

## Scriptures to Study (Contemporary English Bible)

Here are some scriptures to study while we are preparing for General Conference 2019

Ephesians 2:14-16

Christ is our peace. He made Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God has called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

Matthew 5:21-26

You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, Don't commit murder, and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgement. But I say to you that anyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgement. If they say to their brother or sister, "You idiot," they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say "you fool", they will be in danger of fiery hell. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and go. First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift. Be sure to make friends with your opponents while you are with them on the way to court. Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you over to the officer of the court, and you will be thrown into prison. I say to you in all seriousness that you won't get out of there until you've paid the very last penny.

Romans 12:9-18

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic - be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you - bless and do not curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone equal, and don't think you are better than anyone else. Instead associate with people who have no status, Don't think you are so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.

## Romans 14:1-13

Welcome the person who is weak in faith, but not in order to argue over differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. Someone who thinks a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgement seat of God. Because it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. So stop judging each other.

## I John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love doesn't know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God, and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgement Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in the world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers and sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love the brothers and sisters who they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen. This commandment we have from him: those who claim to love God ought to love their brothers and sisters also.