

THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS ON MARRIAGE

- Marriage is a covenant
- Marriage is a contract
- Marriage is a community
- Marriage is a partnership
- Marriage is a family

MARRIAGE AS A COVENANT

A covenant is a Sacred agreement between two people that raises the understanding of marriage to a more spiritual dimension.

It is an agreement between God and his people in which God makes certain promises to them and requires certain behaviour from them in return.

MARRIAGE AS A CONTRACT

A contract is an agreement between two or more people to do, or refrain from doing, a particular thing in exchange for something of value.

In marriage you contract to love each other and no one else for the duration of the contract.

MARRIAGE AND COMMUNITY

A Catholic marriage exists within a community and never in isolation. By being part of this community, a couple's love will be protected and supported through the Eucharist and by other couples within the Church.

MARRIAGE AND PARTNERSHIP

A partnership is a relationship between two people characterised by mutual cooperation for the achievement of specific goals or aims.



In marriage, these goals are often the creation of a family, the personal development of the partner and the goal of happiness and contentment which each hopes marriage will bring.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage provides us with the fundamental unit group of society, where children learn the values and morals that make them fully-rounded human beings.

The Church has a special regard for couples who are open to God's plan for children and offers them its support.

Each marriage is a reflection of God's love for His own family, The Church.

WHY IS DIVORCE BANNED IN THE CHURCH?

MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS

"A man and a woman, who by the marriage covenant of conjugal love 'are no longer two, but one flesh' (Mt 19:6), render mutual help and service to each other through an intimate union of their persons and of their actions ... Christian spouses have a special sacrament by which they are fortified and receive a kind of consecration in the duties and dignity of their state."(GAUDIUM ET SPES, 48)

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

MARRIAGE IS A SACRAMENT

Marriage is a Sacrament. This means that it is an action of Jesus Christ in the Church. The Sacraments are ritual signs which give grace or love to the person who receives them.

At your marriage, you will exchange vows with each other. This exchange of vows is a sign



of the work of Jesus Christ who joins you in the unbreakable bond of marriage. You give the Sacrament to each other.

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

- Baptism, to welcome you into the Church, to give you enlightenment and remove the stain of Original Sin. The Church does not believe in Adam and Eve, they were just a story of how Man picked up Original Sin. The bible is a mixture of History and Story.
- Reconciliation-to restore harmony in your relationship with God.
- Communion-receiving God's greatest gift to Man-His only Son, creates a greater sense of relationship with God.
- Confirmation-where God sends His Holy Spirit to guide you in your Christian life. The Holy Spirit is thought to be the result of God's loving Jesus so much that their Love created a new being.
- Marriage, where God gives you another human being to support, cherish and love you throughout your Life
- Holy Orders, God's gift to those who to devote themselves entirely to serving His will
- Last Rites, where God sends you a blessing to heal your soul from the fear of death and make crossing over to His Kingdom a more peaceful journey.

INTER-FAITH MARRIAGES

Catholics and Protestants share many of the same fundamental beliefs about Christ. We differ about the idea of praying to Mary and saints, allowing Divorce and how we view the Eucharist.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

A Catholic who gets a divorce and remarries can only receive the Eucharist on the condition that they have a non-sexual relationship with their new husband or wife.

Catholics are recommended to attend confession once a month. Protestants don't see the



need to tell a priest what they're sorry for, they just tell God directly by themselves. Their God forgives them automatically.

YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

Not every wedding has to include a Mass but can simply include a blessing ceremony.

Make the ceremony as honest and as real for yourselves as possible. Don't feel like you have to be over-religious just to please older relatives!

The priest is more of a witness to the blessing rather than actually performing it, as he would in Baptism.

Start your wedding booklet early and choose your readings carefully. Avoid St. Paul's reading- "Wives be to your husbands, as slaves are to their masters" (unless lads you can sneak it in).

