

## SAMPLE WEDDING VOWS

### #1

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to understand; till death shall part us, according to the design of God in creation, and I commit myself completely to you.

### #2

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman/man to be your wife/husband?  
Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, and be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?  
I do

### #3

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you as God gives us life together.

### #4

\_\_\_\_\_, I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive; to speak and to listen; to inspire and to respond; and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.

### #5

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband. I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and health; to forgive and strengthen you and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

### #6

I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help, and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try, with you, to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and the worst of what is to come, as long as we live.

**#7**

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise with God's help to be your faithful husband / wife, to love and serve you as Christ commands, as long as we both shall live.

**#8**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take thee, \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my lawfully wedded wife / husband. And, I do promise, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful husband / wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse; for richer or for poorer; in sickness and in health; for as long as we both shall live.

**#9**

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_  
to be my wife / husband;  
and I promise, before God and these witnesses  
to be your loving and faithful husband / wife;  
in plenty and in want;  
in joy and in sorrow;  
in sickness and in health;  
as long as we both shall live.  
-

**#10**

Before God and these witnesses,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_  
to be my wife / husband,  
and I promise to love you,  
and to be faithful to you,  
as long as we both shall live.

**#11**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, ask you to accept me as I am and do pledge you my love for as long as I live and ever after. What I possess in this world I give to you, I give you my life and all I have. I will keep and hold you, support you in all things, protect you and shelter you, for all the days of my life. I am yours always and forever.

## #12

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_; To be my wedded wife / husband; And I do promise and covenant; before God and these witnesses; to be thy loving and faithful husband / wife; In plenty and in want; In joy and in sorrow; In sickness and in health; As long as we both shall live.

## #13

*The minister addresses the man and woman, saying,*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have come together according to God's wonderful plan for creation. Now before these people, say your vows to each other.

*Let the man and the woman stand before the people, facing each other. Then, the minister shall say:*

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

*The man / woman shall say to the woman / man:*

\_\_\_\_\_, I promise with God's help to be your faithful husband / wife, to love and serve you as Christ commands, as long as we both shall live.

## #14

Minister: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, and will you promise yourself to her, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her and cherish her in the bond of marriage?

Man: I will.

Minister: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, and will you promise yourself to him, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with him and cherish him in the bond of marriage?

Wife: I will.

Minister: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, join your hands as you take your vows.

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my loving wife / husband and I promise before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband / wife in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live."

## #15

With the assurance  
that God has brought us together and it is in His will  
I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_,  
to be my wife;  
and I promise myself to you before God and these witnesses  
to place you above all others, in all love and honor;  
to be your loving and faithful husband;  
in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow;  
in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.  
So help me God.

## #16

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_, for my lawful wife/husband,  
from this day forward, to have and to hold, as equal partner in my life to whom I  
give my deepest love and respect. I humbly open my heart to you as sanctuary of  
warmth and peace where you may find a refuge of love and strength.

## #17

I, \_\_\_\_\_ pledge to you \_\_\_\_\_  
as my friend, my love, and my companion, to love, honor, and cherish, as long as  
we both shall live.

## #18

I \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my partner in life. I will  
cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust you  
and honor you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst through the  
difficult and the easy. What may come I will always be there. As I have given you  
my hand to hold so I give you my life to keep so help me God.

## #19

I offer myself to you as your husband/wife and partner in life. I vow to love you in  
sickness and health. I am committed to encourage you in good times and bad. I  
will cherish and respect you all the days of my life, forever giving thanks that we  
found each other.

## #20

I love you, (Name), and I know that this love is from God. Through all of the uncertainties and trials of the present and future, I promise to be faithful to you and love you. I promise to guide and protect you, as Christ does his Church, as long as we both shall live.

## #21

I love you, (Name), and I thank the Lord for the love that has bound our hearts and lives together in spiritual fellowship of marriage. I will love, honor, and cherish you always. As we enter upon the privileges and joys of life's most holy relationship, and begin together the great adventure of life, I will love you in sickness as in health, in poverty as in wealth, in sorrow as in joy, and will be true to you, so long as we both shall live.

## #22

I, (Name), take you, (Name), to be my partner. With deepest joy I receive you into my life that together we may be one. I promise you my love, my fullest devotion, and my tenderest care. I pledge to you my life as a loving and faithful (husband/wife).

## #23

I, (Name), take (you/thee), (Name), to be my (husband/wife), knowing in my heart that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love.

## #24

(Groom) I, (Name), take you, (Name), to be my wedded wife. With deepest joy I receive you into my life that together we may be one. As is Christ to His body, the church, so I will be to you a loving and faithful husband. Always will I perform my headship over you even as Christ does over me, knowing that His Lordship is one of the holiest desires for my life. I promise you my deepest love, my fullest devotion, my tenderest care. I promise I will live first unto God rather than others or even you. I promise that I will lead our lives into a life of faith and hope in Christ Jesus. Ever honoring God's guidance by His spirit through the Word, And so throughout life, no matter what may lie ahead of us, I pledge to you my life as a loving and faithful husband. (continued)

(Bride) I, (Name), take you, (Name), to be my wedded husband. With deepest joy I come into my new life with you. As you have pledged to me your life and love, so I too happily give you my life, and in confidence submit myself to your headship as to the Lord. As is the church in her relationship to Christ, so I will be to you. (Name), I will live first unto our God and then unto you, loving you, obeying you, caring for you and ever seeking to please you. God has prepared me for you and so I will ever strengthen, help, comfort, and encourage you. Therefore, throughout life, no matter what may be ahead of us, I pledge to you my life as an obedient and faithful wife.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

#### **Genesis 2:18-24**

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.'<sup>19</sup> 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 each living creature, that was its name.<sup>20</sup> 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 as his partner.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.<sup>23</sup> Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman,\* for out of Man\* this one was taken.'<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

#### **Song of Solomon 8:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.<sup>7</sup> Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

#### **Proverbs 3:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people.<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

#### **Isaiah 54:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.<sup>6</sup> For the LORD has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your God.<sup>7</sup> For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you.<sup>8</sup> In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer.

## PSALMS

### **Psalm 67**

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. <sup>7</sup> May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

### **Psalm 95:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! <sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. <sup>6</sup> O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! <sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

### **Psalm 100:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; <sup>4</sup> we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### **Psalm 100:1-3, 15-18**

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; <sup>4</sup> we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>15</sup> As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. <sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, <sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

### **Psalm 136:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever. <sup>2</sup> O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures for ever. <sup>3</sup> O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>4</sup> who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>5</sup> who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>7</sup> who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>8</sup> the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures for ever; <sup>26</sup> O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

### **Psalm 145**

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. <sup>4</sup> One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. <sup>6</sup> The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. <sup>7</sup> They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. <sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. <sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. <sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, <sup>12</sup> to make known to all people your\* mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your\* kingdom. <sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.\* <sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. <sup>17</sup> The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. <sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth <sup>19</sup> He fulfils the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. <sup>20</sup> The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. <sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

### **Psalm 150**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!\* <sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! <sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! <sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! <sup>5</sup> Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! <sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

## EPISTLES

### **Romans 12:1-2, 9-18**

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,<sup>\*</sup> by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual<sup>z</sup> worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>\*</sup> but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.<sup>\*</sup> <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;<sup>\*</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,<sup>\*</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly,<sup>\*</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup>Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

### **1 Corinthians 13 (King James Version)**

<sup>1</sup>Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. <sup>4</sup>Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, <sup>5</sup>Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; <sup>6</sup>Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; <sup>7</sup>Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. <sup>8</sup>Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup>But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. <sup>13</sup>And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

### **1 Corinthians 13 (Contemporary English Version)**

<sup>1</sup>What if I could speak all languages of humans and of angels? If I did not love others, I would be nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>What if I could prophesy and understand all secrets and all knowledge? And what if I had faith that moved mountains? I would be nothing, unless I loved others. <sup>3</sup>What if I gave away all that I owned and let myself be burned alive? I would gain nothing, unless I loved others. <sup>4</sup>Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or <sup>5</sup>rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. <sup>6</sup>Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. <sup>7</sup>Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. <sup>8</sup>Love never fails! Everyone who prophesies will stop, and unknown languages will no longer be spoken. All that we know will be forgotten. <sup>9</sup>We don't know everything, and our prophecies are not complete. <sup>10</sup>But what is perfect will someday appear, and what isn't perfect will then disappear. <sup>11</sup>When we were children, we thought and reasoned as children do. But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways. <sup>12</sup>Now all we can see of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror. Later we will see him face to face. We don't know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us. <sup>13</sup>For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love.

### **Ephesians 5:21-33**

<sup>21</sup> Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

## GOSPELS

### **Matthew 5:1-16**

When Jesus<sup>2</sup> saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>14</sup>'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

### **Matthew 19:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?' <sup>4</sup>He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female", <sup>5</sup> and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

### **Matthew 22:35-40**

<sup>35</sup> and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' <sup>37</sup>He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

### **Mark 10:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." <sup>7</sup>"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife," <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

### **John 15:1-17**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>\*</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed<sup>\*</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>\*</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants<sup>\*</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>\*</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.