

## **Abstract**

The thesis offers the understanding of marriage in Catholic and Orthodox theological texts as formulated in polemic concerning faith. It observes the development of the theological thinking about this theme focused on the summarisation and systematisation of its current state. It establishes a base for research in the future. The main sources of information are official documents of the church institutions and the works of theologians which reflect Orthodox doctrine from the Catholic point of view alongside Orthodox sources which reflect Catholic doctrine. Those opinions are confronted not only between the churches, but within the dogmatic teaching and the canon law of both churches. The Catholic authors are found more inserted in Orthodox doctrine more than Orthodox found among the Catholic. The primary motivation of the Catholic authors is based upon seeking solutions for the pastoral problems in their own church environment more than in understanding opposing opinions. The Orthodox authors are less interested in the Catholic questions than vice versa. Both approaches are focused upon common theological opinions which trace their origins before the schism. The current schism is mainly based upon differences other than the theology of marriage. In this question, consensus is possible. But reunification is possible only by resolving the ecclesiological controversies. Finally, Catholic theology of marriage is compatible with the Orthodox approach and can coexist. The greatest problem which Catholic theology sees in the Orthodox approach is the legalisation of the successive marriage after divorce in cases where the former spouse is still alive. Orthodox authors also criticise Catholic juridical practice which supports broad reasoning for annulment, calling it hypocritical. The problem of annulment has a common anthropological background for which pastors should be responsible for the care of believers. Both churches are confronted by militant secularisation and attendant family crises. In this regard, both churches can help to resolve the spiritual problems created by this situation.