

Reading

Ephesians 5: 2a. 25–32

This mystery has many implications and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

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

2 Follow Christ by loving as he loved you,
giving himself up in our place.

25 Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church
and sacrificed himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy.

He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words,
27 so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious,
with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless.

28 In the same way, husbands must love their wives
as they love their own bodies;

for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself.

29 A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it;
and that is the way Christ treats the Church,

30 because it is his body — and we are its living parts.

31 For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.

32 This mystery has many implications;
but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

33 The word of the Lord.