

WORKING ON US
Becoming Us #2
April 19, 2026

**Big Idea: God designed marriage to make us _____,
not just _____. (1 Pet. 1:15-16; Psalm 37:4; John
15:11; Eph. 5:25-27)**

HOW GOD USES MARRIAGE TO MAKE US HOLY

1. He teaches us how to _____.

- **Jesus modeled love by _____ and
_____. (Col. 1:15-17; Mark 10:45; Titus
2:3-4)**

2. He forces us to face our _____.

- **Growth in holiness requires _____ not
just _____. (Acts 26:20)**
- **Repentance is supported by an environment of
_____ and _____. (1 Thes. 4:11)**

3. He gives us practice in _____. (Eph. 5:32)

- **By confronting _____.** (Matt. 18:15)
- **By accepting _____.**
- **By remaining _____.**
- **By extending _____.**

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday: Read John 15:1-11. God prunes us to make us more fruitful by removing sinful, unproductive, unchristian behavior and attitudes. We bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and the fruit of disciples when we abide/remain in Jesus. This grows our prayer life, glorifies God, inspires obedience and ultimately gives us joy. Verses 1-10 are about making us holy which leads us to full joy. How has God pruned you to make you holier like Jesus? How has this affected your happiness?

Tuesday: Read Galatians 5:16-26. Here the apostle Paul contrasts two lists: the works of the flesh (unholiness) and the fruit of the Spirit (holiness). Which list produces more happiness. How has God pruned the works of the flesh and produced the fruit of the Spirit in your marriage, family or close friends? As Charles Spurgeon said, "Holiness is the royal road to happiness. The death of sin is the life of joy."

Wednesday: Read John 13:1-20 about how Jesus taught servanthood to His disciples. Try this exercise with your spouse/family member/close friend. 1) Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 on how well you serve the other person. 2) Rate them on the same scale on how well they serve you. 3) Exchange scores and talk. 4) Ask how you can better serve him/her. Serving others makes us more like Jesus and gives us joy.

Thursday: Read Ephesians 4:15-16 which was addressed to the church but has direct application to marriage and friendship. Do you regularly speak truth in love to people? How is it received? How do you receive it when it is spoken to you? Speaking the truth in love is how we grow up in Christ. Do you need to improve in speaking it or in receiving it?

Friday: Marriage provides endless practice in forgiveness. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. What does forgiveness free us from (v. 29-31)? Do you struggle with any of these things? When someone offends/hurts us we are responsible to confront them by speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15, 29); Be kind to them asking God to give you a tender heart and tough skin (not easily offended). Then forgive them by releasing the right to retaliate giving that to God (Rom. 12:19-21). Do you need to forgive your spouse or be forgiven by him/her?