

PhD thesis summary

Doctoral thesis:

The concept of power or authority in the family according to Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris consortio* deals with an important theological and pastoral issue. Power in the family and the way it is exercised is a very controversial topic, reluctantly taken up by theologians. Much has been written about the family but not much about the power within the family. The aim of this thesis was to take up the challenge of presenting the Christian concept of power in the family in the teaching of Pope John Paul II. It has been reminded and strongly emphasized what is already confirmed by the Holy Scriptures and the teaching of the Church, in particular the teaching of John Paul II in the Exhortation *Familiaris consortio*. This document is the most complete synthesis of the Church's teaching on marriage and family concept. The Pope, the great defender and promoter of the family, pointed out that the family is the first and indisputable environment of life, in which the history of man, the history of the salvation of mankind and the future of the world and the Church run. This is the reason why the people of the Church help in discovering the beauty and greatness of marriage and family, which was often threatened by a wrong understanding of power. The concept of power and obedience within the marital and family community are only a small part of the teaching of the Church in the context of cultural changes, which (although small) is very important. It provokes reflection, which this thesis tries to make clear. The correct understanding of power in the family is the key to marital and family happiness.

Through the method of theological analysis of the teaching of John Paul II and other publications, knowledge of the correct understanding of power within the family was expanded. In each chapter, the problem of power is carefully explained.

woman can recreate the original harmony described in the biblical verse: 'God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them.' (Genesis, 1,27)

The thesis draws attention to the fact that there is too little reference to the beginning - the family comes from God. This covenant of love between man and woman was formed by the Creator. He blessed it and made it a source of mutual help. In order to understand the concept of power in the family it is necessary to constantly go back to the beginning. There we will find an explanation of what the power in the family is all about. The intention of the Creator is for the family to be a community, in which love is expressed in respect for each member. The Pope constantly urges married couples to treat each other with respect. He also reminds parents to respect the unique personality of their children and reminds children to show respect and obedience. It all comes down to the correct exercise of power.

When writing this thesis, my aim was to stimulate the reader to a deeper reflection on the issues of marriage and family and on the correct understanding of the concept of power. I did it with the intention of drawing attention to this matter and taking small steps forward towards caring for married and family life. Whether I have succeeded, the reader will judge for himself.

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