

What does it mean to marry in the Church?



PRAY

My Lord and my God!

You enjoyed creating mankind as male and female, and you bring them together in love. Let us men discover in our small, earthly love the eternity and mightiness of your divine love. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read YOUCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#YOUCATChallenge: Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.



Mt 19:6

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.

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What is necessary for a Christian, sacramental marriage?

A sacramental marriage has three necessary elements: (a) free consent, (b) the affirmation of a life- long, exclusive union, and (c) openness to children. The most profound thing about a Christian marriage, however, is the couple's knowledge: "We are a living image of the love between Christ and the Church." [1644–1654, 1664]

The requirement of unity and indissolubility is directed in the first place against polygamy, which Christianity views as a fundamental offense against charity and human rights; it is also directed against what could be called "successive polygamy", a series of non-binding love affairs that never arrive at one, great, irrevocable commitment. The requirement of marital fidelity entails a willingness to enter a lifelong union, which excludes affairs outside the marriage. The requirement of openness to fertility means that the Christian married couple are willing to accept any children that God may send them. Couples who remain childless are called by God to become "fruitful" in some other way. A marriage in which one of these elements is excluded at the marriage ceremony is not valid.

1. What are the three elements necessary to a sacramental marriage, and why are they so important?
2. What is the difference between love and "falling in love"?
3. A married couple should be a living depiction of the love between Christ and the Church. What does this mean?
4. How can a married couple be fruitful in family and society?

Ask your parents why they got married and how they prepared for it. If they are not married (divorced or separated), talk to your mother or your father about their story, and about their wounds as well.

Do you accept this challenge?

What does it mean to marry in the Church?



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