

Living in the Kingdom

God's Plan for Marriage and the Family (Part I)

Lesson 21: Human Love in Divine Revelation



CCC 1604, FC 18

FC 6

LF 6, FC 11
CCC 221, 1603

Gen 1:26, FC 11

CCC 362, TMHS 3
FC 11

Gen 2:18, 21-22
LF 6, CCC 369-372

Gen 2:25,
CCC 1603-04
CCC 2332-35
FC 11

TMHS 10-11

TMHS 13-14
CCC 2360
FC 11

Gen 1:28
CCC 372-73

Gen 3:6-7
CCC 1606-08

1. *Man cannot live without love. He remains a being incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it.*
2. But... many signs of broken love around us: unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, broken relationships, violence in the home, adultery, divorce and single parenthood.
3. God created men and women in his own image and likeness. Matrimony is called to image the self-donating love of the inner life of the Trinity and Christ's nuptial relationship with his Church.
4. The first model of the family is God, who is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and has called us to share in that exchange.
5. God created man in his own **image and likeness**: calling him to existence *through love*, He called him at the same time *for love*. Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.
6. Man is a union of **body and soul**, uniting the spiritual and material worlds. Man is called to love as an incarnate spirit - as soul and body in the unity of the person. Love therefore includes the human body.
7. Man is created from the very beginning as **male and female**. God created man and woman together, as a communion of persons, so that each can be "helpmate" to the other.
8. The **vocation to marriage** is written in the nature of man and woman. Sexuality concerns the innermost being of the human person in the unity of his body and soul. The union of man and woman in marriage is a way of imitating in the flesh God's generosity and fecundity.
9. **Human sexuality** is a part of the capacity for love which God has inscribed in man and woman. The *nuptial meaning of the body* is the body's capacity of expressing love, where the person becomes a gift and so fulfills the very meaning of his existence.
10. Sexuality affects not only the physical level, but also the psychological and spiritual. Sexual love is a sign and pledge of spiritual communion, and so it is "true" only within a lifelong commitment of love between a man and a woman in marriage.
11. **Be fruitful and multiply**: In marriage God unites man and woman so that by forming "one flesh," they can transmit human life and cooperate in a unique way in the Creator's work. They also have the vocation of "subduing" and caring for the earth as stewards of God.
12. The **first sin** caused the rupture of the communion between man and woman: their relations were distorted by mutual recriminations; their mutual attraction changed into a relationship of domination and lust; their union is now threatened by discord, infidelity, jealousy, and conflicts that can escalate into hatred and separation. The vocation of man and woman to be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth was

<p>CCC 1609</p> <p>Dt 24:1, Mt 19:8</p> <p>FC 12, CCC 1611 Song of Songs</p> <p>FC 13, CCC 1612-13 Jn 2</p> <p>Mt 19:4-6</p> <p>Eph 5:25-32 CCC 1617</p> <p>Mt 19:12 CCC 1618 FC 16</p> <p>CCC 1619</p> <p>TMHS 16-20 CCC 2337-39 FC 33</p> <p>CCC 2351-57 Mt 5:8, 28</p> <p>CCC 2514-27 CCC 2529-21</p>	<p>burdened by the pain of childbirth and the toil of work. To heal the wounds of sin, man and woman need the help of God's grace.</p> <p>13. In his mercy God did not forsake sinful man. "Pain in childbearing" and toil "in the sweat of your brow" are remedies that limit the damages of sin. Marriage helps to overcome self-absorption, egoism, pursuit of one's own pleasure, and to open oneself to the other and to self-giving.</p> <p>14. Moral conscience concerning marriage developed under the Torah, which aimed at protecting the wife from domination by the husband. Permission to divorce was a concession to man's "hardness of heart."</p> <p>15. The love between God and His people is expressed as the marriage covenant and bond of love between a man and a woman. The sins of idolatry and infidelity are compared to prostitution and adultery. Yet the infidelity of Israel does not destroy the eternal fidelity of the Lord.</p> <p>16. Jesus is the Bridegroom who loves and gives Himself to humanity, uniting it to Himself as His body and preparing it for the "wedding-feast of the Lamb." Jesus' first sign at the wedding at Cana confirms the goodness of marriage, and shows that it will be a sign of his presence.</p> <p>17. Jesus reveals God's original plan for marriage (as indissoluble union) and gives man and woman the strength and grace to live it in the new dimension of the Reign of God.</p> <p>18. The mystery of marriage: The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church. Christian spouses are called to live Christ's love who gave Himself on the cross.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her... For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church." (Eph 5:25-26, 31-32)</i></p> </div> <p>19. Virginity for the kingdom: From the beginning of the Church some men and women have renounced the great good of marriage to live a life of total consecration to God as Jesus did.</p> <p>20. Marriage and virginity/celebrity are two ways of expressing and living the mystery of God's covenant with His people. While marriage is a passing reality of this present age, virginity for the sake of the kingdom is a sign of the superior bond with Christ, of the expectation of his return and of his eschatological marriage with the Church.</p> <p>21. True love demands the gift of self through sacrifice. He or she who is not master of self through the virtues and chastity is not capable of self-giving. Chastity is the successful integration of sexuality within the person - spiritual energy defending love from selfishness. Chastity is necessary for everyone: single, consecrated, and married.</p> <p>22. Chastity means learning self-mastery, which is training in human freedom. Either man governs his passions and finds peace, or he is dominated by them and is unhappy. Chastity includes self-control, persistence and patience, humility and strength of mind. It requires rejecting certain thoughts, words and sinful actions, avoiding occasions of sin, and learning to overcome one's impulses. Chastity grows through trust in God's grace, frequent prayer and reception of the sacraments. Offenses against chastity: Lust, masturbation, pre- and extra-marital sex, pornography, prostitution, rape, and homosexual acts.</p>
--	---

Abbreviations and links:

[CCC](#): *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992)

[FC](#): Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio – On the Christian Family in the Modern World* (1981)

[LF](#): Pope John Paul II, *Letter to Families* (1994)

[TMHS](#): Pontifical Council for the Family, *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality* (1995)

See also:

[DAE](#): Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Agape Est* (God is Love) (2006)