



A selection of readings from the Holy Bible suitable for weddings

A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to The Colossians, Chapter 3, beginning at Verse 12.

As God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, beginning at Verse 1.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body to be burnt, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come



to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see as in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**A reading from the Gospel of St Mark,
Chapter 10, beginning at Verse 6.**

From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

**A Reading from the book of Genesis,
Chapter 2, beginning at Verse 18.**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner. So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called the living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper for his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept.; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. This one shall be called woman, for out of man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father



and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

**A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans,
Chapter 12, beginning at Verse 9.**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.
Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in
suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those
who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight
of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

**A reading from The Song of Solomon
Chapter 8, beginning at Verse 6.**

Close your heart to every love but mine; hold no one in your arms but me. Love
is as powerful as death; passion is as strong as death itself. It bursts into flame and
burns like a raging fire. Water cannot put it out; no flood can drown it. But if
anyone tried to buy love with his wealth, contempt is all he would get.

**A Reading from the Gospel of St John,
Chapter 15, beginning at Verse 9.**

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; Abide in my love.
If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my



Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No-one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you, and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

**A Reading from the Gospel of St John,
Chapter 2, beginning at Verse 1.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from, (although the servants who had drawn the water knew) the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."



Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**A Reading from the First Letter of St John,
Chapter 4, beginning at Verse 7.**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.

God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.



**A reading from the letter to the Ephesians,
Chapter 3, beginning at Verse 14.**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through his spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**A Reading from the First Letter of St John,
Chapter 3, beginning at Verse 18.**

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.