

## Chastity is Possible!

Isn't it amazing how so many people love to say that chastity is just not possible! They like to believe that high standards, integrity and moral character are not feasible in today's world. They want us to think that God and His grace no longer exist. I guess if we watch enough television and see enough movies, we might be prone to believing these lies. What a shame that our young people are growing up in a world that degrades them and their gift of sexuality. It tears me up to hear adults say, "Well, they are going to do it anyway, so they just need to be safe." What on earth does that mean? Do these adults actually believe that contraception is going to make immoral sexual behavior "safe"? Do they think there are no consequences to this behavior as long as some chemical or latex attempts to distort its meaning and purpose? Do they think that latex and chemicals can really prevent all the horrible diseases? Do they think that a person's heart and soul are not affected by the most intimate of all human acts? Do they think that it really doesn't matter what anyone does? Do they think God was kidding about sexual morality, purity and love?

God designed a perfectly "safe" way for men and women to give the gift of themselves and celebrate their love for one another in marriage. It's a very holy and sacred thing, and it is called the marriage act. That word marriage is the key word because without it, people are simply engaging in immoral sexual activity. God doesn't make things hard for us. He really makes things pretty clear, and His directions are not ambiguous or confusing. He talked about a man leaving his father and mother and clinging to his wife and the two becoming one flesh. That's about the lifetime commitment of marriage and the foundation for the family. He commanded that man and woman to be fruitful and multiply and to have dominion over the animals. God evidently likes creating new souls with unique gifts to bless the world around us, and He wants us to know that we were better than the animals. God created us in His own image and likeness. We are not animals. We have an intellect and a will. Human persons can decide to do what is right. We are not controlled by our emotions and feelings or by some animalistic instinct. We are made from God's love and we are made to love. Love is always unselfish. Love never uses another person. Love demands chastity.

So, we probably need to be talking a lot more about love - real, authentic, unselfish human love, the kind of love God created us to have. But, people don't like to talk about love because it is so misunderstood. It's easier to talk about sex and call it love. Many people, both young and old, use each other every day in the name of

love, but maybe it should be in the name of lust instead. No one should ever be used., and certainly not in the name of love. Love requires sacrifice. Just look at Jesus on the cross giving the total and complete gift of Himself for our good....because He truly loves each one of us.

Love requires chastity and self-mastery. We are not slaves to sexual desires and lust, but we certainly need God and His grace and constant help to live a life of virtue. Chastity is God's special help that enables us to truly love and to live with sexual purity. Chastity always protects our gift of sexuality and honors us as a person who deserves to be loved. Chastity is simply respecting our sexuality and living our lives the way God intended for our state in life. If we are not married, that means we are not entitled to sexual activity. If we are married, that means total sexual faithfulness to one's spouse.

Most young people want to be loved and to know that they are worthwhile and that God has created them for a purpose. They want to have hope, and they need their parents to give it to them. They also need their parents to be excellent examples to them. Children do listen to their parents even when they pretend that they don't. So, if you have children, please don't be afraid to be their parents. Talk to them. Listen to them. Love them and then love them some more. If you are a dad and you have daughters, please be the best daddy you can be to those girls. They need you so much to assure them that they are worthwhile, cherished and loved. If they don't get that from you, they may be looking to the young boys in their lives to provide it. Moms, help your sons understand how important it is to have respect for the women in their lives. Help them to understand that being a man entails a lot more than just having raging hormones. Help them learn to respect themselves so they can have respect for others. Help them to grow up to be real men.

Talk to your children about the virtues especially the virtue of chastity. Teach them that chastity always respects, always protects and always cherishes the person. Chastity is not always easy but it is always possible with God's help. Never believe anyone who tells you differently. Please don't sell your children short. They don't need contraception. They want and need to know the truth that comes so clearly from God. Chastity is possible!

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