

Gospel

John 15:9–12  
*Remain in my love.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>9</sup> ‘As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments  
and remain in his love.

<sup>11</sup> I have told you this  
so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.

<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment:  
love one another,  
as I have loved you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

# Looking at the Text

G-8 John 15:9-12  
*Remain in my love.*

## The Gospel of St John

Central to the gospel of St John are a number of themes. Scholars divide the gospel into two 'books' — the first being 'the book of signs' all about Jesus' public ministry, i.e. the miracles or 'signs' he did, pointing not to himself but to God the Father, and the second, known as 'the book of Glory', showing us Jesus and his relationship with his disciples, from the Last Supper, through to his arrest, suffering, death and resurrection. It is in John's gospel that we find the emphasis on love and loving service, in Jesus' sayings, 'signs' and teaching: 'I give you a new commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you.'

### In this passage

Jesus is praying for his disciples, and for all who will come after them, believing in him. That is us! He prays that we may remain in his love and be 'one' with one another and with him just as Jesus and his Father are one. That is an amazing prayer for marriage — that God will make us so united that we are like Jesus and the Father, 'One'. And furthermore, it is a tremendous affirmation of Jesus' love for us. Jesus wants us to know that in our unity, our marriage bond, God and Jesus are with us, helping us to live out our commitment to love, and to be a sign of the love of God for the world.

### Reflecting on Scripture together

*Use the 'Reflecting on Scripture together — a simple way' in the introduction 'Choosing your Wedding readings'.*

### Further Reflection

*Following the 'slow reading' process, here are some questions for further reflection:*

- You have chosen to be married in a Catholic church — why is this important to you?
- What are your hopes for your lives together? What is going to help you 'remain' in God's love and in love with one another?
- What strikes you in particular about Jesus' prayer? Can you hear it as a prayer for your marriage?
- How does it help you knowing that Jesus and the Father are absolutely with you and will remain with you to strengthen you in your marriage?
- In the wedding liturgy, you will make your own solemn prayers and declarations. Have a look at the final 'triple blessings', for example. What strikes you? Try praying them out loud together, replacing the 'you' with 'us'.

*May God the eternal Father keep us of one heart in love for one another, that the peace of Christ may dwell in us and abide always in our home.*

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

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

- What do you like about this reading? Why might it be a good Gospel for your wedding?

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These notes have been prepared by Caroline Dollard, Marriage & Family Life Project, CBCEW [www.catholicfamily.org.uk](http://www.catholicfamily.org.uk) This is one of a series of Liturgy Office resources to support the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Marriage](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Marriage) © 2016 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales