

The Sacrament of Marriage

1. What is a sacrament? *See* CCC ¶ 1131.

2. Which sacrament must be received first? *See* CCC ¶ 1213.

3. What kind of grace, necessary for our salvation, is gifted to us in the first sacrament? CCC ¶ 1266.

4. What is the Catechism definition of *original sin*? CCC ¶ 405.

5. How can we lose the gift of sanctifying grace? CCC ¶ 1861.

6. What are the three elements of mortal sin? CCC ¶¶ 1857-59.
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7. How does a person escape from the state of mortal sin and regain the gift of sanctifying grace? *See* CCC ¶ 1856.

8. Which sacrament must we especially take care to avoid receiving when we are conscious of being in a state of mortal sin? CCC ¶ 1415.

9. How did God begin to reveal His sacramental plan for marriage in the Old Testament? See CCC ¶ 1611.

10. If Christ instituted all the sacraments – when did He institute marriage as a sacrament? CCC ¶¶ 1613–14.

11. Was marriage a sacrament from the beginning of the Church, or was that just a medieval invention?

12. Every sacrament has a prescribed form, prescribed matter, and a prescribed minister. What are they for marriage? See Rev. James Socias, *The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ* 191–92 (Midwest Theological Forum 2009).

Form:

Matter:

Minister:

13. What special graces are associated with the sacrament of marriage? CCC ¶ 1661.

The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved His Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life.

14. What are the three other main “formal” requirements of a Catholic sacramental wedding under the Church’s canon law? CCL 1108, 1118.

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15. What is the consequence if a Catholic ignores the requirements of the canon and marries, as we say, “outside the Church”? See CCC ¶ 1650; John Trigilio, Jr. & Kenneth Brighenti, *Catholicism for Dummies* 132 (2d ed. 2012).

16. What is a convalidation? See *Catholicism for Dummies* 128–29, 131–32.

17. What are the three intentions necessary for a valid sacramental marriage? CCC ¶ 1643; *Catholicism for Dummies* 126.

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18. How can we say that a valid marriage is permanent and indissoluble in the face of the reality of divorce?

19. Is divorce always sinful? CCC ¶ 2386.

20. Why does the Church teach that divorce is impermissible despite the “exception clause” Jesus adds in Matthew 5:31–32 and 19:1–12? Let’s explore the historical context of Jesus’ teaching and three Catholic theories that have developed to explain His meaning.

21. What is a “declaration of nullity”? *The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ* 197; John A. Hardon, *Pocket Catholic Dictionary* 104 (1985).

22. What are some general categories of reasons that might make a marriage invalid from the start, thus justifying a declaration of nullity? See *The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ* 190; John Trigilio, Jr. & Kenneth Brighenti, *The Catholicism Answer Book: The 300 Most Frequently Asked Questions* 141–42 (2007).

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23. What happens if and when a declaration of nullity is granted?

24. What are “pre-Cana classes”?

25. What is a “mixed marriage”? CCC ¶ 1635.

26. What do we call it when a Catholic marries a non-baptized person? CCC ¶ 1635.

27. “Does my non-Catholic spouse-to-be have to promise to raise our children Catholic?” CCC ¶ 1635.

28. For Catholic teaching on “same-sex marriage,” you can google the statement by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: *Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions* (2003).