

4th Sunday of Easter

Exodus 20: 1 - 17 VI. You shall not commit adultery	Deuteronomy 5: 6 - 21 VI. You shall not commit adultery
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Today will be our last look at the Sixth Commandment. Hopefully, we realize that there is much more to learn. The important lessons are the ideas of friendship and commitment. We also learned that many of our childhood behaviors can predispose us to the sin of adultery. These childhood behaviors may not have been sinful but they were capable of becoming an addiction. Next week we will begin to study the Seventh Commandment. What is the Seventh Commandment?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being." (See §2392) This quote is found in the part of the Catechism that teaches about the Sixth Commandment. This quote comes from St. John Paul II in his writings on The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World. Love is fundamental. We might better understand the word foundational. Love forms the very core of our being. In other words, we cannot avoid the need to love and be loved. Love is a vocation. We might better understand the words commitment and journey. We gradually grow in our understanding of love and in our being a source of love. The word 'innate' means that love begins to be part of our life at the moment of conception. Better is to say that love is conception. This last statement can help us understand the sin of adultery. New life belongs to the Sacrament of Matrimony. Yet, our sin can also bring about a new life. The Catechism has a teaching on the Sixth Commandment that is truly of sign of contradiction in our society: "The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin and excludes one from sacramental communion." (See §2391) "Adultery is an injustice." To whom is the injustice? "Adultery refers to marital infidelity." (See §2380 and §2381) "The prophets see adultery as an image of the sin of idolatry." (See §2380) We must wonder how the sacrament of marriage suffers so many abuses today. Our need for love and to be loving requires a need for patience and hope. Likewise, we must separate the experience of pleasure from the definition of love. Love of another does have pleasure. But seeking pleasure as a goal removes love as the goal. Food for thought!