Second Sex (1968)
- 'If God is male, then the male is God'
- 'God the father' caused the oppression of women
 - Made society male dominated
- Believed that women need a new spirituality

NATURAL SPIRITUALITY

- **Gyn/Ecology**, Daly's 3rd book and described it as an "anti-male" book
- Argues that "patriarchy perpetuates its deception through myth"
- The Christian myth is particularly dangerous to women
 - The trinity – "self-congratulatory communication among fathers and sons"
 - The virgin birth – "the total rape victim"
 - Incarnate Jesus – "a unisex model, whose sex is male"
 - All harm, repress or attack women
- Argues that Christian myths are subverted versions of older goddess stories
 - Through reconnecting with these older stories, women can rediscover feminist spirituality as experienced through nature
- Jesus claims the role of life-giving mother goddess but twists and perverts it so life comes before death
 - Daly describes Christianity has having 'ripped off, reduced, reversed, reviled' female traditions

UNHOLY TRINITY

- **RAPE**
 - It's a symbol of oppression
 - A connection between rape and war
 - Motive to erase female power
 - Not necessarily literal
 - E.g. 'armchair rapist'
 - Men who watch rape porn, enjoy stories of rape or metaphorically rape women to enhance their power over them
 - Identifies accounts of conflict where rape was a product
 - "*look here is my daughter*" JUDGES 19
 - Man sacrifices his daughter to stop a burglary
- **GENOCIDE**
 - Believed that there is a deep link between rape and genocide
 - One group perpetuates violence against another (rapists v the raped)
 - 'groupthink'
 - Social or spiritual genocide when one group believes they have all the answers/ the power
- **WAR**
 - Argued that war is inevitable result of 'male dominated politics'

- The horrors of war are associated with manly adventurous virtues, with men doing courageous and powerful acts of violence
- Violence is hidden by technical language
 - Coverup of the fact that innocent lives are expendable
- See the liberation of Christ as “symbolic legitimisation of the rape of all women and all that matter”
 - The underlying culture of rape, genocide and war
 - Therefore impregnated within Christianity itself and is so fundamental that the in culture is to leave Christianity behind

<i>STRENGTHS</i>	<i>WEAKNESSES</i>
✓ Use of biblical evidence ✓ Right to say that traditionally, women are more oppressed ✓ Examples of rape during war have occurred	□ Excludes men and some women from her analysis □ Sexist against men □ Excludes male victims of rape □ Ideas are too radical ○ Jesus had to be a man or woman □ Narrow view ○ Criticises all of Christianity, society

ROSEMARY RADFORD REUTHER

- Suggests that much of the sexism within Christianity comes from the focus on the person of Christ
 - The maleness of Christ leads to sexist thinking
 - Sometimes used to suggest that only the male can accurately image god
 - Or that only males provide appropriate role models or analogies for God
 - Maleness of Christ sometimes used to argue that the norm of humanity is male, female being a second-rate or less than ideal human being
 - Aquinas, females as “misbegotten males”
- Maleness of Christ is a contingent aspect of his identity, as is being Jewish
 - Although Jesus was these things, he doesn’t have to be
 - If god had chosen to reveal himself to humanity at in a different way at a different time, he could’ve done so
 - Nothing about god is essentially male
- Christianity is not inherently patriarchal
 - Bible can be used to support liberal feminist claims
- Bible contains a ‘golden thread’
 - Consistent theme that runs throughout texts

JESUS’ CHALLENGE TO THE MALE WARRIOR-MESSIAH EXPECTATION

- Jewish people of the time were awaiting a messiah to save them from oppression and lead them to political/social freedom
 - Expected a warrior-messiah, physically strong and masculine
 - Jesus’ emphasis on peace, forgiveness and love didn’t fit this

- 'golden thread' reveals a leader who subverted expectations, a show of weakness was much stronger than a show of force
- Shows a god who has come near, identifying with the lowest of humans, each human is valuable = a god for women and men

GOD AS THE FEMALE WISDOM PRINCIPLE

- In the old testament, the wisdom of God is personified and referred to as male
 - Book of Solomon, the wise man takes Wisdom as his bride
- Behind this powerful image of Wisdom lies the goddess who was traditionally characterised as Wisdom
- But in Hebrew thought she became a dependant expression or attribute of the transcendent male god rather than an autonomous female manifestation of the divine

JESUS AS THE INCARNATION OF WISDOM

- Jesus stands within the dynamic prophetic tradition of scripture + announces a new humanity in which the poor and outcast are welcomed
 - Equality of men and women is affirmed
 - Therefore Jesus isn't an example of patriarchy but the incarnation of wisdom
- Jesus is God-present in creation, revelation and redemption, Jesus is the wisdom of God
 - *"we are preaching a crucified Christ...who is...the wisdom of God" 1 corin*
- Female wisdom concept somewhat obscured by the more frequent use of the male Logos (Word) concept
 - Jesus more frequently thought of as the Word of God rather than Wisdom
- Viewing Jesus as the incarnation of Wisdom goes some way to highlighting feminine aspects of God but not far enough

THE CHALLENGE OF SECULARISM

WHAT IS IT

- Secularisation is a theory that links the decline in religion to modernisation.
- Jose Casanova identifies three ways in which people talk about secularisation:
 - "The decline of belief and practice in modern society. Some suggest this is a normal universal, human development process."
 - Yes, the 2014 British Social Attitudes Survey saw more people claim to be non religious than Christian.
 - "The privatisation of religion...where religion should be private and should not be seen in public."
 - Maybe no because major national events such as Remembrance Day still involve religious organisations.
 - "The secular separation of spheres of state, economy, science, which are free from religious institutions."
 - Maybe no because the Queen is still head of the state and Church of England and Bishops of CoE sit in the House of Lords.

GOD IS AN ILLUSION

SIGMUND FREUD

- Religion is a key cause of psychological illness
- Neuroses are the result of natural instincts being repressed by tradition and conformity e.g. shown by religion
- Religion belongs to the infantile – to the early stage of human social development before the person has developed the powers of reason. At this infantile stage, a person is in need of external care and security
- WISH FULFILLMENT
 - As children, a belief that life has a purpose, that injustices will be corrected and that there is a moral code, fills the need left by vulnerability and helplessness
 - The deity is a personification of our needs.
 - Repressions represses human desires – especially those that are harmful to society e.g. murder, theft and sexual violence
 - Religion provides answers to questions humans have that cannot be answered through a study of 'what is real'
 - Religion causes conflict
 - Religion and the mind – religion is the result of uncertainty and anxiety about matters outside of our control but in turn, religion is not an answer – rather it creates something unreliable and harmful

HUME

- Religions is practiced by the uneducated. Mentally mature people do not need religion.

CRITICISMS

- *Keith Ward – Freud is reductionist – reducing everything to material terms. This is not an adequate explanation for the spiritual experience of existence!*
- *Truth claims made by religion cannot be disproved.*
- *Religion is assisting rather than disabling. Freud emphasises the destructive nature of religion but for others, it gives a rich understanding and acceptance of life, helping to form communities rather than divide them.*
- *Freud claimed religion perpetuates guilt but not all religions are hierarchical and controlling.*
- *Wish fulfilment does not always lead to illusion – it can lead to creativity*

DAWKINS

- THE GOD DELUSION
 - Imagine a world without religion
 - Accept that the God hypothesis is weak
 - Realise that religion is a form of child abuse
 - Accept atheism with pride
- Life is meaningful without reference to religion
 - Darwin and his theory of evolution provides the clearest explanation for the processes of nature
 - Belief in God is deluded and unnecessary
 - Delusional – persistent false belief going against vast body of evidence
- The idea that a child, without understanding, could be labelled as Jewish or Christian is absurd

- Raising a child as Catholic is a form of long-term psychological abuse e.g. women abused sexually as children who found the fear of hell to be of greater harm than the sexual violence

CHRISTIANITY SHOULD PLAY NO PART IN PUBLIC LIFE

CHRISTIANITY AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF SOCIAL AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS

YES	NO
✓ Patriarchal and sexist ✓ Definition of women in terms of motherhood ✓ Role played in criminalisation of homosexuality ✓ Dawkins – “American Taliban” – evangelical Christians who say AIDS is God’s punishment to homosexuals ✓ Sanctity of life – dangerous. Irony of George Bush overseeing state executions while still preventing research on embryonic life	□ The reverse can be said to be true – e.g. religious leaders who led social change □ 19th century –Christian churches established schools for the poor in England □ Decriminalisation of homosexuality in the 1960s was supported by Anglican Bishops at a time that people resisted change □ Religious challenge to segregation e.g. Martin Luther King Jr □ Food banks

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

FOR	AGAINST
✓ Faith schools reflect the diversity of Britain. ✓ The values (spiritual and moral) that form a foundation of faith school education, enhance the wider curriculum rather than detract from it. ✓ Faith schools support social cohesion as they value local religious groups ✓ Faith schools offer a popular option for parents ✓ Faith schools have a better understanding of faith than non-religious schools and not every faith school has religious belief as an entrance requirement. Faith schools can offer support for religious and non-religious beliefs.	□ Pupils fail to be integrated into wider society – communities are isolated □ Teaching of science is questionable e.g. evolution as one theory alongside others such as creationism □ Pupils left open to radicalisation □ Faith development should be facilitated by the community as it is a private matter – it should not be any responsibility of the state □ Religious education should be part of a broad curriculum teaching a spectrum of belief and making the point that some religious claims e.g. Golden rule, are no different to non-religious truth claims.

LIBERATION THEOLOGY AND MARX

MARXISM

- Believed that Capitalism (an economic system in which the means of production are privately owned and operated for profit- changed the relationship between people and production resulting in a social division = wealthy v the workers

- Workers cannot be completely independent of capitalism, so work means to be part of the capitalist machine
- Everyone seizes the produce of others, alienating them from their own labour
 - Their work has no intrinsic value to them, do not choose or own what they produce
 - No sense of self-worth or pride in their work, just cogs in a machine
 - Alienated from:
 - *Their work*: no enjoyment, don't work for themselves
 - *The product*: do not own or use what they produce
 - *Other workers*: in competition with them
 - *Their own human nature*: not an autonomous human being, owned by someone else
- Leads to exploitation of others (e.g. cheap labour) and dehumanisation occurs

RELIGION

- Religion is the "opium of the people"
- A form of social control that dulls the pain of oppression whilst preventing them from seeing what needs to be done to prevent it
- Doesn't get to the root cause of the problem, merely makes it easier to bear

ANTONIO GRAMSCI

- Working class actions to overthrow unjust systems must be guided by theoretical ideas
- At different times in history, popular forms of religion had emerged which motivated the oppressed
- Therefore, religious beliefs and practices could be used to challenge the ruling class ideology

LIBERATION THEOLOGY

ORIGIN

- Theological movement that began in 1960's
- Young catholic theologians met in Brazil and vowed to find what the true Christian message was in the face of poverty in Latin America
- Intellectual + practical movement

PAULO FREIRE

- Coined the term 'conscientisation' = when a person becomes aware of the power structures in society
- For him education was not about the movement of knowledge from one person to another but about finding ways to transform society

GUSTAVO GUTIERREZ

- *KINGDOM OF GOD*
 - It is the world made anew – not where you go when you die
 - The coming of the KoG is something that must be hoped and worked for in this world
- *LIBERATION IN TWO WAYS*
 - 1) social and economic liberation
 - Poverty and oppression caused by humans can be alleviated by them

- People must take responsibility and act
- 2) liberation from sin
 - Must be reconciled with God and all of God's brothers and sisters in Christ
- **MARXIST INFLUENCES**
 - The Marxist analysis of structural inequality informs liberation theology's concept of structural sin (accepting injustice suffered by the poor and oppressed masses)
 - 1) understanding the development of capitalism
 - 2) belief that humans could change the world they live in

FATHER PEDRO ARRUPE

- "preferential treatment for the poor"
- 1) the trend in the Bible that shows a preference for individuals who are on the margins of society and who are powerless
- 2) the way in which Jesus associated himself more closely with the poor and dispossessed

JUAN SUGUNDO

- Argued that Christians should not maintain an attitude of neutrality in the face of tragic and pressing problems of human misery and injustice
- The church "intends to struggle, by her own means, for the defence and advancement of the rights of mankind, especially the poor"

CRITICISMS

- **THE R C CHURCH**
 - Cardinal Ratzinger
 - Argued that the Catholic Church will continue to struggle for the poor but using its own means and ways
- **KLOPPENBURG**
 - By equating theology with political actions, one side lies with the spirited messages of Christianity
 - Emphasises structural sin over personal sin, despite the fact that Jesus spoke of individual forgiveness and reconciliation within God
- **RICHARD MCBRIEN**
 - Seems to focus almost exclusively on some biblical themes
 - E.g. poverty in Exodus, at the expense of others
 - Defines oppression in economic terms, ignoring other kinds that come from cultural forces
 - E.g. sexism