

Westminster Faith Debates

#FaithDebate



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What's a 'Traditional Family' and do we need it?

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Traditional family - Married with children



ONS 2011 General Lifestyle Survey

- Number of women aged 18 to 49 who were married has fallen from 74% in 1979 to 47% in 2011
- Number of women who are single (never married) has risen from 18% in 1979 to 43% in 2011
- Number of women 18-49 cohabiting has tripled, from 11% in 1979 to 34% in 2011.

ONS 2011 Lone parents

Number of lone-parent families more than tripled from 8% in 1971 to 26% in 2011

Sex & marital status					ONS
All persons aged 16 and over					Great Britain: 2011
Marital status		Men	Women		
Married		52		49	
Cohabiting		11		11	
Single		27		21	
Widowed		3		9	
Divorced		4		7	
Separated		2		2	

2011 Census, England and Wales

44.3% of the population lives in married couple households, of which

10.4% are married persons with no children

8.2% are married persons with 1 dependent child

17.9% are married persons with 2 or more dependent children

7.9% are married persons with non-dependent children.

In 1961, 38% of families consisted of a married couple with two or more children

Today, 16% think they fit the 'traditional model'

Centre for the Modern Family

YouGov survey for Westminster Faith Debates, 2013

- Online survey
- Total sample size 4,437 adults
- Fieldwork undertaken 25th - 30th January 2013
- The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+)

What's a family? - biological bonds

- A married couple with children ✓
- An unmarried couple with children 89%
- A lone parent with at least one child 87%
- A married couple without children 72%
- Siblings who live together 71%
- A same-sex couple in a civil partnership with children 70%

What's a family? –emotional bonds

- an unmarried couple without children 52%
- a same-sex couple in a civil partnership 47%
- any two or more people who care for each-other 39%

A 'person close'

Being religious *per se* makes little difference

e.g.

46% of Catholics, 51% of Baptists and 48% of Jewish people consider a same-sex couple in a civil partnership without children to be a family (compared with 47% of the general population)

Narrow v broad views of the family

Narrow:

- Voting Conservative
- Being a man
- Being in the minority of religious believers who take their main authority from God or religious teachings
- Being over 65

When asked whether more women never having children is good or bad, 18% say good and 54% say neither good nor bad

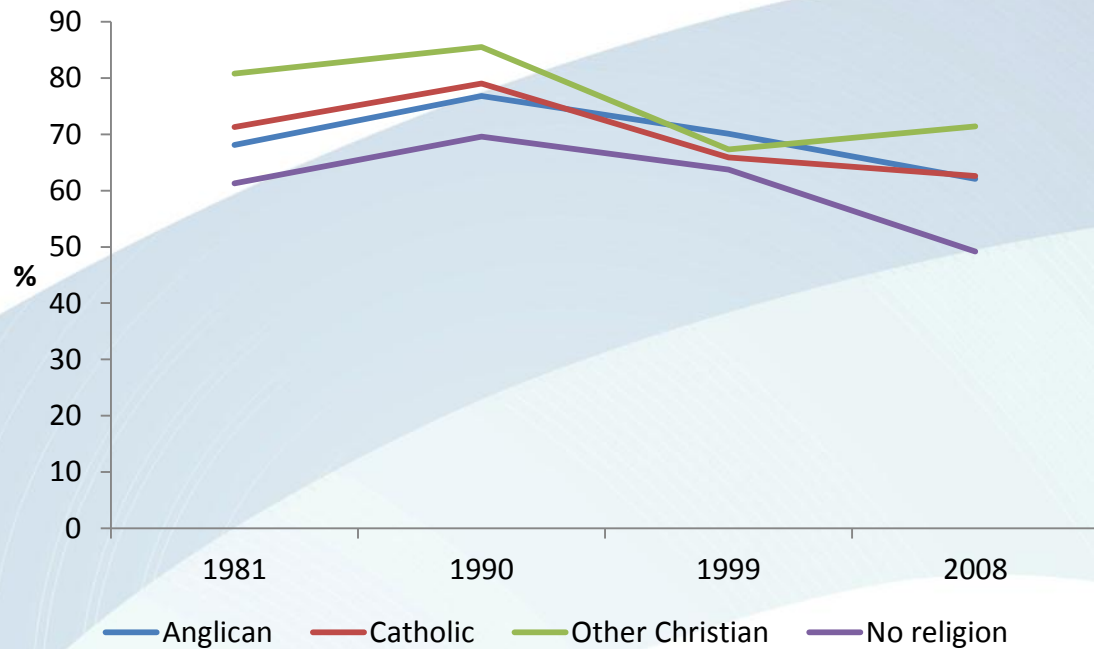
Parenting children

When asked whether more single women having children without a male partner is good or bad, 30% say neither, and 58% say bad.

European Values Survey

Question: 'If someone says a child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily, would you tend to agree or disagree?'

% WHO TEND TO AGREE



Assisted reproductive technologies

Sperm and egg donation

The background features a series of overlapping, wavy, curved bands in shades of light blue and pale green, creating a sense of movement and depth. The bands are semi-transparent and layered, with the top-most band being a darker blue and the bottom-most being a lighter green. The overall effect is a modern, clean, and abstract design.


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Welcome to Pride Angel

Donate sperm or eggs and help single, lesbian and infertile couples achieve their dream of becoming parents. Gay, lesbian, single looking to co-parent? We are dedicated to connecting sperm donors, egg donors and co-parents worldwide. Our unique website allows you to create your own profile, search members and communicate safely using our on-site mail. Find your parenting match with pride!

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Why we are different

Churches and families

Only 21% think that Churches are welcoming LGBT people

Whereas half of Christians think that a same-sex couple in a civil partnership is a family, and two thirds if same-sex couples have children

“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”

Mt 12.⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Early Christianity on the family

“The body was poised on the edge of a transformation so enormous as to make all present notions of identity tied to sexual differences, and all social roles based upon marriage, procreation, and childbirth, seem as fragile as dust dancing in a sunbeam.”

Peter Brown, *The Body and Society*

Godparents

Pope ('papa')

'Father'

'Abbot, 'Mother', 'Sister', 'Brother'

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