



Christianity:

Is anything ever eternal?

Topic Overview

- Christians believe that God's love for humankind is eternal in that God will never stop loving humanity. Even if they do wrong, they can say sorry and God will forgive them because he loves them.
- Jesus portrayed love in the Bible; He taught that love should be eternal and unconditional.
- Christians believe that because of Jesus' resurrection, Christians will be able to have life after death (eternal life).
- They believe Jesus made forgiveness possible by His crucifixion.
- Christians believe it is Jesus' sacrifice of salvation that means they can enter heaven where they can live eternally being loved by and loving God.
- Christians believe that for eternal life they need to: believe in God, do their best to follow the Ten Commandments and the Two Great Commandments, and ask for forgiveness when they need it.
- In a Christian wedding, the bride and groom promise to love each other for their whole lifetime.
- They give each other rings which symbolise eternity.

Links with other religions

- **Salvation** (Christianity). Christians believe God sent Jesus to earth to die and to be resurrected to allow humans to have a pathway back to God where they can live with God for eternity.
- **Samsara** (Hinduism). Hindus believe that the soul (atman) is eternal and lives many lifetimes until the soul is freed from the cycle (moksha).
- **Samsara** (Sikhism). Sikhs believe the cycle of samsara repeats itself until the atma (soul) has been released from the cycle and is reunited with Waheguru (mukti).
- **Samsara** (Buddhism). The Buddha taught that humans are born an infinite number of times, unless they achieve Nirvana (enlightenment).
- **Anicca/Impermanence** (Buddhism). Buddhists believe things in life are always changing. Nothing stays the same as everything is subject to change. Buddhists do not believe in an eternal or everlasting soul.
- **Akhira** (Islam). Muslims believe in everlasting life after death.
- **Guru Granth Sahib** (Sikhism). The Guru Granth Sahib is considered the Eternal Guru that guides Sikhs.
- **God** (different religions). Many religions believe in the eternality of their God(s). For example: Judaism (God), Christianity (God), Sikhism (Waheguru), Hinduism (Brahman) and Islam (Allah).

| Key Vocabulary | Definition |
|----------------|--|
| Eternal | Lasting or existing forever; without end. |
| Unconditional | Without conditions or limitations. |
| Agape | A Christian word meaning 'universal and unconditional love.' |
| Parable | A story used to illustrate a moral or lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels. |
| Sacrifice | To give up something for something else considered more important: |

