

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. —Romans 16:16 ESV

Greet one another with a holy kiss. —2 Corinthians 13:12 ESV

Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. —1 Thessalonians 5:26 ESV

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¹And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

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⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired,

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“By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you

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crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by Him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. —Acts 4:1-13 ESV

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Instead of living inhibited by fear,
they were bold in faith.

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What would you risk for love?

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Loving Christ means far more
than having feelings of
admiration and affection
toward Him. It means living a
life of devotion to Him
regardless of the consequence.

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Love Reveals Association

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Acts 4:13

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—Acts 4:13 ESV

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“The greatest and most undeniable defense of Christianity is an authentic Christian—one who loves Christ and lives out his or her love for Him.”

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And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. —Acts 4:13b ESV

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¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised...

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²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

—2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 20-21 ESV

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We love because He first loved us.
—1 John 4:19 ESV

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Love Risks Adversity

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“True love will sacrifice to demonstrate obedience to the rule of love in the heart.”

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¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. —Acts 4:11-12 ESV

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There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

—1 John 4:18 ESV

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Love Reflects Action

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Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul... —Acts 4:32 ESV

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To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness.

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But in that casket-safe, dark, motionless, airless-it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside heaven you can be perfectly safe from all dangers and perturbations of love is hell. —C.S. Lewis

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