

Study Guide: Sacrament of the Matrimony

To study the topic of the Sacrament of Matrimony, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. The Catechism says that “marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone...”. Why not? (CCC 1603)
2. How does the Catechism understand the term “helpmate”? (CCC 1605)
3. What is the *root cause* of disorder in marriage? (CCC 1537-1538)
4. What does the Old Testament teach Christians about marriage, particularly in the context of *covenant*? (CCC 1609-1611)
5. How does the New Testament make clear the indissoluble nature of marriage? Why is marriage a mystery that refers to Christ and the Church? (CCC 1612-1617)
6. In the Latin Rite, when is Matrimony usually celebrated? Who is the minister of Matrimony? How should spouses prepare for this sacrament? (CCC 1621-1624, 1632)
7. What is the importance of free consent? What makes consent free? Define what *consent* means. (CCC 1625-1629)

8. Even though the spouses minister the sacrament to each other, the Church requires the presence of a priest or deacon to express “the fact that marriage is an ecclesial reality.” What does that mean? List the reasons for requiring “ecclesiastical form” for this sacrament. (CCC 1630-1631)

9. The Catechism says that “the Church does not have the power” to make marriage temporary or dissolvable. Why not? (CCC 1639-1640)

10. What does it mean to say (with Pope John Paul II) that “conjugal love involves a totality”? What does it demand? Why does polygamy contradict that totality? (CCC 1643-1645, 2364-2365, 2380-2381)

11. What does the Catechism say about *separation* and *civil divorce*? If a person is divorced and remarried, how can he or she remain Catholic? (CCC 1648-1651, 2382-2386)

12. How does the Catechism define chastity *within* marriage? What are some of the sins against chastity, in or out of marriage? (CCC 2349, 2351-2356, 2388-2389)

13. What are the functions of sexual expression in marriage? (CCC 2360-2365)

14. How may couples regulate the births of their children? How may they not regulate them? (CCC 2366-2372)

15. What does the Catechism say about infertility and efforts to overcome it by technological means? (CCC 2373-2379)