



The Four Goods of Marriage

Discuss with someone where these teachings come from? (Hint: see below) Briefly write and illustrate what each of the Four Goods of Marriage mean to you and why they good for family life.

Partnership- *The husband and wife make a genuine gift of self to each other in marriage, mind, body, and spirit. Holy scripture says that they are to “be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:21).*

Permanence- *This is the key to a successful marriage. The husband and wife commit to stay in their relationship.*

Fidelity- *The husband and wife promise to be faithful to each other every day of their lives.*

Fruitfulness- *The marriage covenant is fundamentally ordered to procreate (have children) and to educate the children in the faith.*

Saint Augustine was the first to formulate the goods of marriage in *De bono coniugali* (AD 401). These were further developed by Saint Thomas Aquinas in his classical work *Summa Theologiae (Supplementum, Q. 49)*, written



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between 1265 and 1274. Pope Pius XI further refined them in his encyclical *Casti connubii* (1930). They are summarized in the *The Goods and Requirements of Conjugal Love*, the foundation of the Church's teaching on marital unity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1643 – 1654). Information taken from Calling Couples to Christ website.