

Religion, human rights and social justice – Key Words

Social justice: ensuring that society treats people fairly whether they are poor or wealthy and protects peoples' human rights.

Human rights: the basic rights and freedom is to which all human beings should be entitled.

Equality: the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.

Prejudice: Unfairly judging someone before the facts are known; holding biased opinions about an individual or group.

Discrimination: actions or behaviour that result from prejudice.

Heterosexual: to be sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex.

Homosexual: to be sexually attracted to members of the same sex.

Freedom of religion: the right to believe in or practice whatever religion one chooses.

Freedom of religious expression: the right to worship, preach and practice one's faith in whatever way one chooses.

Disability: physical or mental impairment which has an adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Positive discrimination: treating people more favourably because they have been discriminated against in the past or have disabilities.

Tithe: 1/10th of annual produce or earnings.

Poverty: being without money, food or other basic needs of life.

Exploitation: misuse of power or money to get others to do things for little unfair reward.

Human trafficking: the illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation.

Emergency aid: also known as short-term aid; help given to communities in the time of disaster or crisis. E.g. Food during a famine, shelter after an earthquake.

Long-term aid: assistance given to a poor country over a long period of time that has a lasting effect.

Religion, human rights and social justice – Core Knowledge

1. What is the UDHR?
2. What is social justice?
3. What is social injustice?
4. State one Christian teaching about the role of women.
5. Give a reason why some Christians would see homosexuality as morally acceptable.
6. How did Jesus treat women/criminals/people from other cultures/the disabled etc?
7. Name one campaigner who has been influenced by Christian teachings on justice.
8. Give one similarity in the way Muslims and Christians view religious freedom.
9. What is discrimination?
10. What is prejudice?
11. What is a tithe?
12. Give one Bible teaching about wealth.
13. What are the Christian teachings about caring for those in need?
14. What is usury?

Answers

1. UDHR stands for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. Social justice is ensuring that society treats people fairly whether they are poor or wealthy and protects people's human rights.
3. Where people are denied rights as a result of poverty or discrimination.
4. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28) OR "Women should remain silent in the churches ... for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church." (1 Cor 14:34-35)
5. Not loving to condemn people for their sexual orientation.
6. Jesus treated everyone equally, with compassion.
7. William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner), Martin Luther King (Baptist minister and non-violent protestor).
8. Both religions believe that people should be free to choose.
9. Treating people differently because of your prejudice about them.
10. Judging people before you know them.
11. The Christian practice of giving a tenth of their money to charity.
12. Matthew 19:24 'Again I tell you it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' Proverbs 13:11 'Dishonest money dwindles away but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.' Matthew 19:21 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the

poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' You may know others.

13. The Bible is quite clear that Christians have a duty to support the poor.

14. Loaning money – Christians believe that usury is lending money at an unfairly high rate of interest.

Religion, human rights and social justice – References.

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - UDHR).

“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24)

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.” (Paul said this in Romans 13:1)

Jesus said: “Love your neighbour as you love yourself.” (Mark 12:31)

“Faith without deeds is useless.” (James 2:20)

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Paul in Galatians 3:28)

“For God does not show favouritism.” (Romans 2:11)

“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak ... for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.” (Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35)

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it” ... “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Genesis 1:28, 2:24)

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.” (UDHR)

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”
(Ephesians 4:2)

“I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.” (Romans 16:17)

“The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity.” (Deuteronomy 28:11)

“Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.” (Deuteronomy 14:22)

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30)

“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.” (Jesus said this in Mark 10:25)

“No one can serve two masters ... you cannot serve both God and money.” (Jesus said this in Matthew 6:24)

“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” (Paul said this in 1 Timothy 6:10)

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17)

“Do not exploit the poor because they are poor.” (Proverbs 22:22)

“The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

“For drunkens and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.” (Proverbs 23:31)