

Marriage...

Made in Heaven. Lived on Earth.

Message 2 God's Purpose for Marriage

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September 23, 2018

► Outline

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

Ephesians 5:25-26 (NLT)

Marriage helps me become holy by... (Hebrews 12:14)

1. Experiencing _____.
(Matthew 18:19-20; John 14:16; 1 Peter 3:1-2;
1 John 4:12)

2. Exposing _____.
(Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 5:25-26; 2 Timothy 2:23-26;
James 5:16,19-20)

3. Encouraging _____.
(Romans 1:12; 12:9-10; Ephesians 4:15;
1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Answers: 1. God 2. sin 3. growth

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

► Discussion Guide

Whether young or old, married or single, we can all benefit from exploring God's design for relationships. Use this guide with your spouse, with friends or on your own to develop healthy connections with others and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

For additional resources visit brookwoodchurch.org/marriage.

Conversation Starter

Is there a scene or two from a movie or great story that captures what you want for your marriage? What is it? What about the scene grabs you?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Romans 6:19-22](#).

1. What difference should your *freedom in Christ* have in your marriage or close relationships?
2. What does it mean to *become holy*?
3. What does your spouse or close friend do that drives you crazy? What does that reveal about you?
4. What are some things you're learning about God as a result of difficulties in marriage or close relationships?

Read [Ephesians 5:25-26](#).

5. In your own words, describe how *Christ loved the church*.
6. What does it look like for a husband to love his wife in this way?
7. How do these principles apply to all our relationships?

Read [2 Timothy 2:23-25](#); [Hebrews 12:14](#).

8. How do you usually respond when things get difficult in your marriage?
9. What practical steps can you take to promote peace with your spouse?

Read [Romans 1:12](#); [Ephesians 4:15](#).

10. How does your personal relationship with Christ affect the spiritual growth of your marriage?
11. How can you encourage spiritual growth in your spouse or friend without being judgmental or condescending?
12. If God uses conflict as a way to help us give and receive love, how does that impact the way you look at your marriage? How does that help reframe your most difficult relationships?

Summarize

Based on the message, materials and conversations this week, what would you say is *God's purpose for marriage*? How does that relate to God's purpose for relationships in general?

Soul Training

Identify areas in your marriage or close friendships that you find challenging. Ask God what He might be trying to reveal or teach you about yourself.

Memory Verse

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave us His life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

[Ephesians 5:25-26 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

- Day 1: [Hebrews 12:14-15](#) Day 4: [James 3:13-18](#)
Day 2: [1 Peter 3:8-11](#) Day 5: [1 John 4:11-12](#)
Day 3: [Romans 12:9-10](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, September 30, we'll explore *The Plan of Marriage*. To prepare, read [1 John 4:7-18](#) and come to worship with a heart to learn and grow.