

**SECTION 39**  
**THE WAY OF DAILY LOVE**  
**IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**  
**Part 1: Love is patient**

Pope Francis continues his reflections on “the Joy of Love” (“Amoris Laetitia”) by entering more deeply into the Christian meaning of love. *“The word “love”, he says, is commonly used but often misused”* (AL 89). When getting married, man and wife are encouraged to give themselves to one another and to follow the path of fidelity. So, they need to deepen their understanding of the true meaning of love and to strengthen this love as a couple and a family ever more. The Pope does not write as a psychologist – even if his reflections on the real meaning of love may greatly contribute to the development of our psychic well-being. He draws his insights from a meditative reading of St. Paul’s “Hymn of Love” in 1 Corinthians 13, which speaks about *“the way of love”* as experienced and practiced in the daily life of couples and their children (Cf. AL 90).

With St. Paul, the Pope underlines in the first place that *“love is patient.”* *“Being patient does not mean letting ourselves be constantly mistreated, tolerating physical aggression or allowing other people to use us”* (AL 92). On the contrary, being patient means actively practicing love and forgiveness, doing that which is best for the other person.

Jesus taught us to *"be merciful just as your Father in heaven is merciful"* (Luke 6:36). Since God is merciful, he is also patient towards us, sinners, always ready to forgive, while enabling us to repent and to change for the better. God's patience is a sign of God's real power (cf. AL 91).

In a similar way, that person is patient, *"who does not act on impulse and avoids giving offense"* (AL 91), while refraining from taking revenge. *Love always has an aspect of deep compassion that leads to accepting the other person as part of this world, even when he or she acts differently than I would like"* (AL 92).

## **A Reflective Moment**

### **The Way of Love**

*"Even if I have faith so as to remove mountains,  
but do not have love, I am nothing" (1 Cor. 13:2).*

*"Love is patient, love is kind;  
love is not jealous or boastful;  
it is not arrogant or rude.  
Love does not insist on its own way,  
it is not irritable or resentful;  
it does not rejoice at wrong,*

*but rejoices in the right.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things,*

*hopes all things,*

*endures all things” (1 Cor 13:4-7).*

(Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, n. 89-90).