

Chapter 11

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *How is the gift of sexuality a reflection of the image of God?*

The gift of sexuality reflects the image of God because the visible reality (physical, emotional, and spiritual union) witnessed in a relationship between a man and a woman reveals an invisible reality: the nature of God himself. The union of a man and a woman reflects the communion of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the primary communion of love that all other earthly communions share.

2. *Explain the two basic meanings of sexuality, according to the theology of the body.*

- According to Pope John Paul II's theology of the body, *sexuality* has two basic meanings: nuptial and generative. The nuptial dimension of sexuality means that God creates men and women to join together and commit to loving each other completely and unconditionally. The nuptial dimension also means that we are called to share God's love with others through our words, action, and touch, whatever our vocation.
- The generative meaning of sexuality refers to its power to produce new life. That is, the gift of sexuality is also oriented toward bringing new life into the world, participating in God's life-giving power. Even those who are not called to have children of their own are called to support the gift of life in other ways.

3. *Give a definition of a chaste person.*

One who is chaste successfully and healthfully integrates sexuality into their total person, leading to an inner union of body and spirit. A chaste person deeply respects the gift of sexuality and resists the temptation to use that gift in ways that hurt themselves or others, even unintentionally.

4. *How can a person maintain purity of heart?*

We can maintain purity of heart by treating our bodies as temples and protecting our sacred inner space, our heart, from impure influences. One way to protect the purity of our hearts is through modesty. When we are modest, we don't let just anyone touch or see our sacred spaces. We have patience with our sexual desires, strive for decency in our words and actions, and avoid clothing and influences that may unnecessarily arouse our own desire or that of others. Modesty is related to temperance, another way to maintain purity of heart, in which we moderate our appetites and passions to achieve balance.

5. *Define fornication, and explain why it is a sin.*

Fornication is sexual intercourse between a man and a woman who are not married. It is a sin against the Sixth Commandment to engage in intercourse outside of marriage. The sinfulness of this act reflects its potentially serious physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences.

6. *Why is pornography a dangerous sexual sin?*

Pornography is a dangerous sexual sin because it violates human dignity by making the gift of sexuality into an object to be exploited. Pornography, even when it is created with the consent of the participants, leads people to lose reverence for the gift of sexuality.



7. *Explain the twofold meaning and purpose of marital sexuality.*

Marital sexuality is meant to be both unitive and procreative. Unitive means that sexual intercourse calls wives and husbands into intimate and loving communion, in which they share themselves completely with each other. Physical union is a visible sign of the emotional and spiritual union that intercourse promotes. Marital sexuality is also procreative because husbands and wives are called to be open to the possibility of new life. The physical union of sexual intercourse is intended to bring children into the world, just as God's love brings all created things into existence.

8. *Why are artificial means of contraception wrong?*

Artificial means of contraception are wrong because they deliberately seek to interfere with the creation of new life as a result of sexual intercourse. A married couple must remain open to procreation whenever they engage in sexual intercourse.

9. *Who is harmed by adultery?*

Adultery causes serious emotional and spiritual harm to everyone involved: the married couple, their family, the other person in the adulterous relationship and that person's family, and the wider community.

10. *Name three artificial means of conception, and explain why they are wrong.*

Three artificial means of conception that are wrong are in vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, and surrogate motherhood. In vitro fertilization is wrong because conception occurs outside the woman's body and then the embryo is implanted in her womb. The Church considers this process to be a moral violation of the dignity of procreation. Artificial insemination, in which sperm are artificially transferred to a woman's womb, is morally wrong because it separates intercourse from the act of procreation. Finally, surrogate motherhood—in which a woman becomes pregnant by artificial means and delivers a child for someone else—is also wrong because it separates intercourse from the act of procreation.

