

The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality
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Questions for Chapter 1
Christ: the Image and Likeness of God

The Uniqueness of Human Sexual Behavior and its Social Import

1. Even to the Jews, well versed in Scripture, Jesus' teaching on divorce and remarriage was shocking. In teaching this, what norm did Jesus set up for our behavior?
2. What characteristics of the Christian way of life became a touchstone as a means for pagans to identify Christians?
3. How did the martyrs themselves regard the practice of chastity? Of what was it a sign?
4. From the earliest days the teachings of the Church on sexual morality has been very firm. What happened as a result of this firmness?
5. The error of thinking that sexual behavior is only a private matter has led to erroneous thinking about the relationship between God and His Church, and between the individual and society. The author gives several results of this "privatizing" of sexual conduct. List these results—for the Church and for society.
6. What does the author say is necessary in order for our witness as Christians to ring true?

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

7. The author gives several reasons why persons may not be convinced of the goodness of their bodies. What are they?
8. What does the author say is the best protection from sin in this matter?
9. What does the author say are the three best characteristics for describing Christian chastity?

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

10. In recent times some moral theologians have argued that the Church cannot define moral doctrines which apply in all times and places. Explain their reasoning.
11. What does the Church, as pointed out by the Council of Trent, teach about the relationship between faith and morals?
12. What does the faith teach about sexuality? Who is the sole norm for what it is to be truly human?
13. What follows from the idea that we can get "a right picture of human sexuality only insofar as it is contained in Christ"?