

29 October: How to Love

πόρνη *pornē*

Prostitute. From PIE root **per*, whence *πέρνωμι*, *to sell*.

ὅτε δὲ ὁ υἱός σου οὗτος ὁ καταφαγὼν σου τὸν βίον μετὰ **πορνῶν**, ἔθυσας αὐτῷ τὸν σιτευτὸν μόσχον.
*hote de ho huios houtos kataphagōn sou ton bion meta **pornōn**, ethusas autō ton siteuton moskhon.*

“But when this son of yours had spent [lit. ‘devoured’] your livelihood on **prostitutes**, you sacrificed the fattened calf for him.” (Luke 15:30)

Select concordance: Matthew 5:32, 15:19, 19:9, 21:31-2; Luke 15:30; Mark 7:21; John 8:41; Acts 15:20, 15:29, 21:25; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:13-18 7:2; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25; Revelation 2:21, 9:21, 14:8 15:5, 17:1-4, 17:15-16, 19:2.

LSJ: I. Harlot, prostitute. N.B. ‘prostitute’ does not necessarily indicate a free person; the concubine in the example from Antiphon below was certainly a slave, based on her treatment in court and eventual execution.

But some young men, drunk from their gambling, come to Megara and steal the **prostitute** Simaitha; the Megarans, infuriated by these vexations, stole in retaliation two prostitutes from Aspasia [a famous brothel madam]. Thereupon the beginning of a war for three hussies (*laikastrion*) broke out all over Greece. (Aristophanes, *Acharnians* 524-9)

[Philoneos] had a concubine (*pallakē*) whom he was going to put in a **brothel** (*porneion*). (Antiphon, *Against the Stepmother* 14)

Case study:

1 Corinthians 6:13-17: The body, however, is not meant for **sexual immorality** (*tē porneia*) but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. [14] By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. [15] Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a **prostitute** (*pornēs*)? Never! [16] Do you not know that he who unites himself with a **prostitute** (*tē pornē*) is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” [17] But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Matthew 21:31: “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the **prostitutes** (*pornai*) are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.”

ἀγάπη *agapē*

Love. Etymology uncertain, with potential matches in Hebrew [אַהַב ('*ahab*), *to love*], Arabic [أَحَبَّ (*ahabba*), *to love, like*], and Northwest Caucasian languages [e.g., Abkhaz а-гәаӡа-ра (*a-g^wapxa-ra*), *to like, wish, love*].

καὶ ἐγνώρισα αὐτοῖς τὸ ὄνομά σου καὶ γνωρίσω, ἵνα ἡ ἀγάπη ἦν ἡγάπησας με ἐν αὐτοῖς ἢ καὶ γὼ ἐν αὐτοῖς.

kai egnōrisa autois to onoma sou kai gnōrisō, hina hē agapē hēn ēgapēsas me en autois ē kagō en autois.

I made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that **the love you loved me with** may be in them, and so may I myself be in them. (John 17:26)

Select concordance: Matthew 24:12; Luke 11:42; John 5:42, 13:25, 15:9-13, 17:26; Romans 5:8, 8:35-39, 12:9, 13:10, 14:15, 15:30; 1 Corinthians 4:21, 8:1, 13:1-4.

LSJ: I. Love. III. Alms, charity. IV. The love of God (*agapē theou*).

Penelope, after recognizing Odysseus: “Do not be angry or resentful with me for this, because when I first saw you I did not **greet you with affection** (*agapēsa*).” (*Odyssey* 23.213-14)

Let [a guardian] be no less **loving** (*agapatō*) toward a child made an orphan by Fate than toward his own children, nor let him care any less for the affairs of his nursing than for his own. (Plato, *Laws* 11.928a)

Case study:

John 15:13: Greater **love** (*agapēn*) has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Matthew 5:43-6: “You have heard that it was said, ‘**Love** (*agapatē*) your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ [44] But I tell you, **love** (*agapatē*) your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-6: **Love** (*agapē*) is patient, **love** is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] **Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. [8] **Love** never fails.

ἄφεσις *aphesis*

Forgiveness. ἀπό, *away, from, off* + ἵημι, *to release, cast, send*; literally, *casting-off* (of sins).

τοῦτο γάρ ἐστιν τὸ αἷμά μου τῆς διαθήκης τὸ περὶ πολλῶν ἐκχυννόμενον εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν.

touto gar estin to haima mou tēs diathēkēs to peri pollōn ekkhunnomenon eis aphesin hamartiōn.

For this is the blood of my new covenant, which is shed for all for the **forgiveness** of sins. (Matthew 26:28)

Select concordance: Matthew 26:28; Mark 1:4, 3:29; Luke 1:77, 3:3, 4:18, 24:47; Acts 2:38, 5:31, 10:43, 13:38, 26:18; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:22, 10:18.

LSJ: Letting go, release: dismissal, discharge, exemption; divorce; the starting of horses in a race; emission.

[Agesilaus], who had been for forty years since the time of his youth in the army and had an **exemption** (*aphesin*) from military service, declined that generalship. (Plutarch, *Life of Agesilaus* 24.2)

Since there had been a contractual discharge (*apallagēs*) and **release** (*apheseōs*), and since there is no other agreement between myself and this man...I have entered the special plea that [the suit] cannot stand according to the following laws. (Demosthenes, *Against Apatourius* 3)

Case study:

Luke 4:18: [Jesus, citing Isaiah:] “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom** (*aphesin*) for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Acts 26:17-18: [Jesus to Paul:] “I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them [18] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive **forgiveness** (*aphesin*) of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

Mark 11:25: And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, **forgive** (*aphiete*) them, so that your Father in Heaven may **forgive** (*aphē*) you your sins.”

Luke 23:24: Jesus said, “Father, **forgive** (*aphes*) them, for they do not know what they are doing.”