

## **Abstract**

The work is going to analyze Augustine's treatise *De bono coniugali* and its importance for the theology of marriage. After presenting the concept of marriage as an institution in the Roman empire and in writings of selected authors of Christian East and West in the first four centuries and also considering the developing monastic tradition, it is further dealing with the personality and works of Augustine of Hippo, especially with his treatise *De bono coniugali*; not only in the context of a response to then controversies, but especially as a first formalized and structured science of a church father on marriage.

## **Keywords**

Augustine of Hippo, Church Fathers, 5th century, marriage, virginity, nature, chastity, body