

## What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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,

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 dies, 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.

## Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

Short Version Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Long Version Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

*Verses 1 -2*

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 confirm 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.

*Verses 9-13*

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.

*Verses 14-18*

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.

## Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.

Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

## Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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 of 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.

## If I do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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 a 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.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

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

Long Version Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

Short Version Ephesians 5:21, 25-32

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to  
the Ephesians

Verse 2a

Brothers and sisters:

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

Verses 21-24

Be subordinate to one another out of  
reverence for Christ.

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

For 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.

Verses 25-32

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.

Verse 33

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

The word of the Lord.

## The God of peace will be with you.

Phillippians 4:4-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Phillipians

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.

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

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

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 by 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.



## Let marriage be held in honor by all.

Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews

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.

## Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another.

1 Peter 3:1-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands to that,  
even if some disobey the word,  
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct  
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:

braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes,  
but rather the hidden character of the heart,  
expressed in the imperishable beauty  
of a gentle and calm disposition,  
which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God  
once used to adorn themselves  
and were subordinate to their husbands;  
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord".

You are her children when you do what is good  
and fear no intimidation.

Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding,  
showing honor to the weaker female sex,  
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,  
so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,  
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.  
Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;  
but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called,  
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

## Love in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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 we 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.

## God is love.

1 John 4:7-12

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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.

## **Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.**

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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.