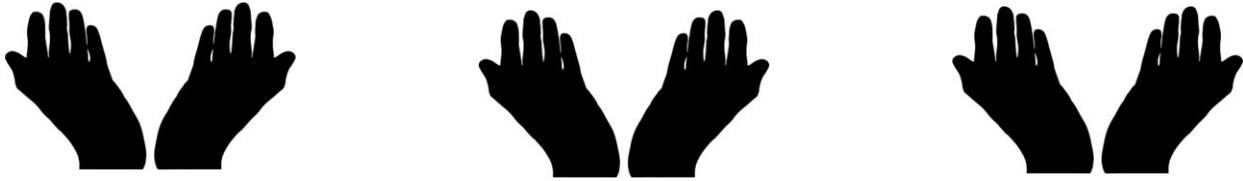


# Praying for Your Spouse / Marriage



**Ephesians 5:21-33** (NIV) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## 1. God’s model for husbands and wives

Ephesians 5:21-23 provides us with God’s model for marriage.

- a. It begins with each one submitting to the another
- b. The husband is to love his wife sacrificially as Christ loves the church
- c. The wife is to submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ
- d. The two are to become one

**Ecclesiastes 4:9–11** (NIV) Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: <sup>10</sup>If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. <sup>11</sup>Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

This is our call within the marriage covenant

Yet we don’t always live up to God’s expectations let alone one another’s.



- Pray for your spouse to have the faith and heart to be all God has created us to be within the marriage covenant.
- Pray for a spirit of unity and love to envelope your marriage so that you will always be there to support and care for each other.

## 2. Seen Through the Eyes of God

We are each precious in God's site.  
Do we see our spouse as God does?

When Samuel was sent to anoint David as king, he first encountered David's brother...

**1 Samuel 16:7** (NIV) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."



- Pray and ask God for vision to see your spouse as God sees them.
- Pray with thanksgiving for all the strengths and endearing qualities that God has given your spouse.

## 3. Honoring Your Marriage Vows

Jesus shared this about marriage...

**Matthew 19:4-6** (NIV) "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'<sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Paul reminds us...

**Hebrews 13:4** (NIV) Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.



- Pray and ask God for the love, wisdom, and strength to see your marriage as precious, worthy of honor.

## 4. Repentance and Forgiveness in Marriage.

**Colossians 3:13** (NIV) Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

**Ephesians 4:26-27** (NIV) "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,<sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

Every relationship has high and low moments  
Every relationship encounters pain and hurt  
Have we dealt with any past grievances in our marriage?

The key to thriving in marriage, through the difficulties, is our desire and ability to take responsibility for our mistakes, our desire and ability to repent, and our willingness to lovingly extend grace in forgiveness.



- Pray for the ability to repent and forgive.
- Pray for the ability to let go of any anger we may be holding on to due to past wrongs.
- Pray and ask God to reveal any past or present grievances we may have against our spouse so we can bear with each other and to wholeheartedly forgive one another.

## 5. A Marriage Established in God's Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 is a vivid description of what God's love does.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7** (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.



- Pray for your spouse that each positive quality of love is expressed in their life.

*Insert your name into this description of love asking God to make these qualities of love evident in your life. (For example: Margie is patient; Margie does not envy; Margie does not envy...)*

Here are some scriptural promises to pray for your mate:

## 6. Prayers of the Husband for his Wife

**Proverbs 31:10-31** (NIV) A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. <sup>11</sup> Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. <sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. <sup>13</sup> She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. <sup>14</sup> She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. <sup>15</sup> She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

<sup>17</sup> She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. <sup>18</sup> She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. <sup>19</sup> In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. <sup>20</sup> She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

<sup>21</sup> When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. <sup>22</sup> She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. <sup>23</sup> Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. <sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. <sup>25</sup> She is clothed with

strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. <sup>26</sup> She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. <sup>27</sup> She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup> Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup> “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. <sup>31</sup> Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.



- Pray she will be a wife of noble character; a woman that her husband can have full confidence in; skillful in her God-given tasks; one who fears the Lord.

**1 Peter 3:1-4** (NIV) Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. <sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.



- Pray that her purity and reverence, her Godly behavior, would be a visible testimony to all.
- Pray for a gentle and quiet spirit that is of great worth in God’s sight.

## 7. Prayers of the Wife for her Husband

**1 Peter 3:7-9** (NIV) Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.



- Pray he will be considerate; always treating his wife with respect; one whose prayers are not hindered.

**Ephesians 5:25** (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her



- Pray he would be a servant leader in the home; sacrificially loving his wife as Christ loved the church; submitting to Christ’s authority in his life.

**Psalms 101:1-4** (NIV) I will sing of your love and justice; to you, LORD, I will sing praise. <sup>2</sup> I will be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart. <sup>3</sup> I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what

faithless people do; I will have no part in it. <sup>4</sup> The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil.

**James 1:19-25 (NIV)** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.



- Pray he will love first the Lord with all his heart, mind, and strength
- Pray he will have a blameless heart and have nothing to do with what is evil.
- Pray he will be quick to listen, slow to anger, and be a doer of God's Word.

## 8. Prayer of Blessing

*A blessing to be prayed by those who are single and look to be married one day.*

God of all grace and glory, I thank you for Jesus who is the true light that fills the world. You show me the way, the truth, and the life. You love me even when I have been disobedient. You sustain me with your Holy Spirit and I rejoice in your life in the midst of mine.



I pray you will lead me to that one person you have set aside for me. Bless this person in a unique and special way. Draw them ever closer to you even as you do the same for me. Equip us with all wisdom, discernment, and love so that on the day we take our vows we may honor one another and honor you in our life together.

I thank you and praise you for your presence in my life today and patiently look forward to your blessing in my future in the solemn covenant of marriage. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!

*A blessing to be prayed by the married couples.*



God of all grace and glory, we thank you for Jesus who is the true light that fills the world. You show us the way, the truth, and the life. You love us even when we are disobedient. You sustain us with your Holy Spirit and we rejoice in your life in the midst of our lives.

Bless my spouse today in a unique and special way. May your anointing be upon my spouse as you continue to guide us in our lives together. May each year bring us closer to you and to each other. May all that we do honor the vows we took on our wedding day and bring honor to your Holy name.

We thank you and praise you for your presence with us, and especially in the solemn covenant of marriage. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!

*A blessing to be prayed by widows and widowers.*



God of all grace and glory, I thank you for Jesus who is the true light that fills the world. You showed us the way, the truth, and the life. You loved us even when we are disobedient. You sustained us with your Holy Spirit and I rejoice in your life as it filled our lives.

I thank you for the special blessing my spouse was to me. You filled our lives in so many unique and special ways. I am grateful for each year, each day, and each moment we had together. In our time together I pray we were able to honor you and the vows we took on our wedding day.

I thank you and praise you for your presence over the years and especially in the solemn covenant of our marriage. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!