

## Why I Am Catholic

### The Sanctity of Sex

No other church or denomination defends the issue in the same way we do. From the protection of marriage to the preservation of personal purity and chastity, we are the most consistent and comprehensive voice.

The church teaches that sex is a gift from God for the procreation of children and the unity of married couples. Outside of marriage, there is a misuse of sex for personal gratification that includes a lack of personal responsibility and a lack of self-control. It also involves "using another person which leads to other relational problems and over time damages and destroys relationships. This may also happen in some marriages, but is not what is intended by God.

Pre-marital sex is a selfish, self-centered action that is based on lust and pride and a lack of self-control. It is a physical action devoid of its spiritual roots and meaning. It is a rejection of God's plan for sex and is a choosing to keep God out of that part of a relationship. Sex outside of marriage is always morally wrong and does not build up love.

Sex in a marriage is holy and builds up love and unity between a married couple. Sex is for marriage and for the procreation of children. Using artificial birth control further rejects God's plan for sex, and further separates it from its spiritual foundation.

Sex requires maturity, responsibility and reverence for it is sacred! It is the power to create. It gives life.

Pre-marital sex is a form of adultery. It is a violation of one's baptismal promises and a breaking of the commandments. It is cheating on one's future spouse. Even if those two people marry, it is always "cheating" on God - adultery against the marriage covenant. It is also a form of idolatry as two people put themselves before God.

More than 50% of children born in the US are born out of wedlock. More than 70% of couples who love together before marriage end up divorced. They also have a higher rate of adultery. "This is the will of God, your holiness: that you refrain from immorality, that each of you know how to acquire a wife for himself in holiness and honor, not in lustful passion as do the Gentiles who do not know God; not to take advantage of or exploit a brother in this matter, for the Lord is un-avenger in all these things... For God did not call us to impurity but to holiness." (1 Thess 4:3-7)