

Jesus' Kingdom of Love

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 16*.

❖ Our sexuality is our maleness or femaleness. Every cell in a man's or woman's body is marked as male or female. Sexuality affects every aspect of our being. Men and women are attracted to each other based in part on the differences in their sexuality.

PAGE 129

❖ In Ephesians 5:25–33, we find that the love of marriage is like Christ's love for his Church. Just as Jesus would never leave us, we are to remain committed to each other in marriage as long as we live.

PAGE 129

❖ God blesses the lifelong commitment in marriage of a Catholic man and woman through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

PAGE 129

❖ Experience of other people and of Christ's love will give you the knowledge, skills, and deep love you need for marriage.

PAGE 130

❖ Through the gift of sex, God lets us share in his own power to create life. This sacred gift is to be revered and protected in marriage. We are not ready for sex until we are free to take on the responsibilities of loving someone for life and being a parent.

PAGE 130

❖ The sexual drive is very powerful. This precious gift can cause serious consequences for those who do not treat it with reverence. Using sex for purposes for which it was not intended is like playing with dynamite. We must learn to control our sexual drive. Jesus understands how difficult it can be and gives us grace to help us.

PAGE 131

❖ The Sixth Commandment tells us not to commit adultery. Adultery is the act of being sexually unfaithful to one's marriage partner. While the Sixth Commandment explicitly forbids adultery, it also forbids anything that violates the sacredness of marriage. The Ninth Commandment tells us that we should not covet our neighbor's wife.

PAGE 131

❖ God wants us to respect sex not only in our words and actions, but also in our thoughts and desires.

PAGE 131

❖ The Sixth and Ninth Commandments call us to practice the virtue of chastity. Someone who is chaste shows reverence for sex. For married people, practicing chastity means being faithful to one's partner. For unmarried people, it means forgoing sex until marriage.

PAGE 132

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