

# Wedding Exhortation: Christian Love

*by Tim Isbell*

Ruth 1.16-17 & 1 Cor 13.4-7, 13

## Long version

Old Testament Reading: Ruth 1.16-17, New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 13.4-7, 13

Every Saturday couples stand with one another to be married. They have every intention to spend their lives together. But many give up after awhile.

Our Old Testament reading from Ruth tells of a different kind of love, enduring love. A love that promises a lifetime of commitment between 2 people, throughout all the good and bad that life brings.

Did you notice that Ruth promised “your God will be my God?” Enduring relationships usually grow on top of a foundation of faith in God. By having a Christian wedding, you affirm that God is important to you and that you want him to be the foundation of your relationship. Building an enduring marriage is not easy. Building a marriage that is fully satisfying to both the husband & wife is even harder. I’m convinced that very few of us - if any at all - will ever have a fully satisfying marriage until we build it upon faith in God.

Scripture tells us that God is loving. He loves us through good times and bad. He wants us to love each other, especially our marriage partners. He offers to teach you how to love each other.

Our New Testament reading from 1 Corinthians is the best scripture in the entire Bible to describe love from God’s point of view. It lists several characteristics of Christian love, among these:

It urges you to be patient with each other: to recognize that your spouse may operate at a different pace than you, or may have different anxieties and fears than you. Recognize this and be patient.

It teaches you to refuse to be jealous when the one you love fails to give you their undivided attention at all times.

It teaches you to treat the one you love with the same courtesy and thoughtfulness you display towards strangers and business acquaintances.

It teaches you to rejoice when you see the one you love receive the credit, the spotlight, for accomplishments in which you had a part.

It teaches you to love each other through the good and bad times, the times of joy and the times of sorrow.

You will have many good times in your marriage. And you will have some times when your commitment to each other is stretched. When these times come, remain open to this Scripture and let God teach you real love.

## **Short version**

The Bible describes to us a loving God:

- A God who loves us through the good times and the bad times.
- A God who wants us to love each other, especially our marriage partners.

The Scripture we read (1 Cor 13.4-8) is undoubtedly the best one in the entire Bible to describe love from God's point of view. It describes 15 characteristics of Christian love. It describes both what love is and what love is not. You will have many good times in your marriage. And, you will have many challenging times that strain your commitment to each other. When these times come, I urge you to open to this Scripture and let God teach you about real love.