

Q&A

Q: Fr. Alex, why does our Church say that we have to 'wait' until we get married? What if I love my boyfriend and we're getting married someday?

This is a fair question that comes with a long answer--one longer than I can supply here. So after reading this, the next step is to come and visit me, or another priest that is close to you. First of all, having feelings for your boyfriend is very natural--God gave us many gifts, and some of those gifts are the ability to love, care for people and feel loyalty towards them. And yes, love-making is a gift, too. It is a part of life that brings good feelings and pleasure, and there is nothing wrong or dirty about this. **The wrong comes in, though, when something very important is missing: Marriage.**

Marriage is a Sacrament in our Church--like Baptism or Communion--and a Sacrament is something that helps us get closer to God. Marriage is how God unites us to one another forever, not for a week or two; this is how He takes our love and commitment, and seals these powerful emotions with His blessing. For husband and wife, it is a lifetime journey. The more we give to each other, the more we understand how God is a "giver" for us every day. We learn about God through each other! Marriage is a protection for our spiritual and emotional well-being as well: if we give ourselves to someone in every way without the Sacrament of Marriage blessing and protecting us, it might be nice for a while, but could all end tomorrow. Then what happens? We are devastated emotionally, we feel betrayed, knocked down, spiritually confused, the wind kicked out of us--we lose our sense of trust; we know we've given something precious away that we should've kept for our true soul-mate. We've given an incredible gift to someone who is not forever. And this painful list goes on and on.

In the end, love-making is for couples who are completely in love, completely committed and completely married--couples who have been united by our Lord, who loves us so very much and wants only good things for you. The Church's rules may seem harsh on this one, but don't forget that the Church never want so punish us--only to lift us up, teach us and take care of us. It's all out of love for you.

Again, this is a big one, so come see me or connect with the priest you usually go to for Confession and other special things. And don't wait!