

# A faithful love yields enduring happiness

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*Married love is also faithful and exclusive of all other, and this until death. This is how husband and wife understood it on the day on which, fully aware of what they were doing, they freely vowed themselves to one another in marriage. Though this fidelity of husband and wife sometimes presents difficulties, no one has the right to assert that it is impossible; it is, on the contrary, always honorable and meritorious. The example of countless married couples proves not only that fidelity is in accord with the nature of marriage, but also that it is the source of profound and enduring happiness.*

(*Humanae vitae* no. 9)

## **Reflection**

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There tends to be a common view in the culture that freedom means doing anything one wants, anytime, with no restraints. Such a view makes it difficult to understand the vowed commitment to lifelong, faithful marriage.

Bl. Pope Paul VI in *Humanae vitae* reminds the world that the Church offers a different view of freedom, a view that authentic freedom can only be found when it is ordered towards the truth. When we live our lives according to the truth, as with the example of a husband and wife living a life of faithfulness and fidelity to each other in marriage, we experience the “profound and enduring happiness” and authentic freedom our hearts are truly longing for.

How have you experienced the fruits of living faithful love in your life? Are there areas God may be inviting you to grow in trust and faithfulness in your relationship with Him?

## **Intercessory Prayer to Paul VI**

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God our Father,  
Empower married couples to live the beautiful call  
to free, total, faithful, fruitful love  
in the vow they exchanged in holy matrimony.

Help them live faithful, exclusive love  
amid the challenges and temptations of the world;

Strengthen them with the grace  
of their sacrament of matrimony  
to remember that you who gave yourself freely  
to your bride on the Cross  
show us the path to  
true freedom and a joy  
that endures forever.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Blessed Paul VI, pray for us!  
*Amen.*

