

Male and Female, God Created Them: The Body, Gender, and Marriage in the Teaching of Christ

Third Night: The Nature of Marriage

1. Recap of First Night: The Goodness of the Body - Sacred Scripture reveals that the human body is the directive creative work of a holy Creator, that in the Incarnation the divine Son of God assumed a human body from the Blessed Virgin Mary, that in that body he rose again from the dead, and will on the last day raise our bodies to everlasting life. God has therefore bestowed on the human body an intrinsic dignity, sanctity, and goodness.

Recap of Second Night:

2.

<u>Our Culture's Understanding of the Body</u>	<u>The Christian Understanding of the Body</u>
Body-Self Dualism - The real person or self is the soul, which uses the body as its instrument. The physical body is non-personal, extraneous to an individual's personhood and identity.	Wholistic Anthropology - Human beings are composite creatures made up of body and soul. The body is personal, an integral aspect of the fullness of the human being.

3.

<u>Gender in LBGTQ+ Ideology</u>	<u>Gender in Christian Teaching</u>
1. Non-Bodily – bodily unrelated to anatomy	1. Bodily – a bodily and visible reality
2. Non-Binary – hundreds of genders	2. Binary – male or female
3. Mutable – may change over time	3. Immutable – constant over time
4. Temporary – the body ends in death	4. Eternal – the body will be raised to life
LGBTQ+ Maxim: 'Biology is not destiny'	Bible: a crucial aspect of the human person

4. **Mark 10:2-10** ²And Pharisees came to him and were asking him if it is permissible for a man to divorce his wife, putting him to the test. ³And he answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴And they said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and divorce his wife." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this command. ⁶But from the beginning of creation 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So then they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has yoked together, a human being must not separate." ¹⁰And in the house the disciples were asking him again about this. ¹¹And he says to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another is committing

adultery against her, ¹²and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another, she is committing adultery.”

5. Ephesians 5:25, 31-32 ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. . . . ³¹“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is great—but I am speaking of Christ and the church.

6.

<u>Marriage in our Contemporary Culture and in LGBTQ+ Ideology</u> – a relationship of emotional intimacy unrelated to gender, procreation, or children	<u>Marriage in Christian Teaching</u> – a unique and permanent covenant between a man and a woman, ordered to the procreation and care of children
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<u>Marriage in Divine Revelation</u>	<u>Marriage in Reason & Science (Natural Law)</u>
1. Unitive Dimension – union of persons (Indissolubility)	1. Sexual Dimorphism – bodily and binary
Violations of 1: extramarital sex, pornography, divorce & remarriage	2. Procreative Purpose – one organism
2. Procreative Dimension – ordered to family	3. Unitive Purpose – basis of the stable family
Violation of 2: artificial contraception	

8. Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae* 8: “Marriage, then, is the wise and provident institution of God the Creator [in which] husband and wife, through that mutual gift of themselves, which is specific and exclusive to them alone, develop that union of two persons in which they perfect one another, cooperating with God in the generation and rearing of new lives. The marriage of those who have been baptized is, in addition, invested with the dignity of a sacramental sign of grace, for it represents the union of Christ and His Church.”

9. Romans 1:24-27 ²⁴For this reason God delivered them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to dishonor their bodies with each other, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever, amen. ²⁶For this reason God delivered them up to dishonorable passions, for their women exchanged natural relations for relations contrary to nature. ²⁷Likewise the men, leaving natural relations with women, were inflamed in their desires for one another, men with men working that which is shameful, and receiving in their own persons the due retribution for their error.

10. G.K. Chesterton: “The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and an order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.”

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