

In this reading we learn that, as Christian disciples have been joined with Christ in his death through baptism, so they are to know a resurrection like his. In union with Christ we have died to our sinful selves and have begun to experience a new way of life. In one sense, Paul recognizes, our freedom from death still waits us in the future. Yet, in another sense, we already know what it means to be alive to God in Jesus Christ and to realize the true meaning of life.

Hear now these words from the book of Romans

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Ephesians 5:25-33

In this reading the Apostle Paul outlines a radical, sacrificial standard for Christian marriage. He commands husbands to love their wives just as Christ loved the church, fundamentally redefining traditional cultural power dynamics by elevating humble, life-giving servanthood over dominance.

Hear now these words from Paul to the church in Ephesus.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church - for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**