

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:31b-35, 37-39

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.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

12:1-2, 9-18

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.**

**OR**

## SHORT FORM

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

12:1-2, 9-13

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.

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hate what is evil,

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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.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

6:13c-15a, 17-20

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

12:31–13:8a

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.

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

5:2a, 21-33

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 Colossians

3:12-17

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.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

13:1-4a, 5-6b

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.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

4:7-12

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.