

MORES OF HUMAN LIFE

	Greco-Roman Culture	Other Cultures	Christianity
Infanticide	Once approved by many pagan philosophers and practiced long before and after Christianity entered Greco-Roman society	Once approved and practiced in the pagan societies of China, India, Japan, Brazil, American Indians, Eskimos, African tribes, and many others	Condemned by Christians, whose influence prompted Roman emperors to outlaw infanticide in the middle fourth century
Child Abandonment	Condoned and practiced for centuries without guilt or remorse; extolled by Greco-Roman mythologies	Condoned and practiced for centuries in Persia, Africa, and many other pagan societies before and after the birth of Christ	Condemned by Christians, who rescued and adopted many castaway Greco-Roman children
Abortion	Condoned, advocated by philosophers, and widely practiced long before and after Christianity entered Greco-Roman society	Practiced for centuries in virtually all pagan cultures before and after the birth of Christ	Condemned by the church fathers and by the church councils—e.g., Council of Elvira (Spain), A.D. 305
Human Sacrifices	Roman gladiatorial shows sacrificed multitudes of human beings for public entertainment before and after Christ	The Canaanites, some deviant Hebrews, and virtually all ancient societies sacrificed children, often to pagan deities; Aztec and Maya Indians sacrificed captive warriors in their religious rites	Christian emperors outlawed gladiatorial games in the East in the 390s and in the West in 404
Suicide	Generally condoned, often advocated, and sometimes extolled by the poets and philosophers; committed by the elite and the populace	Permitted by the Japanese and by some religions such as Hinduism and Jainism	Seen as a violation of the Commandment: "You shall not murder." Formally condemned by many church fathers and church councils