

NEW TESTAMENT SELECTIONS FOR WEDDINGS

(Select one for 2nd reading)

7 Romans 3:31b-35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Brothers and Sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us?
He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us.
Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is
at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.
What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The Word of the Lord.

8-A Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (longer form) *Offer your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God*

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.
Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;
do not be wise in your own estimation.
Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.
If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.
The Word of the Lord.

8-B Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (shorter form)

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to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
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that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.
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Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.
The Word of the Lord.

9 Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13 *Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you*

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up.

For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord

you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

10 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 *Your body is a temple of the Spirit*

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body;

God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been purchased at a price.

Therefore, glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.

11 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a *If I do not have love, I gain nothing*

Brothers and Sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

12-A Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 *(longer form)*

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church

Brothers and Sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us.

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.

The husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the Church, he himself the savior of the body.

As the Church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church

and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it,

even as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his Body.

For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife,

and the two shall become one flesh.

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

In any case, each one of you should love his wife as self, and the wife should respect her husband.

The Word of the Lord.

12-B Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 *(shorter form)*

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church

and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
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The Word of the Lord.

13 Philippians 4:4-9 *The God of peace will be with you*

Brothers and Sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

14 Colossians 3:12-17 *Over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection*

Brothers and Sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones--holy and beloved--heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body.

And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

15 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b *Let marriage be held in honor by all*

Brothers and Sisters: Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.

Thus, we may say with confidence: The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

The Word of the Lord.

16 1 John 3:18-24 *Love in deed and in truth*

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask,

because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.

17 1 John 4:7-12 *God is love*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.
In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.
No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.
The Word of the Lord.

18 1 John 3:1-2 *We are God's children*

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.
Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know *us* is that it did not know *him*.
Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be *like him*, for we shall see him *as he is*.
The Word of the Lord.

19 Revelation 19:1, 5-9a *Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb*

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying:
"Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God."
A voice coming from the throne said:
"Praise our God, all you his servants, and you who revere him, small and great."
Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water
or mighty peals of thunder, as they said:
*"Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,
his bride has made herself ready.
She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment."
(The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)*
Then the angel said to me,
"Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb."
The Word of the Lord.