

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

N-1

Reading

Romans 8:31b–35.37–39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

³¹ With God on our side who can be against us?
³² Since God did not spare his own Son,
but gave him up to benefit us all,
we may be certain, after such a gift,
that he will not refuse anything he can give.
³³ Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen?
When God acquits, ³⁴ could anyone condemn?
Could Christ Jesus? No!
He not only died for us — he rose from the dead,
and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.
³⁵ Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ,
even if we are troubled or worried or being persecuted,
or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked.
³⁷ These are the trials through which we triumph,
by the power of him who loved us.
³⁸ For I am certain of this:
neither death nor life, no angel, no prince,
nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power,
³⁹ or height or depth, nor any created thing,
can ever come between us and the love of God
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Readings from the New Testament

Looking at the Text

N-1 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

St Paul's letter to the Romans

In the last ten years of his life, St Paul wrote letters to the churches he had founded. He wrote to both communities and individuals, often responding to questions and or difficulties they were having. He teaches about belief in God and how to live this out in life. The letter to the Romans is the longest letter, making the point that the law itself can give us knowledge about how to live the Christian life, but ultimately, it is God, through Jesus, who gives us the power and the strength to live it. Through baptism, we enter into 'new' life with Jesus, as children of God, members of Christ's family, with all the love we need! Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus, and this love enables our love.

In this passage

Relating it to marriage, we hear that with God (who is love) on our side, we can live the life we are called to live in marriage — a relationship of love that is exclusive, lifelong and fruitful. No trouble or worry or difficulty that threatens us can overwhelm us. We have the power to overcome anything and everything through love. God is love, and God pours out his love for us through the gift of his Son, Jesus. This is the love fills our hearts, strengthening our love for each other. We can call on and trust in God's loving help at all times.

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:

- In the ups and downs of life and relationships, what sort of worries do you have? How do you normally deal with your worries?
- What difference does this reading from the letter to the Romans make?
- Choose the words or sentence in this reading that speak to you most about 'hanging on in there', and perhaps write them down and use it as a book mark or stick it on the fridge.
- Why do you like this reading, and why might it be a good reading for your wedding?