



The Sanctity of Marriage: A Holy Covenant

- A covenant is a strong and binding agreement between two or more parties.
- The marriage covenant is a binding agreement between God, man, and woman.
- A three stranded cord is hard to break: A trinity between God, man, and woman
- Marriage isn't just the unity of two individual through paper and law but rather, a covenant with the Lord.

Marriage was instituted by God

- We read in Genesis that God created them male and female, and blessed them, saying "Increase and multiply, and fill the earth." -Gen.1:27-28.
- It is not good for man to be alone. -Genesis 2:18
- You created Adam and gave him his wife Eve to be his helper and support. They became the parents of the whole human race. You said, 'It is not good for man to live alone. I will make a suitable helper for him. -Tobit 8:6

God created Eve: "Two in one flesh"

But for Adam there was not found a helper like himself. Then the Lord God cast a deep sleep upon Adam: and when he was fast asleep, he took one of his ribs, and filled up flesh for it. And the Lord God built the rib which He took from Adam into a woman and brought her to Adam. And Adam said: This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be two in one flesh. -Gen. II;20-24



Marriage an important Christian rite: A "Great Sacrament"

- Apostle Paul calls marriage "a great sacrament" placing it above others.
- When Christ wished to give a sign of the union that exists between Him and His Church, he chose the sacred union of a married couple. No higher dignity could be attached to any relationship.



Marriage an important Christian rite: A “Great Sacrament”

- Through the sacrament of matrimony, husband and wife receive graces which join them in the bonds of mutual love, aid them to share affection for one another, strengthen them to avoid illicit attachments and passions, fortify them to become worthy parents, and help them to keep their marriage honorable in all things.
- A marriage entered into with such proper dispositions will be blessed in many ways.

Sacramental character of marriage

- Orthodox-Roman Catholic Church: glory and honor of married life in Jesus Christ
- The Lord unites a man and a woman in a life of mutual love: Covenant
- Husband and wife are called by Christ not only to live and work together, but also to share their Christian life empowered by the Holy Spirit to a life of holiness and Christian perfection.
- This relationship between husband and wife is established and sanctified by the Lord.
- Marriage mirrors the union of Christ and the church (Eph. 5:23).
- Sanctity of marriage is a total sharing with each other, seek their own growth in holiness and that of their children, and reflect God’s love and forgiveness on the path to salvation.



Sacrament of marriage: a covenant with God

- A total sharing of a life of love and concern is not possible apart from God.
- God gives the possibility of continual progress in the deepening of human relationships.
- Through the liberating effect of agape love believers are led away from self-centeredness and self-idolatry.
- Our source of sanctification is made possible through the presence of the Spirit of God within them.

Role model of Christ’s redemptive love

- An important witness is given to the world for the love of God in Christ for all people.

Role model of Christ's redemptive love

- To accept as the inner law of their personal relationship that Love determines the relationship between Christ and the church:
- "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25). Through this love which liberates believers from selfish interests and sanctifies their relationships, the Christian husband and wife find the inspiration in turn to minister in loving service to other



What God hath joined together, let no person separate.

- Put God first, Jesus did. He is that integrating force...
- Let God, bind the marriage Sacrament, have His rightful place in the home
- Make peace with Him, and then you can be a real peacemaker in the home.
- Seek God's abundant blessings by seeking His will with a joyful heart!



Illustration:

Pleasurable in the sight of the Lord:
Glorify God



Procreation:

Open to the blessings of
children



Salvation:

Help one another on the
path to salvation

*The Sacred
Covenant of
Marriage:
Three
purposes*

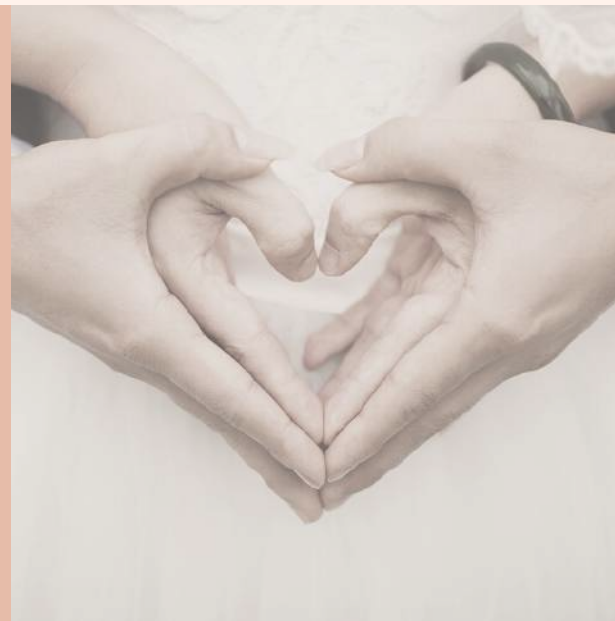


Illustration: Marriage: Love can make it easy.

- Each partner in a truly God-centered marriage is always given graces to help in fulfilling the covenant
- Marriages founded on firm ground will endure in happiness and please God in many ways.
- Love can make it easy, and perfect love can make it a joy.
- Perfect Love has no fear. 1 John 4:18

Procreation: The natural law of sex is procreation

- The Catholic Church teaches that every married couple must remain open to the possibility of life.
- "Openness to life" means that the conception of children through heterosexual conjugal relations
- Contraception violates the design God built into the human race—"natural law."



Procreation: The basic purpose of the God's gift of the sex act

- Intended to offer the possibility of new life while strengthening the bond of intimacy, respect, and love between husband and wife.
- The loving environment this bond creates is the perfect setting for nurturing children.
- But sexual pleasure within marriage becomes unnatural, and even harmful to the spouses when deliberately excludes the basic purpose of sex, which is procreation.
- God's gift of the sex act, along with its pleasure and intimacy is for its natural end-procreation.

- God the Father: Creator
- Jesus the Son: Redeemer
- Holy Spirit: Sanctifier
- The sacrament of matrimony is for the sanctification of the spouses.

Marriage: Sanctification of spouses

Marriage is sanctification

- Marriage and salvation is one and the same thing.
- If your marriage is to thrive, you must have a clear understanding of the mystery of salvation.
- You cannot make known the mystery of the gospel unless the mystery of the gospel is revealed to you by the Holy Spirit.
- In scripture we learn that salvation has been freely given to us by God and that it's not by works lest anyone should boast, but it's the gift of God (see Eph 2:8-9).
- However, we can only get to understand this free gift of salvation through the help of the Holy Spirit of God and not by ourselves. Likewise, marriage is a mystery as recorded in Ephesians:

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:31-33

Biblical similarities between marriage and salvation

- They are both God's ideas and were initiated by Him.
- They are grounded, rooted, centered and driven by love.



God finishes what he begins... He is the potter, we are the clay.

- Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; (Phil 1:6, NKJV, emphasis added)
- Jesus tells His disciples that His food is to do the will of the Father and to finish His work: Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. (Vs. 34, NKJV)

Keep your eyes on the prize!

- Jesus Christ had perfect knowledge of God's plan for humanity even before He came on earth.
- That is why He was able to accomplish it. "Thy will be done."
- Likewise, a man ought to consult the Holy Spirit to reveal to him God's plan for a lady and confirm to him that
- it's God's will for them to be together even before initiating the relationship.
- It's only then that a man will begin the good work of pursuit after a lady and carry it to completion by taking her
- to the altar and spending the rest of their lives together forever.



*Sanctification:
Through the power
of the Spirit of God*

- Let us base our marriage on the love of God, love of children, and the joy of sacrifice.
- A marriage entered into wisely will likely speed a soul toward eternal happiness: Salvation
- Put God first, Jesus did!
- Give God all the glory!