

- Christian beliefs about the dignity of human life and agape in action
- An example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country
- Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

Key Concepts

Censorship	Limiting access to materials considered offensive or a threat.	Extremism	Believing and supporting ideas far from that which people consider reasonable.
Discrimination	Treating people differently.	Prejudice	Pre-judging people.
Personal Conviction	What a person strongly believes.	Human Rights	Basic entitlements of all human rights.
Relative and Absolute Poverty	Relative poverty is in relation to standards of where the person lives. Absolute poverty is acute state of deprivation.	Social Justice	Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity.

Christian beliefs toward the dignity of human life

Humans are created by **God** and in the **image of God (Genesis 1)** and therefore all **life is sacred**. **Jesus** taught that all life should be valued, e.g. the story of the **Good Samaritan**, and his compassionate actions showed that all humans should be respected.

Agape in action

Everyone should be treated with selfless and **unconditional love - agape**. Christian **charities**, e.g. **Tearfund** and **Christian Aid**, show **agape** in action as they practice the command of **Jesus** to **'love your neighbour'**. Both charities work in many countries to help when natural disasters occur or on long-term projects. Many Christians have shown **agape** through their work for others e.g. **Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero**.

An example of conflict between personal conflict and laws of a country

An example might include **Oscar Romero** who was a **priest** in El Salvador and spoke out against **injustices** and corruption to protect the poor. He believed it was important to follow the teachings of **Jesus** and that all humans have a **dignity of life**. He held meetings that were **censored** by the government. He was killed in his **chapel** when **celebrating mass**. Other examples might include the work of **Martin Luther King** to protest against **segregation** of races in America.

Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

The **UN Declaration of Human Rights** states everyone has the **right to freedom of opinion and expression**. This creates a difficult balance between **censorship** (used to suppress information or to protect) and **freedom of expression**. People express their religion in many ways e.g. what they wear, what they read, where they **worship** etc. **Religious extremism** is when actions might harm others. Often **religious extremism** is a result of believers **interpreting religious scriptures literally**.

Key Sources of Authority

- **'So God created mankind in his own image' - Genesis 1:26-27**
- **Conscience and personal conviction**
- **UN Declaration of Human Rights**
- **Teachings and practices of Jesus**

Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity).

Consider how...

- **examples of conflict between personal conflict and laws of a country relate to persecution of Christians (Component 2)**
- **dignity of life relates to sanctity of life (Component 1).**

Exam Practice

- **Describe one example of when personal conviction has conflicted with laws of a country. (5)**
- **Describe why some religious believers agree with censorship. (5)**