

## The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality

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### Questions for Chapter 2 God's Good Symbols: Christian Symbols

#### God and Matter

1. What is the most obvious thing about God's attitude towards material things?
2. What truth about the nature of God does the Judeo-Christian tradition know that is not known by some of the Nature Religions of the Near East? How does this misunderstanding of the nature of God lead to a misunderstanding of created things?
3. What is meant by the term *incarnation*? What are the truths Christians sometimes fail to realize that show the importance of Christ's physical body?
4. What then, is the seed and root of our salvation and glorification? And what are we called to do as a result?
5. The author states, "This is the reason why He gives us His body as nourishment when we receive Him in Communion." Explain.
6. The doctrine of the Assumption emphasizes something that is often forgotten. Explain.

#### Christian Symbolism

7. Through what means does God give us the greatest of His spiritual gifts? Name some examples. What is a sacrament?
8. Describe the difference between sign and symbol. Give an example.
9. The author discusses natural symbols as well as the role of symbolism in culture, psychology and psychiatry. Give an example of a natural symbol, a cultural symbol, a psychological symbol. What can result from skewed or damaged symbol structures in the human unconscious?
10. What definition does the author give for liturgy? List several symbols used in the Liturgy.
11. What historical events are re-enacted through the various liturgical rites? Give at least three examples.
12. What, according to the author, is the fate of those persons who fail to understand symbolism?

#### Symbols in Revelation

13. The author lists several reasons why God uses a profusion of symbolism to communicate with us. What are some of them?
14. What attitudes or experiences can cause us to distrust symbols?