

The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality

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Chapter 6

Christ on the Cross: Sexual Lies and Counterfeits

1. In the context of this chapter, what is meant by “do what comes naturally”?

Natural Symbolism of Misuse of Sex

2. How does the author describe a sexual lie?
3. Why is adultery a sexual lie?
4. Why is marital intercourse done without charity a lie? For the man? The woman?
5. Why is divorce-with-remarriage a sexual lie?
6. Why is fornication a sexual lie?
7. Why does promiscuity differ from fornication between two persons who at least love each other?

The Substitute Symbol

8. How does the author describe a sexual counterfeit (substitute symbol)?
9. Why is masturbation a sexual counterfeit?
10. Why does slavery to masturbation make it almost impossible to enter into marriage?
11. Why is the habit of masturbation so difficult to overcome?
12. Why are homosexual acts sexual counterfeits?
13. Why is contraception a sexual counterfeit? For the man? For the woman?
14. Even for the couple who truly love each other, how does contraception serve to set up barriers to love?
15. Summarize how sexual symbols ought to be used.
16. How is the use of Natural Family Planning different from contraception?

Dating

17. Why is it a misuse of sexuality for the unmarried to embrace or caress to the point of arousal?
18. Why is the “repeated and unfulfilled” use of the symbols of love problematic for the unmarried?
19. How is this different for those who are engaged and shortly to be married?

The Religious Significance of Misuse of Sex

20. By what standard ought a Christian judge the rightness or wrongness of sexual activity?

Christian Understanding of Sexual Lies

21. What does fornication symbolize on the supernatural level? For the man? For the woman?
22. What does adultery symbolize on the supernatural level? For the wife? For the husband?
23. Why was adultery not punishable by death under the New Law, though it was under the Old Law?
24. What does divorce of a consummated, sacramental marriage symbolize on the supernatural level? How does this symbolism apply to Christian marriage?

25. How ought Catholics to respond if their marriage fails tragically in human terms?
26. Why are marital insensitivity or frigidity utterly alien to the Christian spouse?

Christian Understanding of Sexual Perversion

27. What does masturbation symbolize on the supernatural level?
28. What does male homosexuality symbolize in terms of Christ and the Church?
29. What does lesbianism symbolize? What feminine figure or principle is given us in Scripture other than the Church?
30. What does contraception symbolize on the supernatural level?

Life, Death, and Love

31. The author claims a link between sexual lies/counterfeits and death. Explain.
32. The author claims a link between love and suffering/death. Explain.
33. What is the answer to all sexual problems?