

# **6<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

## **“You shall not commit adultery”**

### **(CCC 2331-2400)**

1. **Sexuality**
  - all aspects of human person
  - body and soul (unity)
  - difference/complementarity
  - union of man and woman – imitates Creator’s generosity and fecundity
  - Jesus came to restore creation to purity of origins (Mt. 5:27-28)
  - Church understands 6<sup>th</sup> commandment as encompassing all of human sexuality
2. **Chastity**
  - the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily or spiritual being
  - Integrity of Person/Integrity of Gift
  - moral virtue and a grace
3. **Integrity of Person**
  - opposes any behaviour that opposes integrity of person
  - we must work toward **self-mastery** –lifelong, difficult work, never fully achieved – gain self-mastery through self-knowledge, asceticism, obedience to commandments, moral virtues, prayer
  - Cultural and Personal effort – respect rights of person, education that respects moral and spiritual dimensions of human life
4. **Integrity of Gift of Self**
  - Charity is form of all virtues – served by chastity
  - friendship – imitate Christ’s friendship – made total gift of himself
5. **Forms of Chastity**
  - depends on state of life –conjugal chastity for married; continence for single and celibate – continence for engaged couples
8. **Offences against Chastity**
  - Lust (disordered desire for or inordinate enjoyment of sexual pleasure; disordered when severed from procreative and unitive purpose)
  - Masturbation, Fornication, Pornography, Prostitution, Rape
  - Homosexuality (CCC 2357-2359)
9. **Love of Husband and Wife**
  - gift of person
  - fidelity, fecundity (every act ordered to procreation; birth control vs. self-control), gift of a child (children not owed but are a gift – in vitro not licit)
10. **Offences against Marriage**
  - adultery, divorce, polygamy, incest, free union

## 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment (CCC 2514-2533)

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's. (Ex. 20:17)

Every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mt. 5:28)

### Covetousness or Concupiscence

-**concupiscence** - the movement of the sensitive appetite contrary to the operation of the human reason (CCC 2515) (“flesh” against the “Spirit”) – inclines us to commit sin

-“flesh” is not to be understood as the body in this sense, but as our concupiscent nature or desire

**"Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication...." (Mt. 15:19)**

-therefore, we strive to purify our hearts and practice temperance

-“Pure in heart” refers to those who have attuned their intellects and wills to the demands of God's holiness, chiefly in three areas: charity; chastity or sexual rectitude; love of truth and orthodoxy of faith. (CCC 2518)

-purity of heart is the precondition to see God and to see others as He sees them

### Battle for Purity

With God's grace we prevail through:

- by the virtue and gift of chastity, for chastity lets us love with upright and undivided heart;

- by purity of intention which consists in seeking the true end of man: with simplicity of vision, the baptized person seeks to find and to fulfill God's will in everything;

- by purity of vision, external and internal; by discipline of feelings and imagination; by refusing all complicity in impure thoughts that incline us to turn aside from the path of God's commandments: "Appearance arouses yearning in fools";

- by prayer (CCC 2520)

-requires **modesty** – protects intimate center of the person

-discretion, silence or reserve, decency

-teaching modesty awakens respect for the human person