

## **Second Reading for a Catholic Wedding**

The second reading for Catholic weddings and at most Sunday Masses comes from the New Testament, specifically the letters of the first apostles to the early Christian communities. Many of these letters trace back to the writings of Paul, while others to Peter and John. Most of the second reading choices assigned for use during Catholic weddings focus on the theme of love and most of them were originally written not for married couples, but as letters to the Christian communities of the first century. These letters from early Church leaders reminded ancient Christians how to live in peace and harmony with one another and were often attempts at resolving disputes. Married members of these early communities are called upon to model for the rest what Christian relationships should look like.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### ROMANS 8:31-35, 37-39

D1

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 who 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 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.

## ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-18 (Longer)

D2 - longer

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I urge you therefore, 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.

**ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-13**

**D2 - shorter**

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I urge you therefore, 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;  
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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.

The word of the Lord.

**ROMANS 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13**

**D3**

A reading from the letter of 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

A reading from the first 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 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.

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

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, love 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.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another through love,  
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit,  
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.



A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

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.

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.

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 himself,  
and the wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

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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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.

The word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

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

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

Put on then, 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.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so 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.

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

Children, let us love one another 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.

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 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.



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.