

Respecting Sexuality

Chapter 44 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the Sixth and Ninth Commandments and how God wants us to conduct ourselves in sexual matters.
- The participants will consider practical ways they intend to follow God's plan for them.

Content Summary

1. Sexuality is about our identities as male or female, which includes our interest in and desire for sexual activity. It is one of life's greatest gifts.
2. The Sixth Commandment—"You shall not commit adultery"—refers to sexual relations between two people when at least one of them is married to another person.
3. The Sixth Commandment also has a deeper meaning: It calls each one of us to be sexually pure, whether we are married or not.
4. God created sexual relationships for two purposes: (1) to make new life and (2) to express the loving union between a husband and a wife.
5. People with a homosexual orientation—a strong sexual attraction to people of the same sex—are children of God. They must be treated with respect and compassion.
6. Before marriage vows are taken, the priest asks the couple if they are entering this marriage freely and without reservation.
7. The married couple must also promise to "accept children lovingly from God" (*Rite of Marriage*).
8. The Ninth Commandment—"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife"—reminds us that we all have a tendency to sin, called concupiscence. In sexual matters, this tendency is called lust, and can become a daily struggle.
9. The virtue of modesty protects our intimate centers. Modesty is reflected in the way we dress, speak, and act. Modesty leads us to purity of heart and to sexual self-respect.

(The quotation in number 10 is from the English translation of the *Rite of Marriage* © 1969, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation [ICEL], number 24, in *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, volume one, prepared by the ICEL, a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences [Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1990]. Copyright © 1990 by the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN.

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