

TEXTS "TO DIE FOR."

Relevant texts which use "die" and "to die for."

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The translations are from the *NRSV*

EXAMPLES OF "DIE" IN THE STANDARD MEANING

John 11:45-53

AFTER JESUS "RAISES" LAZARUS SOME PLOT TO KILL JESUS

- 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.
46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done.
47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs.
48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation."
49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all!
50 You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed."
51 He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation,
52 and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God.
53 So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

John 18:14

- 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

"TO DIE FOR" IN THE SACRIFICIAL MEANING ... emphasis mine

I have always found it interesting that Paul uses sacrificial language in his attempt to communicate his view that the death (interpreted as a "sacrifice") of "Christ" (cf. the near sacrifice of Isaac, Genesis 22), now makes it possible for Gentiles to be included among the People of God. How well did Gentiles understand the Jewish sacrificial system? He also uses imagery from horticulture, i.e., the engrafting of a *wild* olive branch on the *cultivated* olive tree (Romans 11:17f.) to express his belief of how Gentiles have access to God by being engrafted on the cultivated tree, i.e., the people of God, through "Christ."

Romans 5:6

- 06 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ *died for* the ungodly.

Romans 5:8

- 08 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ *died for* us.

Romans 6:10

- 10 The death he died, he *died to* sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Romans 14:15

- 15 If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one *for whom Christ died*.

1 Corinthians 8:8-13

- 08 "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.
09 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.
10 For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?
11 So by your knowledge those weak believers *for whom Christ died* are destroyed.
12 But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.
13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

1 Corinthians 15:3

- 03 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that *Christ died for our sins* in accordance with the scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:22

- 22 ... for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- 14 For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that *one has died for all*; therefore all have died.
15 And *he died for all*, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

1 Thessaloians 4:14

- 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

1 Thessalonians 5:10

- 10 ... *who died for us*, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.