

EVERYTHING YOU FORGOT FROM CCD

Session 5 - Fall 2010

St. Raymond's Roman Catholic Church

THE OBJECTIVE...

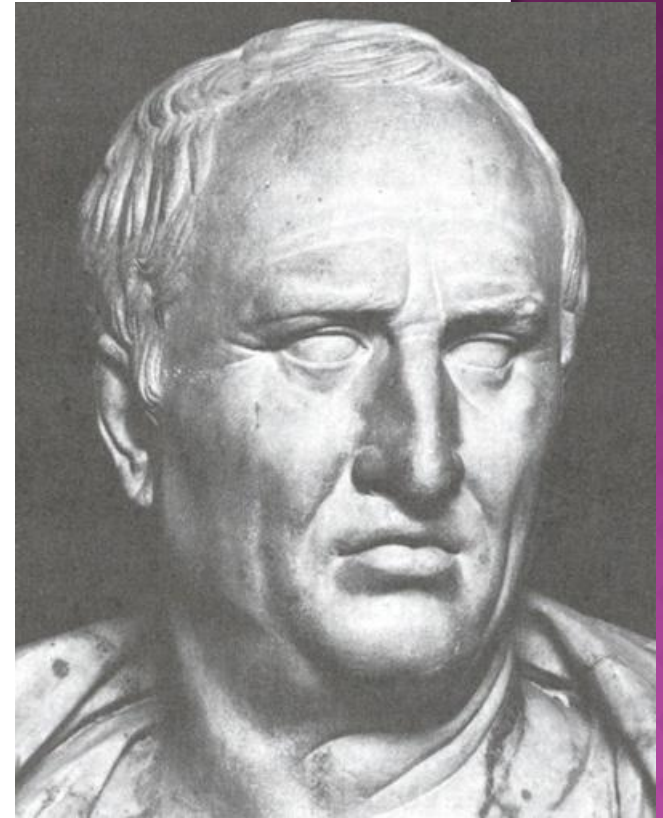


The oldest prayer in the Bible is called the *Shema* and begins, “Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might!” Jesus himself said this was the greatest commandment. What does this mean, and how do we get there?

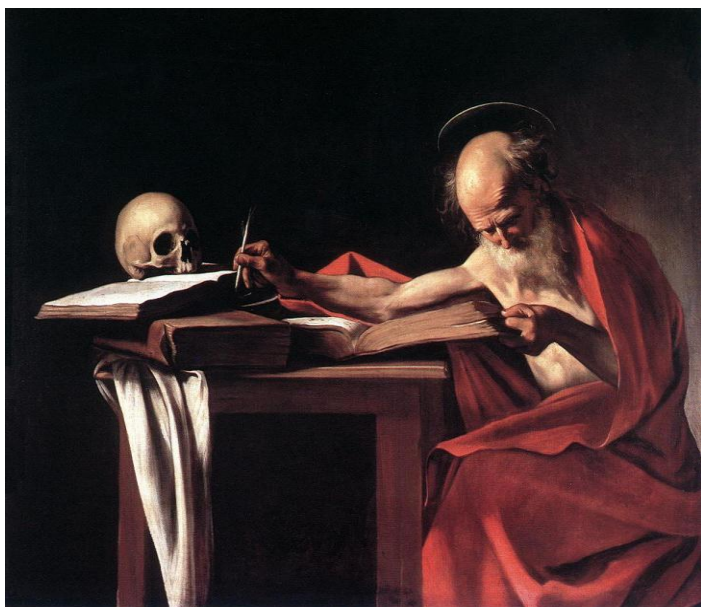
FOUR WORDS...

The Roman statesman Cicero wrote of four words for love, each one higher than the one before.

1. Cupiditas - *desire*
2. Amor - *romantic love*
3. Amicitia - *friendship*
4. Dilectatio - *sacrifice*



THE FATHERS...



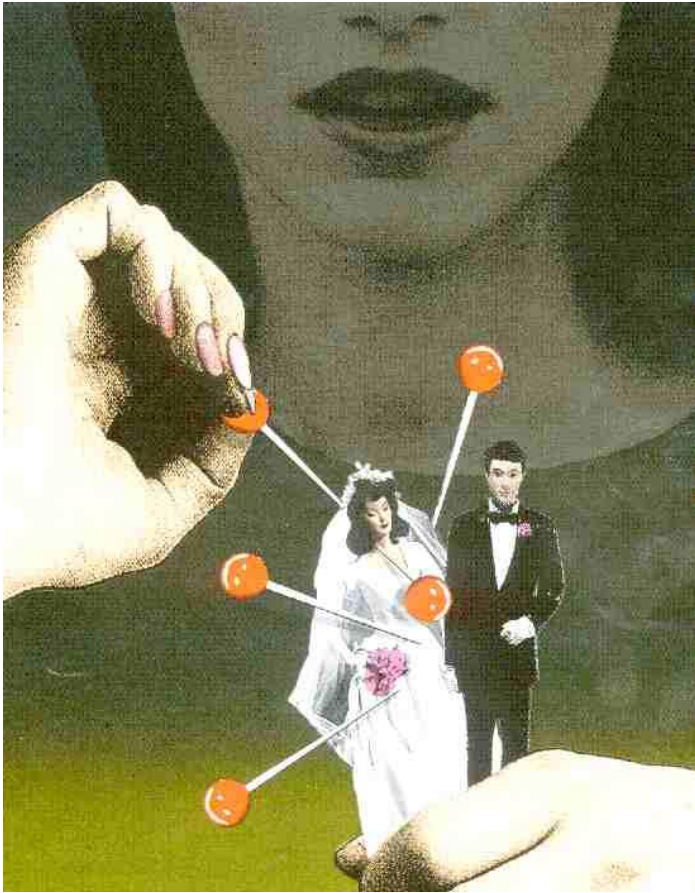
Many of the ancient Christian Fathers had such great respect for Cicero that they worried they were more Ciceronian than Christian. St. Jerome regarded Cicero's teaching on love to be a faithful model of the growth of a Christian soul. The moral teaching of the church is designed to produce people who love God, and their neighbor as Christ does.

THE AIM OF APOLOGETICS...

Apologetics doesn't aim at the "isms" (atheism, cynicism, fascism, etc.). Any "ism" claims to have something more true than God, and all eventually collapse under their own weight. The real adversary is the sloppy thinking that doesn't recognize the exaggeration of ideas. Challenging how people use speech is immensely important.



KIDS WITH ISSUES...



According to the U.S. Census Bureau there are about 13.7 million single parents in America raising about 21.8 million children. About 20% of single parents were never married to the mother/father of their children. Children who grow up this way sometimes develop significant strengths. They also deal with a lot of pain, and often develop bleak views about marriage.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT



“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). Adultery means “to debase something by adding elements that are inferior or impure. Adultery happens when you add an ingredient that makes something less.”

AMPLIFIED VERSION...



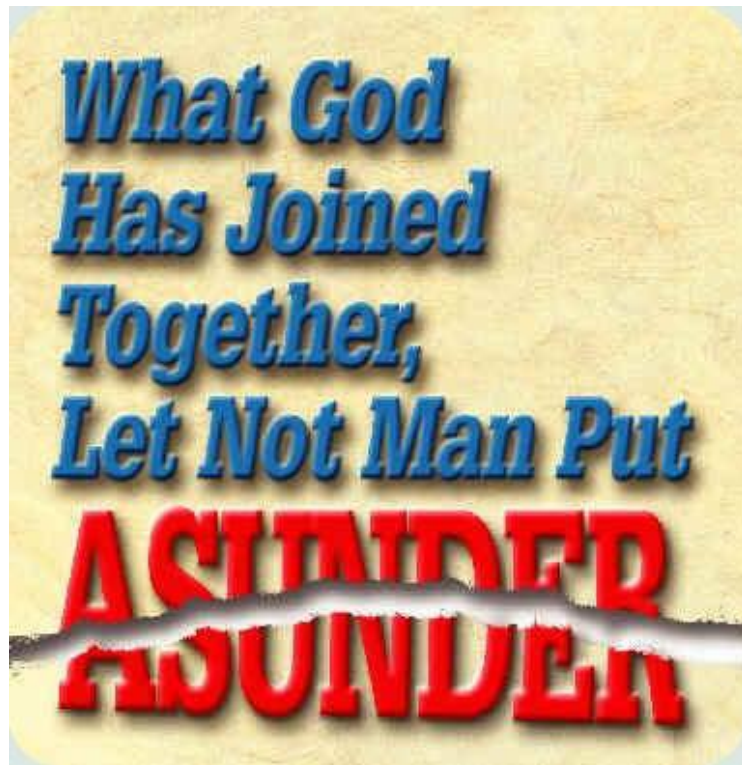
“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). Jesus amplified the commandments against killing, adultery and lying. He thought these were very big deals.

MARRIAGE IN THE BIBLE

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24, Mark 10:7, Eph. 5:31). Regarding reproduction, husband and wife are actually one organism – neither can reproduce on his/her own.



MARRIAGE IN THE BIBLE



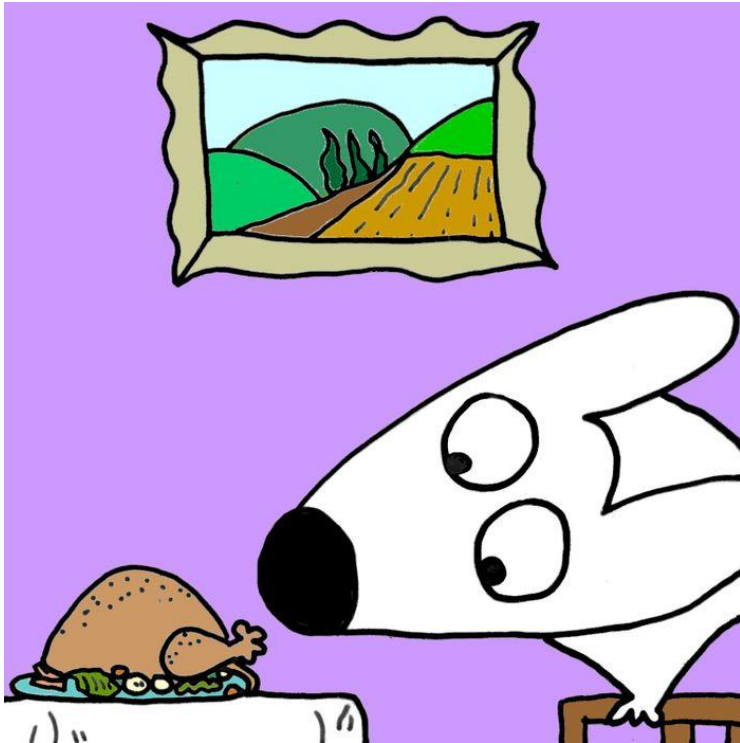
Sex in marriage is the uniting of persons at the bodily, emotional, dispositional and spiritual level. This is naturally ordered to the good of procreation and the raising of children as well as spousal unity. Both these goods are tightly bound together. All other uses of sex turn the other into an *instrument*, something less than a person.

COMFORTING CHILDREN



Children who are born of the “one flesh” relationship of parents are ends outside of marriage, but gifts that add a new layer of meaning to that essential unity. The family becomes an expression of the power of the unity of husband and wife. It is a union that actually creates life. Anything added to that unity weakens it, and distresses children.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT



“You shall not steal” – Exodus 20:15. This is the Bible’s way of saying that private property is OK. We can have our own stuff. With this liberty, however, comes responsibility. We may have our own stuff, but we have to use it in faithful and responsible ways, or that very stuff turns into poison.

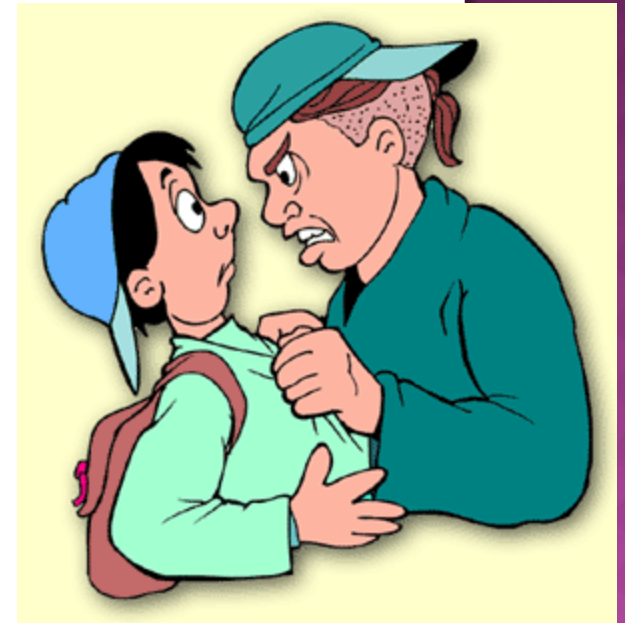
FREEDOM AND LOVE GO TOGETHER



Love, if it is authentic, can only exist in an environment of freedom. Love coerced is not love and before long turns into hate or lethargy (which is just a passive form of hate). God leaves us free to own our own stuff, but insists that we respect the stuff of others.

GOD IS NOT A COSMIC BULLY

Because God loves and respects us, he leaves us free to decide how to dispose of all the stuff we have. If we work hard, we can acquire more. If we don't, then not. But because we live in a moral universe, our decisions have consequences. We have to make sure that the rules are the same for everyone. Private property is a motivation for generosity and justice.



COMMANDMENTS 9 AND 10



The commandments against coveting are codicils to commandments against adultery and theft. Not only are we not to do those things, but we are to discipline our thinking in such a way that we don't dwell on them either.

NEXT TIME...

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness.

The Sacraments – Baptism