

Fighting for Marriage

Steven Morris

FIGHT - For What Matters Most - NK | June 21, 2026

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

One of the most fun parts of my job is getting to walk with a couple through the engagement and then the wedding process, right? It's a joyful experience all the way around. It's a lot of fun.

A couple of years ago, I started asking couples to come up with a mission statement for their marriage. Think about that: What is our marriage going to be about?

As I ask that question, it's really interesting to see the wheels start turning in a couple's minds and hearts as they have to ask this question of one another and before the Lord: What is our marriage going to be about?

It's a great exercise. If you're married and you haven't done that, I'd encourage you to do it. Say, "Hey, what is our marriage going to be about?" Create a marriage mission statement.

I had one couple a couple of years back, and I believe they absolutely nailed it. Here's what they came up with. They're in their early twenties, just starting out with life and graduated from college. Here's what they said: "In marriage, our goal is to honor God more together than we ever could apart."

That's it. That is their goal as a couple. Their desire is to honor the Lord with how they live in marriage. I think it's fantastic.

Now, both the husband and the wife in this relationship are Aggies, so it should come as no surprise that they're thinking so clearly about this. That's how we Aggies are.

But here's the amazing thing: For them, it wasn't just words. This was an obvious reflection of their hearts because that's how they're living. I'm watching them live this life right now, and I'm so incredibly proud of how they're living this out. They understand that their marriage matters.

Marriage Matters

We're going to see that in God's Word today. If you've got a Bible, open to Ephesians chapter 5, and just know that marriage matters.

As I prayed about the morning, I prayed that we would walk away with an elevated view of marriage and that we would approach our marriages knowing that we have this incredible opportunity to honor the Lord.

We're continuing our teaching series this morning, Fighting for What Matters. If you're taking notes today, our title is this: Fight for Marriage.

I want you to notice I didn't say your marriage, because you might not be married in here this morning. If you are, of course, fight for it. Value it and the marriages of others. I phrase it like this because I want us all to understand that this is a topic for all of us, whether we're married or not, young or old. Our view of marriage and our approach to marriage absolutely matter.

When you go to the Bible, there's one illustration that God uses to give us a picture of the relationship between Jesus and His church - that's us - and the illustration is marriage.

If you're open to Ephesians 5, look down at verse 31. We're going to see it, and then we're going to work our way backward through the chapter a little bit. Verse 31 says this:

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

— Ephesians 5:31-32

We're going to get the why up front. Why fight for marriage? Because marriage should point other people - it should point us - to Christ.

There's no other metaphor in the Bible given for the Christ-church relationship. It is marriage. We learn that our marriages show God's plan. We see that Christ loves the church and died for the church. The church loves Christ and follows after Him. God uses marriage to teach us about Himself and His plan of redemption.

When a husband and wife live out their marriage according to God's plan and design, everyone around them gets a picture of the loving leadership that Christ has for His church. Our marriages should cause people around us to look to Jesus.

Because of that, guess what? The enemy is after marriages today. He knows that godly marriages point to the gospel, so he is attacking marriages everywhere he can. He's trying to bring confusion to the very institution of marriage. He's doing everything he can to wreck marriages. He's tempting husbands and wives to make decisions within their marriage that would hurt their spouse.

Listen, that's the opposite of how Christ treats the church.

The enemy is twisting our culture so that fewer and fewer people are even wanting to get married. It's not simply a culture war. This is a spiritual war. Why? Because godly marriages matter.

If you're married, do what you're called to do and honor God with how you treat your spouse.

If you're planning to be married one day, understand that you have this incredible opportunity to point people to Christ with how you live in marriage. Find a spouse who understands the high calling of marriage, and know that your decisions now, no matter how old you are - if you're a teenager, if you're in your twenties or your thirties - will one thousand percent impact your marriage relationship in the future. That's not debatable.

Use the Word of God. Use times together like this to build up a godly worldview of marriage, and then find

someone who shares it.

If you're here this morning, you're married, and your marriage is in trouble, do you understand that your marriage matters too? You might not have much hope for your marriage, but I want you to know that God hasn't given up on it, and He hasn't given up on you.

Ask God to do a miracle in your heart and in the heart of your spouse. You might be saying, "Yeah, a miracle is what it's going to take." Well, God can do miracles. We see over and over again in Scripture how God makes dead things alive.

All of us, whether we're married or not, need to support the marriages around us, knowing the high calling and the high importance that God places on marriage. Ensure that the advice you give to married people is Christlike and is a result of the Holy Spirit working in your heart, so that at the end of the day, in all of our marriages, people are pointed to Christ.

Marriage matters. I'm thankful for it. We know it's God's idea, not our own. When marriage is done right, guess what? God gets all the glory, and we get a whole lot of joy.

We know the why behind marriage. Now let's think through the how. The good news for us is that it's right there in this passage as well. We can back up a little bit and see the instruction that God, in His Word, gives to both husbands and wives about how we're supposed to walk this out.

Look at verse 22:

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

— Ephesians 5:22-25

I want to pause right there because I know how this goes. There's a good chance that some of you got hung up at the end of verse 22, about wives submitting to husbands, and you didn't really hear me say anything after that.

I want to drill down on this for just a second. In fact, earlier this week, just sort of knowing how people get with this verse, I put it on a sticky note - just "Ephesians 5:22." I didn't write the verse out. I put that sticky note on our mirror in the bathroom, right above Chelsea's sink. I was hoping she was going to read it and I was going to get some great reaction and story to share with you all this morning, but I have nothing to report. It was a pretty boring reaction.

But here's the deal. This is why I bring this up: Guys, if this is your favorite verse, if you quote this to your wives, you don't understand it. You don't understand the passage, and I'd argue that you're moving in the wrong direction.

Before we go on to walk out marriage in the context of this chapter, I want to address some common misconceptions about these verses.

I've found that when you walk through marriage in Ephesians chapter 5, there are some people who have a hard time locking in to what God's Word really does have to say here because they've heard this twisted or said wrong so many other times.

I want to note a couple of things.

First, in this passage, women are not told to submit to all men. Read it. Look at verse 22. This does not describe the general male-female relationship. This is talking about godly, Spirit-led husbands and wives within the covenant of marriage.

Second, this command of submission is not an outdated cultural reality. Some have argued about our writer, Paul, "Hey, listen, he's just reflecting the era of his day or the culture of his day. This isn't something that we need to hold on to in today's world."

I'm telling you, that is not a very well-thought-out argument or statement. Here's why: In reality, Paul's instruction is reacting against the culture of the day.

Now, I wasn't there in the first century. You weren't there in the first century. But we can all read, and it's pretty well documented that the attitude of the ancient world toward the value of women was not good. Oftentimes they were treated as property. They had very few rights, and in a lot of circumstances, they were not able to do what they wanted to do.

But here, what does Paul say in Ephesians chapter 5? He says, "Hey, guys, you have to love your wife like your very own body." That's a crazy high standard in the first century or in this century.

If you go back and look, at no point did any ancient religion or ancient civilization - the Jews, the Romans, or the Greeks - instruct husbands to die as needed for their wives. This is a new teaching, a radical teaching from Paul against the teaching of the day. This is the way of Jesus.

I read in a commentary this week, "When Jesus enters a situation, the value of women goes up - always."

Third, this passage does not teach that men and women have differing values. It's pretty clear in Ephesians 5. Let me back it up with Galatians chapter 3:

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

— Galatians 3:26-28

This is a reminder that in the eyes of the Lord, men and women are on equal footing. People get that confused when they read this passage without understanding what the leadership of a godly husband should look like.

Leadership is not about value. It's not about status. Godly leadership is about serving in all aspects of life, but especially when it comes to marriage.

If you sort of paused there when I began to read verse 22, if it was hard for you to continue on because of some common misconceptions, my prayer is that the Lord would clear some of those up in your mind and heart so that you could lock in to what God has to say about marriage.

As we look, let's remember that these verses on husbands, wives, and marriage don't exist on an island. They're not a separate set of instructions. They're part of a letter.

As we zoom out just a little bit more, we get more contextual information about these commands so we can make sure we're understanding them the right way. We started at verse 31. We backed up to verse 22. Back up now to verse 18. What does it say there?

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

— Ephesians 5:18

What does it look like to be filled with the Spirit? Verses 18 through 21 tell us: greeting one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. I like to think the soundtrack of our lives should be worship. That's it.

But look at verse 21. Another reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit is what?

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

— Ephesians 5:21

That is the context for what we're about to read in the rest of chapter 5 and into chapter 6. That means everything we see about husbands and wives, children and parenting, is an application of the command to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Christian marriage and the Christian family are works of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers. Think about that. The Christian marriage is a work of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Christian family is a work of the Holy Spirit.

These verses have practical, real, hands-on tools for us in marriage. There's no doubt. As we walk these out, I'm telling you now that they're going to bring us a lot of joy. But we know that at the end of the day, it's not really about our joy. It is about God's glory in our marriages.

It's not what we see in the Hallmark movies at Christmastime, but that's not where we get our instruction. We get our instruction from the Word of God.

Spirit-Filled Wives

Knowing that God has given us instructions, let's look at them together, starting in verse 22:

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

— Ephesians 5:22-24

Point number one, if you're taking notes: Spirit-filled wives submit to their husbands.

In seminary, in a preaching class, I got a note from a professor about Ephesians chapter 5. He said to us, "Hey, guys, be careful when you preach Ephesians 5. It is a hard text to get through."

He gave two reasons. He said, "Number one, nobody likes to submit," and that checks out. Then he said, "Number two, sometimes men can be pigs," and that checks out as well. Unfortunately, he's right.

Think about submission for a minute. If you dive in to do a word study on the language here, in the Greek they would have had this word picture of military submission - strategically and intentionally placing yourself under the authority of another, to follow the leadership of another.

John Piper describes godly submission like this. He says it means "intelligent, happy, and wise support for the godly leadership of your husband."

The godly leadership of your husband, not the domination of your husband. Leading is not a husband making unilateral decisions without talking to his wife.

Wives, understand this morning: Your husband is not Jesus.

She said, "Amen."

Listen, in the first service there were a lot of people biting their tongues. I know some of you were too. I appreciate that. But let me just remind you: Your husband knows he's not Jesus. You know he's not Jesus. At the end of the day, we have one Lord, and that is Jesus.

As we discuss the command that's given here, we need to know that He is our Lord. He has given us this command, and we can unpack it in several ways. This morning, let's unpack it by looking at the motive, the heart, and the application of submission in a marriage.

First, the motive. Look at verse 22. Who is this about? At the end of the day, this is about the Lord. When a godly wife submits to a godly husband, it's to ultimately glorify Christ as she is led by the Holy Spirit.

Now, the heart of submission - the heart of a wife submitting to her husband - is a love for Christ and a love for her husband. If submission becomes this emotionless obligation, if it's void of any sort of love, it's not going to go well for anyone involved.

You might be thinking, "Wait a minute. I've read ahead here, and I know the husband's command is to love the wife." You're right, but these two go hand in hand.

John Stott has written a great commentary on Ephesians. If you ever dive deeper into Ephesians and you

want a commentary, John Stott's is a great place to go. He says this: "What does it mean to submit? It means to give oneself up to somebody. What does it mean to love? It means to give oneself up for somebody."

I want you to see that the hearts of both the husband and the wife have to be driven by a love for Christ and a love for one another.

Third, the application of submission. What does it look like?

Go back to chapter 5 and the context here. This is written to a church family. This is a Spirit-filled, godly relationship. This is not a demanding, ungodly, domineering one.

The picture here is a Christian wife freely - not under compulsion - following the loving leadership of her husband, who loves Jesus and is willing to love his wife like Jesus has called him to.

This is not about a wife following a tyrant who makes demands on her life. Listen, too many people have taught this wrong, to the detriment of godly teaching on marriage. If you've heard this weaponized, if a husband has weaponized this or used it to justify ungodly or abusive behavior, that is completely wrong.

A wife's call here is to follow Spirit-filled, loving, and godly leadership. It is not a call to follow her husband into sin or into abuse.

Think about a dance. One person leads, and another person follows. That's a country song, isn't it? "Life's a dance, you learn as you go. Sometimes you lead, sometimes you..."

Y'all are way better than 9:30. Y'all are awake.

Both are necessary on a dance floor, aren't they? Otherwise, it just doesn't work.

You could rephrase it like this: Submission is responding to initiation.

For a wife to submit to godly leadership, a husband has to provide wise and godly leadership to allow his wife the opportunity to respond to it.

Husbands, we're going to hit your section in just a minute, but before we do, you've got to know that you have to initiate. You have to walk closely with Jesus. You have to embrace the responsibility to lead in a way that reflects what we're reading about here.

Husbands, are you leading in this way? Here's a great test to see who's leading in your marriage: Who says, "Let's do this," or, "Let's do that," more often? Who is the one saying, "Let's"? That's probably the current leader.

Husbands, understand that you've been given a charge here in Scripture. Set the pace.

Husbands, start saying things like, "Let's grow closer to Jesus as a family. Let's read our Bibles together with the kids."

Start saying things like, "Hey, let's ensure our finances are wise and honoring to God with how we steward them. Let's refocus a little bit. Our lives are crazy. We're going a million different directions. Let's refocus and

make sure Christ is the priority of our home."

Husbands, lead. Initiate that way.

Wives, know that submission doesn't mean sitting back, folding your arms, and saying, "I wonder if he's going to do it or not." No, it means responding to his leadership and working together to ensure that your home and family are honoring to Christ and pointing other people to Him.

It means that when there's a draw and you can't come to a decision together, you tell your husband, "Hey, listen, as you follow Jesus, as you're led by the Spirit, I'm going to trust you to do what's best in our lives."

Ladies, if you're yet to marry, do not settle. Marry a man who is godly and loving, a man you can trust to love you and lead you toward Jesus like Scripture has called him to.

I want you to understand that there is no other person in this world who will impact your relationship with Christ like your spouse does. Do not settle here.

Ladies, if you are married and your husband's not leading like this, encourage him to. Ask him to. Ask him to lead you and your family toward Jesus, and begin to pray for him. Pray that God would take hold of his heart in a radical new way and that, as he grows in his walk with Christ, he would grow in his godly leadership, because God's given him a massive responsibility.

Spirit-Filled Husbands

Let's look at that, starting in verse 25:

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.
In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,
because we are members of his body.*

— Ephesians 5:25-30

Point two: Spirit-filled husbands love their wives like Christ loves the church.

This is not a throwaway statement that you might hear at a wedding sometime. This means something. Husbands are called to give up everything for the sake of their wives.

Think about what Jesus did. What did He give up? Man, Jesus gave up heaven and traded it in for a cross. A husband's love for his wife should have the same willingness to lay down his needs in favor of hers.

Let's unpack it the same way. Let's look at the motive, the heart, and the application.

The motive here, again, goes back to Christ and our relationship with Jesus. As children of God, we imitate Christ. He loved the church with all that He had. In the same way, husbands, you're called to love your wives with all that you have.

You know love's not a feeling, right? Love's an action. It is a daily choice in your marriage.

Again, this is just part of our discipleship. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, as we grow in our faith, husbands, we will grow in our love for our wives.

Now, the heart of this is all wrapped up together with the motive, isn't it? The heart of this kind of love should be to imitate the love that Christ has shown to the church: sacrificial love.

Philippians 2 talks about this:

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

— Philippians 2:3

That passage goes on to say this is the attitude and the mindset of Christ - elevating the needs of others above your own. Husbands, that is the heart and the call in marriage.

Now, the application of it. Husbands, if you're loving like Christ, I want you to understand that means you're going first.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

— Romans 5:8

The timing there is important. Understand, Jesus didn't wait for us to ask, "Hey, Jesus, love us." No, He loved. He took the first step. We see initiation in the love of Christ.

So, husbands, love. Get moving. Don't sit back. Don't be lazy. Be the first to engage, the first to love, the first to apologize, the first to forgive, and the first to say, "Hey, our family needs to reprioritize and realign to get focused on Jesus."

But that's not all. We see several more aspects of love in these verses.

Look at verse 25. We just saw sacrificial love - the call to love like Christ.

Look at verse 26. Husbands who love like Christ are also going to love with a sanctifying love.

Now, when you read the rest of Ephesians, it's pretty clear that Jesus is the only one who can forgive our sins. He's the only one who can bring us into a right relationship with God.

Husbands, what does this sanctifying love mean? Practically speaking, it means you should love your wife in a way that helps her grow in her relationship with Christ.

Here's the question, husbands, that we've all got to ask ourselves: Is my wife more like Christ because she's married to me?

Let that sit for a minute. Ask yourself, "Is my wife more like Christ because she is married to me?"

The way that a Spirit-filled husband loves his wife should cause her to grow in her relationship with Jesus.

If you're wondering how you can do that, let me give you just three things - a quick list. We're not going to spend much time on it, but if you need a list of some things to do, you can jot these down.

I'm telling you, if these aren't patterns in your marriage and you make them consistent disciplines or patterns in your marriage, God's going to do something in your marriage that you never even could have imagined. They're all simple. You've heard them all before.

The first is this: Read your Bible and talk about it with your spouse. Read your Bible regularly. You can read it together or you can read it apart, but the point is that you are reading it and talking about what God's Word is saying to you.

God's Word is always applicable to your life, your marriage, your parenting, your finances, and your day-to-day circumstances. Read the Word of God and let God speak like only He can.

Number two, pray together. Pray together on a regular basis. You should be - you need to be - praying with your spouse, seeking the Lord together in all things.

Pray with your spouse. Pray with your kids. Let prayer be a regular pattern in your home.

If you know that these need to be patterns in your home and you're going through a season - we all go through them - where these things have sort of fallen out of practice, let this be the instigator to get them going again.

Husbands, initiate this afternoon and say, "Hey, listen, we've sort of fallen off here. We need to spend more time in the Bible together. We need to spend more time talking about the Bible together. We need to spend more time in prayer together."

Press reset on those disciplines and let them become a part of your home again like they need to be.

The third aspect of helping your spouse look more like Jesus is that you need to be surrounded by godly community - other groups of believers who love you and love the Lord, so that when life happens, and it's going to happen, they can support you in a way that holds you up, encourages you, and pushes you toward Christ.

We have life groups at our church, and that's where a lot of these kinds of relationships grow, build, and thrive. People get in and make these kinds of friends.

Husbands, I'll just say this: There are a lot of times when the wife really wants to get in a group. She wants this kind of community, and the husband is maybe the reason they haven't gotten in or plugged in. They say things like, "I've got two friends. I don't need any more. I've got enough. I don't have the bandwidth for more."

I'm telling you, these groups will make a difference in your life.

If you can begin to walk these disciplines out and spend time in the Word, time in prayer, and let other couples invest in your life - whether it's through life groups or another avenue - you're going to be positioning your marriage in a spot where both of you are growing, and God's going to do something really, really, really great.

Finally, look at verses 28 through 31, the last part of this application of love. Husbands, you're called to love your wife with a satisfying love. It says, "Love your wife like your own body." That's what it says.

Husbands, you need to provide for, nourish, and care for your wife just like you care for yourself. Love your wife by making sure she has what she needs: joy, peace, health, friendship, community, intimacy, and security. Be intentional in these kinds of things, and work hard here.

As you're working on this, just know you're not going to be perfect, and there are going to be a few bumps along the way. I completely get it.

I've shared this story before when talking about marriage. Chelsea and I had our first fight as newlyweds, and it ended with her grabbing a hot cookie off the stove and throwing it at my back as I was running away. It stuck to my back, and it became this whole big thing.

I just share that to say these things are going to happen. I know we're not the only ones, because when we share that story, it's like confession time. Wives come up to Chelsea and say, "Hey, I threw this at my husband," or, "I threw that at my husband."

Husbands come to me and say, "Hey, my wife got me with a brush," or with this or that. Husbands and wives are playing dodgeball when they fight. I don't know what it is. The funniest thing we've heard is a potato.

It's just a reminder: You're not going to nail this every time. Your call is to do your best, as you're filled by the Holy Spirit, to love one another the way God's called you to love.

Husbands, a simple step for you to love your wife the way you're called to might be to give her a piece of paper and a pen this afternoon and just ask, "Hey, write down three ways that I can love you better."

Let her speak into this a little bit with you to help you understand. When she gives you that list back, don't argue with her about it. Don't explain things away. Just take it and love your wife like Christ loved the church.

I'm telling you, as you lean into God's design like that, your marriage will bring you incredible joy, and it will give God all the glory.

Heart Transformation

Ephesians 5 is a great passage. It has a profound daily impact on our lives, and there's a lot of stuff to do in here. But I don't want us to get caught up with just a to-do list.

I was talking with somebody this week about marriage and about what they're walking through, and we were reminded - and I want to bring this reminder to you this morning as well - that we are not just after behavior modification.

We're not after a list of things that we can do for a short time before we revert to our old patterns. We are all about heart transformation here.

Again, this flows out of a command to be filled by the Spirit. As we're filled by the Spirit and reading the Word of God, God is taking His Word and using it to transform our hearts from the inside out.

This is all about growing in our walk with Christ. Everything that's happening in here is going to flow out and into our marriages.

Let me leave you with this picture. I share this with couples as they're preparing to get married. You've probably seen it in marriage books or marriage seminars that you've been to. It's a really, really simple drawing. We can all do this.

You've got the husband and wife, and if their focus is the Lord - if they're in prayer, if they're in the Word, if they're trying to grow in their love relationship with Him and their intimacy with Him - they're drawing closer to Him.

The natural result, when a husband and wife are both doing this, is that they are drawing close to one another.

You're going to have ups and downs. I get it. We're all human. But if your consistent pattern is seeking to draw close to the Lord, and your spouse's consistent pattern of life is seeking to draw close to the Lord, the natural result is this closeness and intimacy that you're going to share, which is going to result in a thriving marriage.

I've seen it over and over and over again as a pastor walking with newlyweds and couples who have been married for over 50 years. This is the constant: Couples who walk out God's plan and God's design walk through life with a joy that is so obvious in their marriage. It stands out, and ultimately it points people to Christ.

You've seen it too. I know you have. Think about the marriages you admire, the marriages you look up to, and the husbands and wives who seem so genuinely happy to be together. More often than not, they are walking out what we see here. They are full of joy, and God gets all the glory.

Let's let God work in our hearts from the inside out. Let's live out His plan and His design. As we do, we're going to honor God more together in marriage than we ever could apart.

Prayer

Would you bow your heads and pray with me this morning?

Wherever you're at, I want to lead you in a time of prayer today. We're going to start very generally, just for all of us this morning, thanking God that He designed us for relationships - first with Him, and then with one another.

Thank God for the gift of relationships. Thank God for the gift of the marriage relationship, whether you're married or not, and for the impact that marriage has on us and on our world - the way it points people to Christ.

Thank God for the gift of marriage.

Now pray specifically for your marriage, if you're married. Pray that God would protect it, that God would bless it, and that God would help you do what He's called you to do - to walk this out so that you can have a marriage that points people to Christ.

Maybe there are things you need to start doing. Maybe there are things you need to stop doing.

Maybe as you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is going to work on your heart and reveal some things going on in your marriage or in your life that are inconsistent with the Word of God. As He reveals those to you, I want to encourage you: Be obedient to God as He's at work in your heart.

Ask God to work in your marriage, wherever it's at.

Maybe you came here this morning and you have no hope for your marriage. I want to encourage you: Pray for God to do a miracle. Pray for your heart. Pray for the heart of your spouse. Ask God to do what only He can do, because so often God is the One who makes dead things come alive.

In just a minute, we're going to stand and sing one last song. When we do, our pastors are going to come down, and they're here to pray with you.

If there's something going on in your marriage, we'd love to pray over it. Or if you're a husband and wife, things are going great, and you just want somebody to pray a blessing over your marriage, we'd be honored to do just that.

If you came in here today and you don't know Jesus as your Savior, understand that everything we're talking about is in the context of people walking as children of God. If you've never trusted Christ as your Savior, we've got to start there.

We'd love for you to come down front and say, "Hey, listen, I'm ready to trust Christ as my Savior." We'll help you take those next steps.

Maybe you're here today and something altogether different is going on, and you want someone to pray over you. Maybe it's a diagnosis. Maybe there's a hard thing going on in your life, your family, your work, or your finances.

If you need prayer, in just a minute when we stand and sing, that'll be your invitation. Come for prayer.

Father, we love You. We thank You for Your Word. God, we thank You for marriage. I pray that You would draw each and every one of us close and deep in our love relationship with You. God, as You do, I pray that would overflow into our marriages and that You, and You alone, would get all the honor and all the glory.

It's in Your name we pray. Amen.