

very nature of conjugal love to be definitive. The lasting union expressed by the marriage vows is more than a formality or a traditional formula; it is rooted in the natural inclinations of the human person.'



Pope Francis goes on to discuss how this natural bond of love between a man and a woman forms the basis for a family.

<http://theconversation.com/pope-francis-and-the-joy-of-love-in-a-merciful-church-57554>

The church needs to understand families and individuals in all their complexity and meet people where they are.

Amoris Laetitia

Pope Francis teaches that Sacramental Marriage gives witness to the courage to believe in the creative act of God and enables us to live that love which drives one to go always beyond oneself and one's family. The Christian vocation to love without reserve or measure is, by Christ's grace, the foundation of the free consent that constitutes marriage. The Pope said the Church is intimately bound up in every Christian marriage and it is edified with each union's 'successes' and suffers with every failure. Such a path takes courage, and that is why whenever "I greet newlyweds, I say, 'Look, the courageous ones!' Because you need courage to love each other as Christ loves the Church."

www.vaticannews

1 Questions to consider

What is your understanding of love? St Paul tells us: Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love never comes to an end. As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love.

- 1) What does it mean to be patient, kind and never jealous?
- 2) What does it mean not to be boastful, conceited, and to never seek advantage?
- 3) What does it mean to not take offence, store up grievances or rejoice at wrongdoing?
- 4) Explain what it means that love finds its joy in the truth, is always ready to make allowances, endure whatever comes and never comes to an end?