

Ground Rules for this Presentation

1. Everything here is intended to be a part of a message of grace and hope; there is no offense intended and it is my sincere hope that no one take offense.
2. Because of the serious nature of this presentation, please refrain from joking or comedic comments.
3. In order to keep this discussion on topic and coherent, please refrain from asking questions until the end. Should there be time, a Q&A session will follow.
4. We are talking today about ideas and concepts: Let's refrain, today, from applying these ideas to specific situations (such as "my own" past / family / children, etc.)

Human sexuality from Scripture.

1. The Positive Definition: Matthew 19:1-12
Note, this comment is in the context of correcting errant views on marriage and divorce
Marriage takes place between one man and one woman, it is binding as long as both spouses live, it is a bond which supersedes previous bonds (to parents) and it is a bond of "one-fleshness"
One-fleshness is understood as the coital bond – when a man and woman unite that union's natural end is issuing forth one new human from two joined together.
2. Nature or culture: Genesis 2:24-25. The nature of human sexuality is defined in the Garden of Eden, in the time of "man's innocency" Genesis
Note that from the beginning of mankind's existence, human sexuality was defined in relationship to the spouse; Adam is naked and unashamed before his wife, Eve is naked and unashamed before her husband.
Also note the Divine action in bringing the husband and wife together
Also note that this bond is so natural and so innate to humanity that the Hebrew word for woman becomes synonymous for the word for wife.
3. The Sacramental Nature of Marriage: Ephesians 5:32 The great Mystery
Note: In ancient times and even now in portions of the Church the Sacraments are called Mysteries.
The context of this statement is the family, husbands loving wives, wives respecting husbands and those marriages issuing forth in their natural fruit, children who honor their parents.

4. **Sex outside marriage is always and everywhere condemned or shown to be destructive**

Adultery (married person engaging in sex with someone of the opposite sex ((natural)) not the spouse) Fornication (sex between two person of the opposite sex but not married) Incest (sex between any two persons of the opposite sex who are closely related) and Homosexual fornication (sex between any two people of the same sex), Bestiality (sex between a human and an animal) See Leviticus 18.

Note also that child sacrifice (abortion?) falls under the discussion of sexual relations in the priest's manual called Leviticus

Hebrews 13:4: "Let marriage be held honorable among all, and the marriage bed undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral (whoremongers, KJV) and the adulterous." ESV

Key Point: The Biblical view of human sexuality is this: sex is a gift from God for the marriage bed, designed to give mankind the opportunity to fill the earth with children who are to be raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Procreation is fundamental to human sexuality, therefore the Church has always taught that human sex is ordered when it is within marriage and open to life, and disordered when it is outside marriage and / or closed to life.

AND NOTE: those sexual activities which are fundamentally incapable of issuing forth in life (fulfilling the purpose of sex) are sometimes called gravely disordered (bestiality, homosexual acts, pedophilia, etc.)

Human Sexuality from Tradition

1. Tradition is established in Scripture

St. Paul taught, "1 Corinthians 7:8, "I say therefore to the unmarried and the widows, it is good for them to abide even as I." Context, St. Paul is speaking about marriage and celibacy, he being celibate. He teaches the sanctity and goodness of marriage but also raises CHASTITY to the level of spiritual goodness on par with marriage itself.

NOTE: from this established ideal, Tradition has always emphasized Chastity

Two ways to live Chastely: Faithfulness within marriage, or celebrate (sexually inactive) outside marriage.

2. Tertullian's Exhortation to Chastity

"The first species is, virginity from one's birth: the second, virginity from one's second birth, that is, from the font; which (second virginity) either in the marriage state keeps (its subject) pure by mutual compact, or else perseveres in widowhood from choice: a third grade remains, monogamy, when, after the interception of a marriage once contracted, there is thereafter a renunciation of sexual connection. The first virginity is (the virginity) of happiness, (and consists in) total ignorance of that from which you will afterwards wish to be freed: the second, of virtue, (and consists in) contemning that the

power of which you know full well: the remaining species, (that) of marrying no more after the disjunction of matrimony by death, besides being the glory of virtue, is (the glory) of moderation likewise; for moderation is the not regretting a thing which has been taken away, and taken away by the Lord God, without whose will neither does a leaf glide down from a tree, nor a sparrow of one farthing's worth fall to the earth.

3. St. Ambrose: There are three forms of the virtue of chastity: the first is that of spouses, the second that of widows, and the third that of virgins. We do not praise any one of them to the exclusion of the others. . . . This is what makes for the richness of the discipline of the Church.

4. **HOT TOPIC OF THE DAY: What about homosexuality?**

2357 Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity,¹⁴¹ tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."¹⁴² They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

2358 The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, **constitutes for most of them a trial.** They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.

2359 **Homosexual persons are called to chastity.** By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection. (From the CCC, Catechism of the Catholic Church, emphasis mine)

Reason, or Natural Law

Natural Law refers to the laws which apply to rational being, set in place by their Creator, and which may be discovered by any rational creature through the exercise of reason. See R.C. Mortimer Moral Theology

1. What is the body for?

Pope John Paul II's groundbreaking book *Theology of the Body* makes the powerful observation that the human body tells us its function and design, in obvious and profound ways.

The Penis is obviously made for the vagina and vice versa.

The seed is obviously made for the egg

The man's body is obviously made to provide and protect and the woman's body is obviously made to conceive and to bear a human child

When used in ordered fashion, the right use of the body in sex issues forth in health and life.

This is Natural Law demonstrating by health and happiness the positive use of sex in a human body, which is evident to any rational being.

2. *Conversely,*

When the penis (a life-giving organ) is coupled with the anus (which issues only death) as in homosexual or disordered sex, then the outcome is sterility and a dramatically increased chance of disease in the body.

Much of modern science is taken up in trying to prevent or cure diseases related to disordered or gravely disordered sexual behavior. Aids, certainly, but also gonorrhea, syphilis, genital herpes and the resulting cancers, etc. are all diseases which spread only through promiscuous or "disordered" sex.

This is an example of Natural Law meeting our consequences which rational beings can understand demonstrate un-Lawful (un-reasonable) uses of sex in the human body

What of Grace?

I Corinthians 6:9-11

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ **And such were some of you: but ye are washed**, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.