

The Christian Meaning of Human Sexuality

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Questions for Chapter 7

Christ, Father of the World to Come: Virginitly and Continnence

Symbolism of Premarital Chastity

1. How did prescriptions of the Law regarding sexual behavior change from Old Testament times to New Testament times?
2. Describe the symbolic meaning of premarital continence, both male and female.
3. What is the link between rites of passage from many cultures and Christian chastity?

Virginitly and Fruitfulness

4. What is the reason for the seeming dislocation between the maturation of the sexual powers and the development of the necessary intellectual and emotional maturity necessary to enter marriage?
5. What is another aspect of premarital chastity in males that is recognized in practically all cultures?
6. What is the universally recognized meaning of female virginitly—even by pagans?
7. What does the author say is the Christian “rite of passage” for both male and female?
8. In Christianity, what is the meaning of consecrated female virginitly?
9. What is the meaning of consecrated male virginitly?
10. Explain the concept of “virginitly and fruitfulness” as exemplified by Mary and St. Joseph.
11. Explain “virginitly and fruitfulness” as the basis for Religious life within the Church, and also as something that is meant to be true of all who are celibate.

Eunuchs for the Kingdom

12. Christ uses the phrase “eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven”. Explain.
13. What does St. Thomas Aquinas say about the need for virginitly if man had not fallen?
14. What are those who are unwillingly celibate being invited to do?

Further Reflections

15. What are the two aspects of virginitly or chaste celibacy described by the author?
16. How are these same two aspects visible even in natural human love?
17. Explain the statement, “There is no harm in perfect love” as it relates to virginitly or chaste celibacy either as a preparation for marriage or as a chosen state of life.
18. An unhealthy “chastity” may result for those who refuse or are unable to live at ease and in peace with the sexual body that God has given them. Explain.