

## **Card-Deal Questions on the Christian Vision of Marriage Answer Key**

1. What are the vows made in the Sacrament of Matrimony?
  - The husband and wife make sacred vows to love and cherish each other until the end of their lives.
2. In what ways are a husband and wife united in love in a marriage?
  - They are united physically, emotionally, and spiritually—body, mind, and heart.
3. How does the Holy Spirit empower the husband and wife in the Sacrament of Matrimony?
  - Through the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, the Holy Spirit empowers the husband and wife to be faithful and committed in their love so that they can be the very image of the love of Jesus Christ.
4. What is the nuptial or unitive meaning of sexuality in a marriage?
  - The nuptial meaning calls husbands and wives into intimate, loving communion; they are called to completely share themselves with each other, with total openness and honesty.
5. What is the procreative or generative meaning of sexuality in a marriage?
  - The generative meaning of the gift of sexuality calls husbands and wives to be open to new life. The physical union they share during sexual intercourse has the purpose of bringing children into the world.
6. Why is premarital sex morally wrong?
  - Premarital sex is morally wrong because people who engage in premarital sex must ignore their body's call to committed love; they are expressing complete commitment and union with their bodies, but they have not vowed that complete commitment in the Sacrament of Matrimony. Premarital sex is also wrong because it risks bringing children into the world without the commitment to raising a family.
7. Why is artificial birth control morally wrong?
  - Artificial birth control blocks the possibility of pregnancy during sexual intercourse and is the rejection of a married couple's call to share in God's power to bring life into the world. It also separates the twofold ends of deepening loving union and bringing new life into the world.
8. Why is natural family planning considered a morally acceptable means of responsibly spacing children in a marriage?
  - Natural family planning emphasizes the union of the couple and their openness to life by engaging in chaste abstinence during a woman's fertile period.
9. What are three means of artificial birth control?
  - Means of artificial birth control include chemical methods, barrier methods, and surgery.
10. What does it mean when the Church declares a marriage officially null?
  - The Church declares a marriage null when it recognizes that a covenantal or sacramental marriage never existed.



11. What is adultery, and why is it a sin against fidelity in a marriage?
  - Adultery occurs when a married person has sex with someone who is not their spouse; it is a sin against the faithful, committed love that God intends to exist between a husband and wife.
12. How does adultery harm the two people committing this sin and others around them?
  - Adultery causes serious emotional and spiritual harm to everyone involved: the married couple, their family, the other person involved in the adulterous relationship, and even the wider community. A married relationship is to be a relationship based in trust and faithfulness, and when one of the spouses is sexually unfaithful, the trust in the relationship is extremely difficult to regain.
13. What is polygamy, and why is it condemned by moral law?
  - Polygamy is the practice of being married to more than one person; it is another form of adultery.
14. Why does Jesus teach that divorce is a sin?
  - Jesus protects the dignity of marriage and also the equal dignity of the sexes by insisting that in God's plan of creation, a husband and wife are permanently bonded in marriage.
15. Why is cohabitation, or living together, a sin against the dignity of marriage?
  - Cohabitation is a sin against the dignity of marriage because the couple lives together as though married without the commitment of a sacramental marriage.
16. Identify one means of artificial conception, and describe why it is morally wrong.
  - Means of artificial conception include in vitro fertilization and artificial insemination. These artificial methods of conception are wrong because children must be the outcome of a loving union of a husband and wife in natural, sexual intercourse.
17. What is surrogate motherhood, and why is it a serious moral offense?
  - Surrogate motherhood requires placing a fertilized ovum in the womb of another woman, who allows the baby to grow inside her. After the surrogate mother gives birth, the newborn infant is given to the biological mother and father who hired the surrogate mother. In surrogate motherhood, the creation of life takes place outside of sexual intercourse between the husband and wife.
18. Name the Church documents, and their authors, that guide us in understanding the purpose of sexuality in marriage.
  - The Church documents include "On Human Life" (*"Humanae Vitae"*), by Pope Paul VI, and *Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation (Donum Vitae)*, published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
19. Which document gives us the Church's first official teaching prohibiting artificial birth control?
  - The document that first prohibited artificial birth control was "On Human Life" (*"Humanae Vitae"*).
20. According to the document *Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation (Donum Vitae)*, what fundamental principle should be at the heart of all moral issues raised by artificial birth control and artificial conception?
  - The fundamental principle is the inestimable value of the gift of life and our responsibility for it.

