

## Marriage as the context for Sex

Now that we have discussed sexuality in general terms, the challenges with sexual expression through homosexuality and transgenderism, and lust and love, we can put all of the pieces of the puzzle together.

We often think of sex as one of two extremes: either gross or the most important expression of love. If it is between us and the person we love, sex is the most important expression of love. If other people whom we know are having sex, then it is gross and uncomfortable. If others are displaying their passions for us to see, then we enjoy it with a guilty pleasure. These examples show the immense divide and conundrum regarding sex. The Church is very clear on her stance on sex. Sex is the greatest expression of committed love shared between two committed people. Through this singular action new life comes into the world, we share in the creative power of God, and we experience the fullness of committed love. I want to take some time to explore all these pieces in detail.

Sex brings new life into the world: The sexual act produces life. Many people today want to ignore this part of sex and think of it only in terms of pleasure or an expression of love. This is not the case. The purpose of sex is to create babies; that is what it is for. Many people today want to divorce sex from the formation of new life and make it only about pleasure. Then they get upset when they find out that they are pregnant. Every time that two people have sex, there is a possibility of pregnancy. We must remember this. If you don't want you or your partner to get pregnant, don't have sex. It's the only sure way to avoid pregnancy.

We share in the creative power of God: the only action through which humans create life is sex. This action is a great expression of God as Trinity. The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father. Their shared bond of love is so strong that it emanates the Holy Spirit. The love shared between Father and Mother creates children. This is an incredible mystery, a joy to the world. Too many people today find pregnancy and children a detriment to society. Children are a joy. Motherhood and fatherhood are the greatest expressions of femininity and masculinity.

Sex as an experience of committed love: Most TV shows and movies show sex as an activity or part of a normal relationship. What they don't show is the immense harm this attitude towards sex causes in a relationship. When two people have sex they are biochemically bonded. They share a bond unlike anyone else. If they break up or end the relationship, the pain of the relationship is greater because they shared a special and intimate bond that now feels like a violation. The two gave themselves entirely to each other in love and now have to separate and lose that part of themselves. The bond shared in sex is deep and intimate; it is a sharing of our deepest selves. Sex is a special relationship that should be reserved to those whom we have committed our love to.

Marriage as the context for sex:

Marriage is the action through which a man and woman vow to remain faithful to each other for life. They have spent, usually years, learning about each other, growing in love for each other, and deciding whether they want to be committed to each other. The sign of their committed love

is sex. In this context sex is very special. The couple can now give themselves fully to each other body and soul in the intimate and special action which is sex. But sex is more than intimacy. The greatest form of this intimacy is the desire to form a family. As mentioned earlier, sex creates children. The couple, now desiring to share their love, also desires to have children. The desire to have children is the sign of the fruitfulness of their love, that their love is creative and good. Sometimes couples do not want to have children. It is possible to have sex without getting pregnant. Yet, the reality of this intimate sharing for fruitful love should always remain a possibility during sex. This reminds the couple of the need for communication, commitment, and the reality of a fruitful love.