

# Living the Truth: Chapter 51

## Matrimony

Rev. C. P. Bowler S.M., M.A.

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# Outline

- 1 What is Matrimony
  - Definition
  - Why a Sacrament
- 2 Properties.
  - Unity
  - Indissolubility
- 3 Conditions
  - Impediments
  - Licit
  - Valid
- 4 Mixed Marriages
- 5 Duties

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# What Matrimony Is.

- Sex: Expression of reverence and friendship. A sharing in God's creative act.
- Regulated by marriage.
- A contract: Right given and accepted.
- Why special: Concerns persons. Established by God. A sacrament, if both parties are baptised.

## Causes.

- Efficient: Consent expressed externally.
- Formal: Life-long bond.
- Material: Man and woman.
- Final:
  - 1 Generation and education of children.
  - 2 Benefits of the home life.

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## Why a Sacrament.

- Scripture. St. Paul. Union like that of Christ and the Church.
- Tradition. Early Fathers.
- Definition by Council of Trent.

# Analysis

- Matter and Form: the consent.
- Sign only: the consent. Thing and Sign: the bond as sacred.
- Thing only: grace given all through life.
- Ministers: the man and the woman.



## When a sacrament

Marriage, as we have said, is necessarily a sacrament, provided **both** parties have been baptised. If **only one** of them has been baptised, there is no sacrament.

- Why administered during Mass.

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# Unity.

- Polyandry forbidden by the natural law. Why.
- Polygamy forbidden by the natural law. Why.

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# Indissolubility.

- Christ's teaching forbidding divorce.
- The Church's life-long fight against divorce.
- The Natural Law forbids any merely human power to grant divorce, because:
  - It is opposed to the good of the children.
  - It is opposed to the good of the husband and wife.
  - It is opposed to the good of the state.
- Separation allowed at times.

## Exceptions Made By God.

- Marriage between two baptised.
  - Papal dispensation
  - solemn religious profession
- Marriage between two unbaptised.
  - Papal dispensation
  - solemn religious profession
  - Pauline privilege
- Marriage between a baptised and a non-baptised.
  - Papal dispensation
  - solemn religious profession

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# Impediments.

- **Diriment.** (makes the marriage invalid)
- **Prohibitive.** (makes the marriage illicit)
- Dispensations.
- Banns.



## Diriment Impediments

- **Age** — males 16, females 14
- **A Bond** arising from a previous marriage.
- **Diversity of Religion.** One of the parties is not baptised.
- **Holy Orders.**
- **Solemn Religious Profession.**
- **Consanguinity** or relationship by blood.
- **Affinity** or relationship by marriage.
- **Spiritual Relationship** arising from baptism.
- **Abduction.**
- **Legal adoption**

# Prohibitive Impediments

Requires a dispensation, otherwise can make a marriage illicit (i.e. sinful.)

- Simple Vows
- Mixed Marriage

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## For Licity.

- The parties must be in a state of grace.
- They must be free from any impediments.
- They must be sufficiently instructed in their religion.
- They must observe the precepts laid down by the Church for the due celebration of marriage.

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## For Validity.

- The parties must be free from diriment impediments.
- They must freely consent to the marriage.
- If Catholics, they must normally be married before the Parish Priest, or the Bishop, or a priest delegated by either of these; and two witnesses.

## Why The Church Forbids Mixed Marriages.

- Fundamental division between husband and wife.
- Danger of separation or divorce.
- Danger of perversion.
- Impossibility of rightly educating the children.
- Dissension concerning vocations.
- Dissension concerning moral matters.

## Duties of Parents Towards Children.

- Children belong to them, not to the state.
- Duty and right to educate them.
- Why Catholic schools are necessary.
- Need of home training. Value of a large family.



## Duties of Children Towards Parents.

- Love, respect, obedience.
- Foundations of these.
- Example of Christ at Nazareth.
- Need of self-denial and self-control.