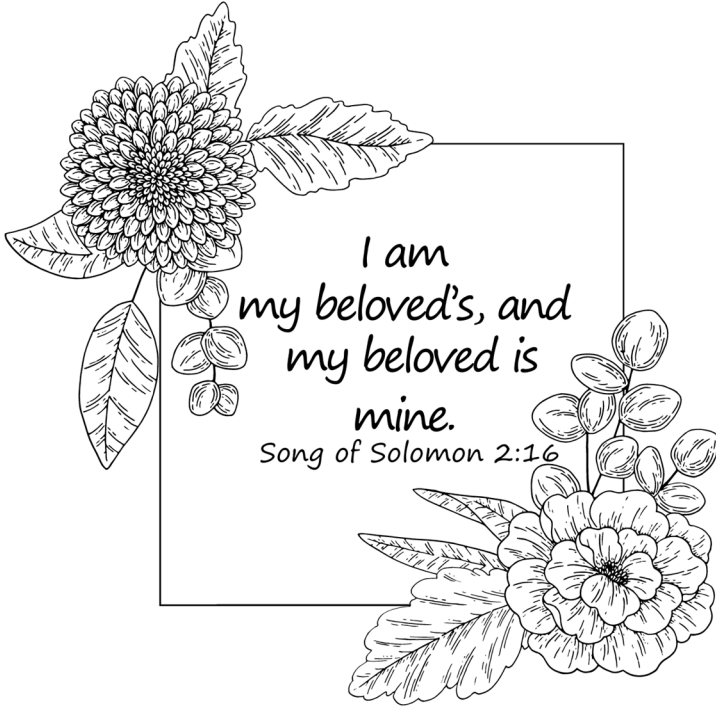




# Grace Lutheran Church



*...experience Grace*

13655 Round Lake Blvd. NW

Andover, Minnesota 55304

763-421-6520

[www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)

# Wedding Helps & Guidelines

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# Congratulations!

Dear Wedding Couple,

Congratulations! We at Grace Lutheran Church look forward to sharing your wedding day with you. We hope that it will be one of the happiest, most God-filled days of your lives.

We provide this booklet for you in an attempt to help you prepare for that day. In it, we try to provide basic information about weddings, and answer some of the most frequently asked questions. We hope that it will be helpful as you prepare for your wedding. Read the booklet carefully.

You will find the Wedding Coordinator to be most helpful in your wedding preparations. Plan to spend some time with your coordinator and take advantage of their services and expertise.

You will also need to spend time with our worship and music director and select the music for your ceremony. Together with a pastor, the Wedding Coordinator, worship and music director, and staff will help you shape your wedding day.

Between now and the time of your wedding, you should schedule pre-marriage counseling with a pastor. Email us to schedule your Premarital counseling.

You have exciting days ahead. We look forward to sharing them with you!

In Love,

The Staff at Grace Lutheran Church

# WEDDINGS AT GRACE

## Getting Started

### Book Your Wedding Date

The most important first step is to call the church office (763-421-6520) to schedule your wedding date. Please do not make plans for the reception and other wedding events until you have actually scheduled a wedding date at Grace Lutheran Church.

### Wedding Coordinator

A Wedding Coordinator will be assigned to you to help you with your wedding preparations, answer questions and generally manage details during your wedding rehearsal and on your wedding day. You will find the Wedding Coordinator's assistance helpful during what can be one of the most hectic periods of your life. **Please contact your coordinator and acquaint yourself with their services and routine.**

Your coordinator will provide bulletin samples for your ceremony and order the bulletin cover you select. They can give you advice and direction on flower set-up and decorations, and on many other aspects of a church wedding. The coordinator will be happy to give you a tour of the facilities and explain to you what we can do in the building. They will prepare your wedding documents the week of the wedding, prepare the dressing rooms, run the rehearsal, set up communion if desired, and set up a table in the narthex for your guest book. On the day of the wedding, your coordinator will manage things and provide help as needed. They will also give you the information for paying the parties associated with your wedding. **You MUST bring your Marriage License on the night of the rehearsal and give it to your Wedding Coordinator.**

Our Wedding Coordinator represents Grace Lutheran Church and its' policies on weddings.

# Designing the Wedding

## Other Clergy Participation

If you are considering having a Pastor from another church participate in the service, you must request this at the time you reserve your wedding at Grace, and approval must be granted from the Grace Lutheran Pastor handling your wedding preparations.

## Required Premarital Counseling

Each couple is required to premarital counseling with a pastor. Premarital counseling is typically 4, 1 hour sessions with a pastor. There will be homework before and after sessions. The total time spent in counseling and on homework is estimated 12 hours. Most counties in Minnesota offer a significant discount on your Marriage License for participation in 12 hours of Premarital counseling. We assure you this time is not ONLY for the discount. By scheduling this time you are making a commitment not just to the success of your wedding day but creating a firm foundation for your marriage and your life together.

## Marriage License

A Marriage License must be secured in Minnesota. The License Office at the Anoka County Courthouse is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and is closed on weekends. The application must be made seven (7) working days before the license is issued, and the license becomes void if it is not used within six (6) months. Only one of the parties need be present to apply for the license, however, the person applying should bring proper identification for both parties. If either party is under the age of 18, both parents must accompany that party, both parents must sign the consent form, and a judge's consent must be granted. Any applicant who has had a previous marriage within the last ten years must bring a copy of the divorce decree to

the License Office. The fee for a marriage license must be paid at the time of the application. Please present your Marriage License to the Wedding Coordinator on the night of your rehearsal. They will prepare the copies for signatures. Check with your county courthouse as requirements vary.

### Wedding Bulletins

You may select the bulletin cover of your choice by consulting with your Wedding Coordinator. (You will be charged for bulletins ordered. Cost is generally about \$13.00 per hundred plus shipping & handling) Our secretary will typeset and print the bulletins. Please have the information for your bulletins to the Church Secretary 3-4 weeks before your wedding. You must proof-read the bulletins and give your final approval before they are printed.

### Rehearsal

A rehearsal is required unless the arrangements are to be very small and simple. About one hour should be allowed for the rehearsal, which will typically be held the night before the wedding. All who will be taking part in the wedding, including parents, and ushers, should be present for the rehearsal. The Wedding Coordinator will run the rehearsal in conjunction with the pastor. Soloists must coordinate with our Worship and Music Director for rehearsal times.

If you wish the Pastor or Director of Worship and Music to attend the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception, please issue the same kind of written invitation extended to others who will be attending. In the absence of such invitations, they will not expect to attend.

# Planning Your Ceremony

## Communion

It is entirely appropriate, but not necessary for Holy Communion to be celebrated during a Wedding. Scripture often relates faith commitment to the Lord in terms of a wedding. In other places, heaven is compared to a wedding feast which never ends. When Holy Communion is celebrated, it must be open to the congregation and not limited to the bride, groom and the wedding party.

## The Building

The times for weddings are varied. Because Grace Lutheran Church has a Saturday evening Worship Service at 5:00 p.m., all weddings MUST be scheduled to start no later than 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Weddings scheduled on week days are usually held in the evenings at 6:00 p.m or after.

## Wedding Music Information

You will need to contact our Director of Worship and Music to set up a time to meet and listen to music that would be fitting for your wedding. Call the church office to set this up at least 2 months prior to your wedding date. This meeting will assist you in the selection of your music that will become an integral part of your marriage service.

It is the preference of the church that secular music NOT be used as part of your worship service. If used, popular secular songs must be done as a part of the prelude or postlude (before or after) the service, and must be approved in advance by a Grace pastor.

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to provide the solo music if you are having a soloist . Be sure to get enough copies of each piece, and give copies of the music to the musicians. IT IS ILLEGAL TO COPY MUSIC!!

To assure yourself of getting the correct music for your soloist, you must know the exact title, the composer and/or arranger, the publisher, the voice



range (what is the highest and lowest note your singer can sing) and the type of accompaniment required (piano or organ). Your soloist can give you this information.

Plan to have your soloists/musicians rehearse with our Director of Worship and Music. Please set this time up by calling the church office.

Fees for your own musicians, ARE NOT included in the Wedding Costs given to you by the wedding coordinator. Please discuss this with your musicians.

### Sound Technician

A Sound Technician is required to monitor the sound system during your wedding. As there may be several microphones in use, it is essential that they're monitored and adjusted properly. A fee for the Sound Technician is outlined in the Wedding Costs.

### Photography and Video Taping

Photographers must meet with the Grace pastor prior to the wedding ceremony to discuss what is and is not allowed during the ceremony. Having photo memories of your day can be so special, but should not come at the cost of interrupting the ceremony itself. These may be taken during the processional and recessional. The church building will be open to you three (3) hours before the wedding begins so professional photos may be taken BEFORE the ceremony. Please inform your photographer. If you are not having photos taken, the building will be open to you 1½ hours before the wedding begins.

**NO PHOTOS MAY BE TAKEN AFTER THE CEREMONY** due to the Worship Service here at Grace on Saturday evenings.

If professional photos are being taken in the Sanctuary prior to the service, they must be finished **no later than 30 minutes** before the service is scheduled to begin. If your wedding is to be video-taped, all photographers and videographers will be expected to stay in one place throughout the service and avoid blocking the view of any wedding participant or guest. A stationary video camera is allowed on the altar/chancel platform without an operator.

### Flowers, Candles and Other Decorations

No flowers or decorations are required. Your florist should consult your wedding coordinator in advance regarding time for decorating, removing the decorations, and limitations on what may be done. If you wish to leave flowers for worship on the following Sunday, and would like acknowledgment in the Sunday bulletin, please inform the church office 2-3 weeks prior to the wedding.

The state fire code prohibits lighted, un-encased candles in the building except within the altar rail. If you would like to use candles outside the area defined by the altar rail, you may use candles which are encased in a metal sleeve. (These are called drip-less candles.) Please consult your florist about this safer kind of candle.

We do not require couples to use a unity candle. We own a small unity candle holder that can be placed on the altar. You must provide a “dripless” candle for use in the candle holder. The church does not own a candelabra; you may rent these from the florist. The candelabra must be of a design that will not allow wax to drip on the carpet in the church. If candelabra’s are used in your wedding, please arrange with your florist to have them removed from the building immediately after the wedding.

The use of a trellis, canopy or aisle runner is not allowed. The church has 10 pew bow holders, available for your use.

The liturgical Paraments on the altar, pulpit and lectern and the banners on the front wall are based on the seasons of the church year and cannot be changed to accommodate wedding color schemes. Check with your wedding coordinator to see what color the Paraments will be during the month of your wedding.

Windows and outside doors will be opened and closed at the direction of the Wedding Coordinator and/or Pastor. Our Worship facility is completely air conditioned.

Out of consideration for the custodian and the maintenance of our property, as well as the safety of your guests, we ask that no rice or confetti be thrown inside or outside the church building. Please inform your family and friends.

### Alcohol and Tobacco

For legal reasons, we do not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises or the grounds during your rehearsal, wedding, reception (if held at church) or at any other time. The lone exception to use of alcohol is the wine of the Lord's Supper (Communion). Furthermore, if you or any member of your wedding party is intoxicated and obviously impaired on the day of the wedding, we shall ask that person to excuse him/herself from the ceremony. A wedding service is the worship of God; drunkenness during a wedding simply will not be tolerated. **SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED inside the church building.**

# Costs for the Wedding

All fees are subject to change. When we begin your premarital counseling a few months before your wedding, we will inform you of the most up to date cost for your wedding at Grace Lutheran Church. Booking a wedding at Grace Lutheran Church in no way implies a contract as to cost. The date for your wedding is secured, but the total cost is subject to change.

## Wedding Fees

Premarital Counseling	\$35 (per couple paid through assessment website by the couple.)
Custodial Fee:	\$85
Organist/Pianist:	\$125
Sound Technician:	\$50
Projection:	\$50 (if applicable)
Clergy:	\$150*
Wedding Coordinator:	\$175
Administrative Costs:	\$50
Bulletins:	(Approximately) \$13/100 (plus S/H) (Publisher's price subject to change.)

Typesetting, copying, and folding fee \$35

*Additional cost will be incurred if bulletins require 2 sided printing or inserts.*

*\*Off Site weddings are at the discretion of the officiating pastor. The Pastor's fee is greater for this option.*

## Paying Your Wedding Costs

One week prior to your wedding, you will receive an email giving you the amounts and names of those that need to be paid for their involvement in your wedding. You must bring these checks with you the night of the rehearsal and give them to your Wedding Coordinator. She will ensure that all those involved in your wedding are paid.

All Wedding Fees must be paid by *CHECK or CASH at the rehearsal. Individual checks must be written to each person performing a service for your wedding.*

**Special Notes:** We ask that no cars be left in the Parking Lot after the wedding ceremony has ended.

**YOU MUST bring your marriage license to the church on rehearsal night.**

# Wedding Staff

## **Pastor:**

Joanna Mitchell, 763-421-6520  
joannam@graceandover.org

Maria Markman, 763-421-6520  
mariam@graceandover.org

## **Church Secretary:**

Kris Miller, 763-421-6520  
krism@graceandover.org

## **Wedding Coordinator:**

## **Director of Worship and Music:**

Jonathan Orwig, 763-421-6520, Ext. 113  
jonathano@graceandover.org

# Wedding Service Example:

*The Marriage Celebration Uniting*

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

(month, day, year) \_\_\_\_\_

(time) \_\_\_\_\_

*Grace Church Lutheran  
Andover, Minnesota*

*Prelude*

*Processional*

*Greeting and Prayer*

*Scripture Readings* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Music* \_\_\_\_\_

*The Wedding Message*

*Music* \_\_\_\_\_

*Exchange of Vows*

*Exchange of Rings*

*Lighting of the Unity Candle*

*Music* \_\_\_\_\_

*The Wedding Prayer*

*Holy Communion (if applicable)*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Benediction*

*Presentation*

*Recessional*

*Postlude*

*Some people you may wish to include in the wedding  
bulletin:*

*Officiating Pastor*\_\_\_\_\_

*Parents of the Bride*\_\_\_\_\_

*Parents of the Groom*\_\_\_\_\_

*Grandparents of the Bride*\_\_\_\_\_

*Grandparents of the Groom*\_\_\_\_\_

*Maid or Matron of Honor*\_\_\_\_\_

*Best Man*\_\_\_\_\_

*Bridesmaids*\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Groomsmen*\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Ushers*\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Flower Girl*\_\_\_\_\_

*Ring Bearer*\_\_\_\_\_

*Personal Attendant*\_\_\_\_\_

*Scripture Readers*\_\_\_\_\_

*Vocalist*\_\_\_\_\_

*Musicians*\_\_\_\_\_

*Organist*\_\_\_\_\_

*Others*\_\_\_\_\_

*Bride and Groom's "Thank you" to friends and family*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Wedding Vows

The promises you make to one another on your wedding day are among the most profound words you will ever share with each other. Great care and thought need to go into what you say as you make public your declaration of love and commitment and promise. What follows here is a collection of vows and promises, both contemporary and traditional, but is —by no means— a complete collection. You are encouraged to give some thought to writing your own promises to one another. Some have used other parts of the following to help them get started. As you plan with your pastor, you will have the opportunity to work out all of these details.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, as we have come together in the midst of our families and friends-- And in the presence of God, I commit myself to you as your husband/wife. I promise to love you and to be supportive of you as we both continue to grow and change.  
I promise to help you achieve the goals that you have set for yourself and for our marriage, and I promise to give you the freedom to be all that you were intended to be. I promise to be faithful to you, to join with you in both sorrow and celebration sharing all that is to come until death parts us.

2. I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband and my partner in life. I promise to share with you all that life may have to offer-- be it joy or sorrow, and to always be supportive, patient, and compassionate. I will respect, cherish, and protect you, and I will always be faithful to you. I promise to nurture you so that we may grow together to become all that we may grow together to become all that we can be. Most of all, I promise to be your best friend in life and to love you with all my heart forever.

3. In the name of God, I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband, 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 care for; until we are parted by death; this is my solemn promise.

4. 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 most challenging of what is **to come** until death parts us.

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



in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in 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. I promise 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 until death parts us.

7. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife/spouse and partner in life. I promise to be honest with you, faithful to you, and to put my trust in you. In your times of need, I will be there to support and encourage you, to hold you and comfort you. I will help you reach for your dreams, and I will stand by you through both your failures and your successes. As we travel through life together, I will share with you the joys and wonders that lie ahead for us. And I promise to love you with all my heart and all my soul for as long as we both shall live.

8. I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife/spouse and partner in life. In the presence of our families, friends, and God, I promise to respect, protect, and cherish you and to always be faithful and honest with you. I promise to laugh with you in times of joy, and comfort you in times of sorrow. I promise to celebrate with you and always be supportive of you as we both continue to change and grow. I promise to pray for you and for our marriage, to grow in faith with you, and to always serve Christ and others by your side. Through all things, good and bad in sickness and in health for richer or poorer. I promise to be your best friend and to love you all the days of our life.

## The Exchange of Rings

The circle has long been a symbol for marriage. These circles are made of precious metal to represent the enduring and precious nature of your relationship. Being unbroken circles, each represents unending love. As often as either of you look upon these rings, may you be reminded of this moment, the love you have promised, and the commitment, covenant in which you live.

- I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness
- I give you this ring of my promise, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Take this ring, freely given, as a sign of my love and a symbol of my intention to live with you in love and respect. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you.
- Bride/Groom: I give you this ring as a sign of my promise. Bride/Groom: I accept this ring as a sign of your promise.

## Bible Passages

### Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### Genesis 2:18-24

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." 19 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 every living creature, that was its name. 20 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. 21 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. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 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." 24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

### Deuteronomy 11:8-15

8 Keep, then, this entire commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may have strength to go in and occupy the land that you are crossing over to occupy, 9 and so that you may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them and to their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sow your seed and irrigate by foot like a vegetable garden. 11 But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky,

12 a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. 13 If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul— 14 then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; 15 and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

Ruth 1:16-18

16 But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

17 Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!”

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Psalms 85:1-13

1 Lord, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.Selah

3 You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us.

5 Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

6 Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?

7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.[a]  
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.  
10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
12 The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
13 Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

**Psalms 118:24-29**

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!  
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
27 The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.  
28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.  
29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psalms 128: 1-6**

1 Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,  
who walks in his ways.  
2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;  
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.  
3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;  
your children will be like olive shoots  
around your table.  
4 Thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the Lord.

5 The Lord bless you from Zion.

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.

6 May you see your children's children.

Peace be upon Israel!

#### Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

#### Hosea 2:19-20

19 And I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. 20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord.

#### John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 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." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

#### John 15: 9-12, (11-17)

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 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. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants[a] any longer, because the servant 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. 16 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. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, 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.

#### **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13**

31 But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. 13 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. 2 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. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 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. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 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. 12 For now we see 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. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Colossians 3:12-17**

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 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. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 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.



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