

# Marriage Study from Ephesians

## (#1) Read Ephesians 1

1. In your own words, write down every spiritual blessing (v. 3) you discover in vv. 3-14. Relate each spiritual blessing to its significance for marriage.

Verse	Spiritual Blessing	Significance in Marriage
v. 4a	God chose us for salvation before he created the world.	Everything in my life is safe in the sovereign arms of God. Even if he allows my marriage to suffer, I am always his.


**2. Pray vv. 15-23 as a blessing over your spouse (insert his or her name into your prayer).**

**(#2) Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

- 1. What do you learn in this passage about the character and attributes of God?**
- 2. What do you learn about the sinfulness and frailty of man?**
- 3. Read again each time that Christ is mentioned and write out your praise to God for the way in which he redeems the sinner. What is the new character of the believer in Christ?**
- 4. How will you respond to the character of God and the work of Christ in view of your sin?**
- 5. Pray for the good works which God prepared beforehand (v. 10) that you and your spouse would accomplish together in marriage, family, church, and witness.**



**(#3) Read Ephesians 2:11-22**

- 1. What was the major conflict between Jews and Gentiles? How did this animosity affect their spiritual well-being?**
- 2. If you had an unbelieving spouse, what conflicts over faith would be manifest in your marriage? Though you and your spouse are both believers, what conflicts show up when you live like your old selves?**
- 3. How does the gospel destroy conflict? Why is it impossible to love Christ, while at the same time, despise your spouse?**
- 4. Paul writes that the church is built on the cornerstone of Christ as a dwelling place for the Spirit (vv. 19-22). How is Christ central to your marriage and how is the Holy Spirit dwelling in your hearts?**
- 5. Pray that you will learn to biblically resolve conflicts with your spouse. If you are presently struggling make a plan for confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation.**



**(#4) Read Ephesians 3:1-4:16**

- 1. Paul declares that the manifold wisdom of God is made known to the world through the church (3:10). How does the church display God's wisdom to its members, to the world, and to spiritual rulers?**
- 2. Pray Paul's prayer in 3:14-21 for your spouse (insert his or her name into your prayer).**
- 3. Ephesians 4:1-16 speaks to unity in the body of Christ which begins at home in a Christian marriage. List all the marks of oneness that you share with your spouse and with other members in the body.**
- 4. The goal of discipleship is growing up into Christlikeness (vv. 11-16). How has your spouse become more like Christ over the years? How have you? Praise God for even the smallest evidences of grace.**
- 5. Paul exhorts the church to speak the truth in love (v 15a). In what specific ways could you have done this better during the past week? Make an intentional practice of speaking the truth in love this coming week.**





**(#5) Read Ephesians 4:17-5:21**

**1. Paul contrasts walking like the wicked and walking like those called by Christ (4:1, 17-19; 5:2, 8, 15), then gives four basic principles for putting off sin and putting on Christ (4:20-24). Apply to marriage the following examples he provides (4:25-5:21), then include some of your own examples as well.**

<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Put Off</b>	<b>Put On</b>	<b>Truth in Jesus</b>	<b>Application in Marriage</b>
4:25	Therefore, having put away falsehood,	let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor,	for we are members one of another.	
4:26-27	Be angry and do not sin;	do not let the sun go down on your anger,	and give no opportunity to the devil.	
4:28	Let the thief no longer steal,	but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands,	so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.	
4:29-30	Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths,	but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.	And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.	
4:31-32	Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.	Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,	as God in Christ forgave you.	
5:1-2	4:17-19	Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love,	as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.	
5:3, 5	But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you,		as is proper among saints. . . . For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.	
5:4	Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place,	but instead let there be thanksgiving.		

5:6-10	Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them;	Walk as children of light. . . . and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.	for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. . . . (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),	
5:11-14	Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,	but instead expose them.	For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."	
5:15-17	Therefore do not be foolish,	Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time,	because the days are evil. . . . but understand what the will of the Lord is.	
5:18-21	And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery,	but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,	giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.	

**2. Pray that God would renew your heart and your spouse's heart as you seek to put off sin and put on the truth of Christ (vv. 20-24). Pray that you will not attempt behavioral change without heart change.**

**(#6) Read Ephesians 5:22-33**

**1. What does God expect of Christian husbands?**

**2. What does God expect of Christian wives?**

**3. In the past, how have you made too much of marriage (idolatry)? How have you made too little of it (neglect)? How does viewing marriage as a momentary, earthly joy exalt its God-ordained design?**

**4. How is marriage a picture of Christ's union with his bride, the church? List all the specific ways that a godly marriage depicts this divine reality.**

<b>Christ and His Church</b>	<b>Husband and Wife</b>
Unity –	
Love/Compassion/Comfort/Care –	

Respect –	
Intimacy –	
Self-Sacrifice/Humility –	
Sanctification/Rebuke/Encouragement –	
Servant Leadership –	
Submission –	
Prayer/Dependence on the Holy Spirit –	
Protection/Provision –	

**5. Pray for your spouse’s desire and ability to reflect the glory of Christ in marriage. Pray also for yourself.**



**3. Paul exhorts Christians to put on the whole armor of God (vv. 10-18). Describe each piece of armor in your own words and its significance for the spiritual battle against marital temptations.**

<b>Armor of God</b>	<b>Description (in your own words)</b>	<b>Significance for Marriage</b>
Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth (v. 14a),		
and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b),		
and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace (v. 15).		
In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one (v. 16);		
and take the helmet of salvation (v. 17a),		
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (v. 17b),		
praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints (v. 18),		

**4. Pray for your spouse to be a bold witness for the good news of Jesus Christ (vv. 18-20).**