

Group 5 Discussion

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Topic: Human Sexuality

Topic	How would you explain this to a friend?	What questions do you have?
Pornography • Pornography refers to books, magazines, pictures and films that are designed to cause sexual excitement by showing naked people or referring to sexual acts (Collin's dictionary). • Pornography separates the close personal relationship between partners from the sexual acts in order to display them deliberately to others. • It makes the sexual act, which is about the complete giving of husband and wife to each other, into something immoral for entertainment and for making money. This applies to those who are not married too, as Jesus warned us that by looking at another human person with lust we are already committing adultery with them in our hearts (cf. Matthew 5: 28). • It hurts the dignity of the participants (actors, sellers, those watching), since each one becomes an object of sexual pleasure and money-making for others. It completely involves all of them in the illusion of a fantasy world. (CCC 2354)		

• There also links between the pornographic industry and human trafficking, further highlighting pornography as a sin against human dignity. You may wish to refer to a study conducted by the U.S. Family Research Council https://www.frc.org/porntraffickingabortion		
Sex outside marriage • Premarital sex refers to sex between unmarried persons. • Premarital sex hurts the dignity of humanity because our sexuality is a gift from God designed exclusively for husbands and wives as they give of themselves completely to each other and for the procreation of children. • It can damage one's understanding of sexuality and lead to further sin. (CCC 2353) • The only "relationship of love" that makes sexual intercourse acceptable is a marital one. • In its Declaration on Certain Problems of Sexual Ethics, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed traditional Catholic teaching on the subject of sexual relations outside marriage: Nowadays many claim the right to sexual intercourse before marriage, at least for those who have a firm intention of marrying and whose love for one another, already conjugal as it were, is deemed to demand this as its natural outcome . . . This opinion is contrary to Christian teaching,	I think that it may be hard to explain such a sensitive topic to my friends. Nowadays, the idea of premarital sex is normalised and people see it as a form of getting to better know and understand the other party. However, premarital sex potentially damages the relationship and cause many disagreements between the couple and their family members.	

which asserts that sexual intercourse may take place only within marriage. (7) More resources https://chastity.com/ga/category/how-far-is-too-far/		
Prostitution • Prostitution means having sex with people in exchange for money (Collin's dictionary). • Prostitution hurts the dignity of the person involved as it reduces the person to an object of sexual pleasure. • The one paying for prostitutes also hurts him/herself as he/she offends his/her body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. • Prostitution is a social sin as it involves and affects families and society as a whole. • While it is always gravely sinful to engage in prostitution, we also believe that God is merciful to those who are forced into it because of poverty, blackmail, or social pressure. (CCC 2355)		
Contraceptives • In marriage, sexual union achieves two purposes: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life. (CCC 2360-2363) • Since the sexual act can naturally lead to pregnancy, every sexual act must remain open to the procreation of new life. (CCC 2366) • On the other hand, contraception tries to make procreation impossible. (CCC 2370) • It is a contradiction in marriage to use contraceptives because on the one hand, the	Generally, we're against contraceptives, as it is an indication that the couple not using contraceptives are not open to the idea of sexual intercourse (which may result in pregnancy) in marriage. that's not what God intended for us. God created sex for us. it's a gift, and by using contraceptives, it's basically showing that we don't appreciate this wonderful gift.	what about the dangers of STDs? :P

sexual act is an expression of spouses giving themselves totally to each other and on the other hand, with contraceptives, it is not true. • Couples who use contraceptives are deliberately refusing to be open to life as well as falsifying what marital sexual union really is about. (CCC 2370) • It is not immoral for couples to choose to space out their children by observing their natural body processes e.g. knowing when they are fertile or infertile. However, couples must make certain that their desire is not motivated by selfishness but out of responsible parenthood. (CCC 2368) More resources at https://chastity.com/ga/category/birth-control/		
Masturbation • Masturbation is the deliberate stimulation of the genital organs in order to derive sexual pleasure. • The deliberate use of the sexual organs, for whatever reason, outside of marriage is essentially against the purpose for which they were made. • It hurts the dignity of the person as sexual pleasure is separated from the sexual act between husband and wife where mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love is achieved. (CCC 2352) • Masturbation often goes hand in hand with pornography, which leads to the objectification of another human being (reducing a person into a tool to be used rather than to be loved).		

More resources at https://chastity.com/qa/category/pornography/		
Homosexuality • Firstly, we need to determine what is meant by “homosexual”. • If a person is attracted to another person of the same gender, then it is called same-sex attraction (SSA). SSA by itself is not a sin. • However, if a person were to act on his/her SSA in a lustful way, through sexual activities, masturbation, pornography, and anything that does not create life, then these acts are sinful. • The same standards apply to someone who is attracted to the opposite gender: the acts mentioned above are sinful in their case as well. • When a person with SSA acts on it and engages in sexual activities as stated earlier, they engage in homosexual acts. • The Church teaches that homosexual acts are not approved (CCC 2357). Our sexual organs are designed for specific purposes. “...in the order of creation, men and women are designed to need each other’s complementary traits and to enter into a mutual relationship so as to give life to children.” (YouCat #65) • However, the Church understands that most people with SSA find their situation to be a trial. The Catechism states that those with SSA need to be treated “with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons	It will be extremely hard to explain this topic to my friends as many of them may have different point of views and might stick to their opinions and refuse to give a thought to mine. However, to begin, i can tell them like liking another person of the same sex is not wrong and is not their fault. It is not a sin. Its just that when that relationship takes into a "sexual" turn, the church does not approve of that because it does not fulfill the purpose of God's gift of procreating. In my opinion, I would just remain quiet about this topic as I feel that it is unnecessary to be talked about. I may not support this cause, but i don't criticize those who are homosexual too. I would just keep my opinions to myself and let others be who they are as I don't have the right to talk about their feelings and action. This is just a thought that popped up in my head :)	-

are called to fulfil God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.” (CCC 2358) • We should help people with SSA to practice chastity (CCC 2359), same as those who are attracted to the opposite sex. More resources https://chastity.com/qa/category/homosexuality/		
Summary • If you feel that any of these is/are ok while the rest are not, then you are practicing double standards because they are all against God’s plan for us. • God loves all of us and wants us all to be truly happy. In His plan, God created us in His image and likeness; He created us male and female. He created our bodies and our desires for the purpose of building God’s Kingdom of peace and happiness. • But sin distorts God’s plan and may lead us to use our bodies and desires in a way that is against God’s plan, and ultimately does not lead to true peace and happiness. • As Christians, we are called to Chastity, which is about using our bodies and desires in accordance with God’s plan. Whether you are married or single, have SSA or are attracted to the opposite sex (heterosexual), you are called to Chastity, which leads us to true freedom and happiness. • It is not easy but the Good News is, God is with		

us! God can give us all the graces we need to live chastely, we can draw upon His graces in the Sacraments, especially Eucharist and Reconciliation. • Other ways that are helpful is staying close to God in prayer and reflecting on Scripture. Being in a community of like-minded Christians who pray for and support each other is also very helpful		
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