

Abstract

The purpose of diploma thesis 'Marriage and its moral aspects' is to enquire whether marriage represents a better form of relationship than cohabitation and whether there are any particular values or moral good related to marriage. The dissertation abstains from purely theological arguments. Marriage is apprehended in terms of the west society; it is defined as a permanent, monogamous bond between man and woman that is formally founded and that changes the social status of its members (Chapter 1). The thesis provides analysis of each of the essentials of marriage; it examines their foundation and identifies differences between marriage and cohabitation. Subsequently it enquires the moral significance of these differences for human life as well as for society (Chapter 2). Particular conclusions of Chapter 2 are synthesised within the discourse on the double nature of marriage – legal institution and relationship (Chapter 3). Through comparison of the institutional and the contractual theory of marriage, the thesis elucidates the adequate legal concept of marriage which seems to be the institution. While they are both relationships in their nature, marriage differs from cohabitation in its institutional structure. The apology of marriage is therefore based on this structure propping itself upon virtue ethics.