

## Being a Christian Couple Today

This document may well be the longest that we have been given to work on, and so may have frightened some Teams members. This would be a pity, as it is also one of the best.

In particular, it positively encourages discussion. There are, of course, quotations from Scripture, under the heading “Discovering the Word...”, and official Church documents, headed “What does the Church say about ... to-day?” which can guide us in considering the various topics, but the principal material offered for consideration at each meeting of the series is a discussion of present-day conditions in the world, in the Church, and in our own lives, looking at both positive and negative features. Members will certainly react differently to the various points made, and I believe there is abundant opportunity there for lively debate. It was clear to me as I worked with the text that some of the arguments proposed were in apparent contradiction to others, and I think this is very helpful, as the questions considered are ones on which we should make up our own minds.

The text has four chapters, each divided between two meetings, so there is material for about a year. I understand that some teams, both here and overseas, have felt that eight meetings are not enough to deal with the material, though others will not want to draw the series out for so long. The first meeting in each chapter proposes a series of questions for team members to think about between meetings, so that they will be ready to discuss these at the second meeting. This should be very helpful. There are also useful suggestions for the “sitting down” and “rule of life” in each meeting’s material. But the real gems are the “prayers for the end of the meeting”, which should on no account be skipped.

Do you want a taste? “Go and see the films our children recommend us to see, in order to see what is affecting or conditioning them, so as to enter their orbit, instead of attempting to keep them in ours” (from “Suggestions for a rule of life”, 5<sup>th</sup> meeting). “To-day, the poor are those who have become redundant, rejected because they are inefficient in the race for profitability... unsuited to the class of people we frequent; embarrassing because of our ‘duty’ to uphold principles and good order; rejected because they come from another culture or speak another language. The poor include also those close relatives of ours who are cut off from us by old age, illness, misfortune, drugs, lack of help, ignorance...” (from the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting). “When we look around us, what we see gives us cause for pessimism. But then, the Church was not created to be the dough, but the yeast.” (3<sup>rd</sup> meeting)

Well, “Taste and see, for the Lord is delightful”.

***Fred Bendeich***