**The Meaning of Love**

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; **5**love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; **6**love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. **7**Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

**Marriage Commitment Renewal**

On our wedding day, we became husband and wife and joined our lives in an unbreakable bond through the Sacrament of Matrimony. Today, we celebrate the day of our union, we together join our right hands and renew the promises made to one another.

**Husbands** - By the Lord’s goodness, I took you (Wife Name) to be my wife.

* I promise to be true to You in good times and in bad,
* In sickness and in health, and
* I promise to love you and honor you all the days of our lives.

**Wives** - By the Lord’s goodness, I took you (Husband Name) to be my husband.

* I promise to be true to You in good times and in bad,
* In sickness and in health, and
* I promise to love you and honor you all the days of our lives.

**Prayer** - Lord God and Creator, we bless and praise your name. In the beginning you made man and woman, so that they might enter into a communion of life and love. You blessed the union of our marriage as a couple, so that we might reflect the union of Christ with his Church. Look kindly on us today that through our lives of joy and struggle you will continue to preserve our union. Lord God, renew our marriage covenant. Increase your love in us and strengthen our bond of peace, so that surrounded by our children and family, we may always rejoice in the gifts of your blessing.

May God the eternal Father keep us (Name of Husband and Wife) of one heart in love for one another that the peace of Christ may dwell in us and abide always in our home.

R/ Amen.

May we be blessed in our children, have solace in our friends and enjoy true peace with everyone.

R/ Amen.

May we be witnesses in the world to God’s charity, so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness Lord; may one day receive us thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.

R/ Amen.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

***He*re are just 10 Bible verses that clue us in on how a godly marriage should work:**

* **Never bring up mistakes of the past.**
*Stop criticizing others or it will come back on you. If you forgive others, you will be forgiven* (Luke 6:37).
* **Neglect the whole world rather than each other.**
*And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process?*(Mark 8:36)
* **Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled.**
*And don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry*(Ephesians 4:26).
* **At least once a day, try to say something complimentary to your spouse.**
*Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit*(Proverbs 15:4).
* **Never meet without an affectionate welcome.**
*Kiss me again and again, your love is sweeter than wine*(Song of Solomon 1:2).
* **"For richer or poorer" - rejoice in every moment that God has given you together.**
*A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate*(Proverbs 15:17).
* **If you have a choice between making yourself or your mate look good, choose your mate.**
*Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them*(Proverbs 3:27).
* **If they're breathing, your mate will eventually offend you. Learn to forgive.**
*I am warning you, if another believer sins, rebuke him; then if he repents, forgive him. Even if he wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, forgive him*(Luke 17:3, 4).
* **Don't use faith, the Bible, or God as a hammer.**
*God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it*(John 3:17).
* **Let love be your guidepost.**
*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged*(1 Corinthians 13:4, 5).

|  |
| --- |
| **Prayer for Married Couples****Almighty and eternal God,****You blessed the union of married couples so that they might** **reflect the union of Christ with his Church:****Look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, Increase your love in them, and Strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing.****We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.** foryourmarriage.orgCopyright © 2008, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Adapted from excerpt from the English translation of *Book of Blessings* © 1988, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Photos: Comstock, Brand X Pictures, Design Pics. To order publication No. 7-040 from USCCB Publishing, call 800-235-8722. |