

Topical Message
The Sacrificial and Unconditional Love of Jesus
Our Example and Source For A Blessed Marriage
Pastor Leitu Karnuth

KAPONO: Would you join me as we pray? Lord, we bless Your name this evening. Wow, Lord. Lord, as we get ready and prepare ourselves for Your word this evening, let's remember all of the little insignificant things that we think may be insignificant, Lord, but how You provided and watched and cared for us this week, Lord. We thank You so much for these things that we overlook. We thank You, Lord, that You are always with us. So Lord, would You be with us, Holy Spirit, this evening as we get into Your word? Speak to us. Heal us. Transform us Lord for Your glory. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR LEITU: Aloha.

[Congregation says, "Aloha!"]

You may be seated. Aloha everyone, and welcome to Calvary Kaneohe. I want to welcome you online as well. First, thank you all for your prayers for Pastor JD and his family. I know that many of you, just as we are here at Calvary Kaneohe, are awaiting the return of our Senior Pastor, JD Farag. Like all of you, I had hoped and prayed that his return would have been under better circumstances. But again, thank you for your prayers for him and his family.

Kellie Farag's celebration of life and of eternal life will be 11 a.m. Saturday, February 7th and will be here at the church. Afterwards, followed by a luncheon. And also for our online church, the service will be livestreamed in its entirety beginning at 11 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time at the JDFarag.org website, the mobile app, and Roku, as well as our social media platforms.

Then Pastor JD will be returning to the pulpit starting Thursday, February 12th, and before resuming our verse-by-verse study through the Book of Zechariah, he will openly talk about his wife's death in a topical teaching out of Ezekiel, Chapter 24, verses 15 through 27. Also, he will resume the Prophecy Updates and sermons beginning Sunday, February 15th. All of which will be livestreamed for our church online as well.

We have two services on Sundays, 8:30 and 10:45. In our 8:30 and 10:45 services, Pastor Mac has been teaching through the Book of Romans. We have our mid-week study on Thursday nights, and I've been teaching through the Book of Ephesians. And we come

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together for all-church prayer on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. And our next meeting will be on February 3rd, 2026.

Tonight we're in a place in God's word as we've been studying verse-by-verse expositionally through the Scriptures in the New Testament Book of Ephesians, where the Bible talks about marriage between a man and a woman, the only marriage that God approves of and has ordained. Paul the Apostle is the writer of Ephesians. But again, God is the author.

I want to jump right in. So let us bow our heads in prayer and ask God to bless His word. Father in heaven, we come before You to thank You, Lord, for Your word as You teach and instruct us. It's Your love letter, Your instruction book, Lord, that we love so much Lord, as we glean and we are like a sponge and learn of everything that You desire to teach us because of Your love for us. Lord, we never forget the centrality of the gospel that You would send Your Son, Jesus the Christ, so that we, by faith, could call out to Him and receive our salvation and eternal life in heaven to be with You for eternity. Lord, we thank You for this time that we can dig into Your word and hear from You as You instruct us on submitting not only to each other, but as wives and husbands submit to each other as well in the marriage covenant. So bless our time. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verse 15 to 17 reads, **“So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most out of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”** Verse 18 and 19 tells us, **“Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.”** Verse 20 and 21 of Chapter 5 of Ephesians tells us, **“And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”**

Jesus desires that believers in Him be united as one body. God's Holy Spirit binds us together. We are called to love and to accept one another, no matter how much we disagree with each other. It pleases God's heart when we strive to work together in peace as we use the spiritual gifts that He has given us to serve Him. When we're humble and we're

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kind and gentle and patient, and when we make allowances for each other's faults, we're walking in love. God sees us walking worthy of our calling. In our obedience, we bless the Holy Spirit, instead of grieving and disappointing Him. We're reminded that in our walk in this world, we're ambassadors that represent Jesus Christ. We run from a willful life of sin, immoral living, and drunkenness. Instead, we're to imitate the life of Jesus.

Verse 21 of tonight's passage tells us, **“And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”** In a moment, we'll talk about the submission in the marriage covenant. Verse 21 here speaks to Christians submitting to one another within the body of Christ. Submitting to one another can be difficult, as in our sin nature we want our own way. Amen? But we honor God by obeying what Jesus taught us.

What does it mean to submit? In the Bible, submitting means voluntarily placing oneself under the authority and leadership of one another out of reverence for Jesus Christ. It's not a sign of inferiority or weakness.

We see the ultimate submission in all of history as Jesus, God's Son, submitted to His Father's will so that mankind could be saved. Without the Lord's submission, we would have no hope. All of humanity would die in their sins and perish for all eternity.

As Christians, we should desire unity. We're to submit, putting others needs above our own. Yes, we have our roles, our roles within the church body. Some are leaders within the body of Christ. But leaders are never to abuse or to take advantage of their position.

A Holy Spirit Christian not only possesses a thankful heart, but a submissive spirit. As we obey God's command to submit to one another, we mature as Christians, and we develop into the ambassadors that God desires for us to be. We look more like Christians who are walking worthy of the calling as we imitate Jesus in a world that so opposes Him.

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verse 22 tells us, **“For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.”** Again, Paul the Apostle cautioned us in verse 18 of Ephesians Chapter 5 to avoid being intoxicated with wine or anything else that could damage or impair our witness as Christians. Instead, he encourages and stirs us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. So if the Holy Spirit lives within us, then we should be obedient as husbands and wives, obeying God's

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commands in the area of submission. A marriage, where both husband and wife are first submitted to the Lord and then to each other is a beautiful sight to see.

Verse 22 God calls for wives to submit to their husbands. No marriage is ever perfect. There will always be difficulty because of the marriage union. And we know that the marriage union is the uniting of two people who are sinners by nature. Amen? Amen?

[Congregation says, "Amen!"]

Instead of submitting, they will fight and battle to get their way. My wife, Jeanne and I, we love each other very much, and we take good care of each other. But we're sinners and we're not perfect. And we do, like all of you, have our moments.

Marriage in any period of history has always been difficult, but more so in our day. The media pulls wives as well as those contemplating marriage in the direction of the world. Our God gives us instructions in the Bible and teaches us His truths about the direction that men and woman should follow in their marriage.

In our modern era, especially here in America, the biblical concept of a wife submitting to her husband is being met with much resistance, and so conflict and battle arises. Within the Christian church, the admission — or the admonition, really a command by God, for wives to submit to their husbands is being met with disobedience. The Lord commands wives to submit to their husbands, just as husbands should be submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, Jesus is our example as He submitted to the Father's will. A wise and Christ honoring wife will not try to undermine her husband's God given and ordained leadership role. To do so would only invite problems into the family unit, which God has called the husband to be the leader of. (Stumbling over words)

There can be discussions concerning decisions to be made within the family, between the husbands and wives, but wives are to submit to the husband's final decision. For both men and women, we should desire to please God by our obedience.

The Bible tells us that God is not the author of confusion, but a God of order. The benefits of order instead of chaos brings about harmony and peace. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 14, verse 33 tells us, **"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the**

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saints.” The context of this passage speaks of orderly conduct regarding the speaking of tongues in a church service.

Order is the nature of who God is. We know that God possesses all knowledge and all wisdom, that He is all powerful and that He desires order. We would be wise to follow and obey His direction in His word concerning all things. His guidance helps us to avoid the pitfalls and chaos and confusion. The more we obey God's word, His instruction book to us, the more orderly our lives become.

Regarding marriage, God desires to prevent the disastrous consequences that often arise when His commands for order are not followed or heeded. This can lead to confusion and disputes. Sadly, the lack of divine order in a marriage can lead to separation, and even worse yet, divorce.

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verse 23 to 24 tells us, **“For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of His body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.”** Jesus was given authority over the church by God His Father. Husbands and wives who make up God's church are to submit to Jesus, and wives are to submit to their husbands. Paul writes in verse 24 that the wives should submit to the husbands in everything.

So too, we as husbands should submit to Jesus Christ in everything that He commands us as husbands. I know for both husbands and wives it's easier said than done. We also just read about God being a God who loves order.

My stepfather was of Danish and German descent. That's where I get the name Karnuth. My family here in Hawaii is mostly from my mom's side. My mom, who's home with the Lord, was from Tokelau. Tokelau is a small group of coral atolls north of Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean. It's a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand. Many Tokelauans have moved to Hawaii, to Oahu. My wife Jeanne's family is Okinawan. Okinawa is in the country of Japan. My wife looks Japanese and is a faithful servant of the Lord. And she takes good care of our family as well. I have many Hawaiian, Filipino, Portuguese, Samoan, and Caucasian friends. Whether they come from a Christian family or not, I have I have observed

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in all these different nationalities that the husbands is always recognized by their wives as the leader within these families.

Paul the Apostle confirms what I had noticed within the family units that I had observed: That the husband, ordained and called by God, is a head of and leader of his wife and his family.

Please understand that this headship for the husband is not from Paul the Apostle. It's a command from God who has ordained a husband to lead his household. He desires order within a church body which His Son Jesus is the head of. He also desires order within a family unit.

Scripture confirms God's divine order in 1 Corinthians. Chapter 11 verse three tells us, **“But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”** Again, we come back to God's design for order in His creation. Within order there's organization and direction as well as stability. There's an authority structure that guides us towards a course of peace and harmony within a family unit. Without it, again we experience and suffer chaos and confusion. Harmony and peace are negatively affected as misunderstanding and turmoil begins to raise its ugly head within a family.

Every organization has a head. We all have someone who is head over us. Whether you're a Christian believer or not. Large corporations call them CEOs. Kings and presidents, regardless of their power, are not the highest authority. Whether or not they acknowledge Christ or not, they are ultimately guided by our omnipotent and all-powerful God. In heaven's corporate structure, God is the head and is answerable to no one. Jesus Christ is the King of kings, but He has only one who He's submitted to: God His Father.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we as men submit to the Lord Jesus as head over our lives in everything. Just as a man is in subjection to Christ Jesus, so a woman is called by God to be in subjection to her husband. When a woman knows her function in God's divine plan, again there's peace and there's harmony. Confusion and misunderstanding is avoided.

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God's divine and ordained order comes from His heart of love. God's divine and ordained order comes from His heart of love that wants for there to be peace and harmony instead of chaos and confusion.

He hates to see the ugly problems that separation and divorce brings upon a family. He hates to see children separated from a parent that they love and suffer long term problems. Like all of God's commandments, husbands and wives should understand and heed God's ordained callings and their respective God-given roles.

Verse 25 of Ephesians 5 tells us, **“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her.”** Jesus voluntarily and sacrificially gave His life because of love.

This love written by Paul, is the verse — in this verse, excuse me, is the word “agape” which is the highest form of love. In the English language we know that there's only one word for “love.” But in the Greek language there's four different words for “love”: Philia, eros, Storge, and agape.

Philia is the love of close friends. It's a brotherly love.

Eros is the love and romantic relationships between a man and woman. We get our English word “eros” from the word “erotic,” excuse me, from the word “eros.”

A storge Love refers to love between family members. It's a strong bond that's hard to break.

The last and greatest of loves is the agape love which is mentioned in this verse. (Stumbling over words) Agape love, excuse me, is a love that's unconditional, sacrificial, and it represents how God loves. It describes Jesus and the selfless love that He demonstrated on the cross.

Agape love is demonstrated for us in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, the love chapter. My wife's favorite chapter in the Bible. Husbands are to love their wives with the same agape love that Jesus displayed. A husband should give himself sacrificially and selflessly for his wife. Wives, I'm going to repeat that again. A husband should give himself sacrificially and

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selflessly for his wife. It's a selfless, unconditional love that loves, forgives, respects and serves one another.

What is the biblical definition of unconditional love? In our relationship with God, it means that our friendship with God is not based on our actions or words. Our mistakes and our foolish words don't alter our standing with the Lord. His love for us doesn't change. We can't earn more of God's love or lose any of it because His love for us is unconditional. He loves us unconditionally, regardless of our actions.

So too, a man's love for his wife should be unconditional. It's a love that's forever forgiving. It doesn't hold onto grudges and it forgives. But no matter what, through the good times and bad, he'll be there for his wife just as his wife will be there for him through thick and thin. That's what we promised each other in our wedding vows. That we will stay together until death do us part.

Agape and unconditional love in marriage holds a couple and family together through all seasons. When a man loves his wife sacrificially and unconditionally, and when he puts his wife's needs above his own, when a man follows God's instructions for how he should treat his wife, what wife wouldn't want to submit to a man that loves her that way, the way that Jesus loves her by giving His life on the cross?

A wise and Christ-honoring husband will not try to take advantage of his leadership role. Instead, he will love his wife unconditionally, the same way that Jesus loves and treats us, His kids.

Paul the Apostle beautifully pictures the sacrificial and selfless love in his letter to these churches. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, starting with verse 4 tells us, **“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.”**

Romans, Chapter 12, verse 1 tells us, **“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.”**

Philippians, Chapter 2, starting with verse 2. **“Then make me truly happy [Paul says to the**

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Philippian church] by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. [Verse 6] Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. [Verse 7] Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, [Verse 8] He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. [Verse 9] Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, [Verse 10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [Verse 11] and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In His selflessness towards us, Jesus was rewarded as He was elevated to highest honor by His Father. So too are we elevated spiritually by our Father when we live selflessly."

Colossians, Chapter 3, verse 19 tells us, "**Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.**"

Over the years, I've witnessed far too much domestic abuse amongst families. It's difficult to understand how anyone could intentionally physically harm another person. Domestic abuse is considered a grave sin in God's eyes, whether it's a physical abuse, emotional, verbal, or even psychological.

Marriage is a picture of Jesus and the church, us, His bride. Domestic abuse of any family member is a misrepresentation of Jesus' character, which Christians are supposed to represent and imitate here in this world. Rage and anger can become so intense that it overpowers someone, causing them to lose control. For a child to see a parent physically abused can have a long-term negative effect and impact on that child. As children grow into adulthood, they're likely to copy their parents with the same abusive traits that their parents have displayed.

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1 Peter, Chapter 3, verse 7 tells us, **“In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.”**

In the Bible, honor means to esteem, to value, and to demonstrate great respect for. We should give honor to God first, then parents, elders, leaders, and in this passage, our wives. Honor in the Bible is giving weight to someone, recognizing their importance and treating them with respect. God should be the recipient of the highest honor. Wives should also receive high honor, love, and respect from their husbands, from their husbands who say that they love them.

Wives, in most cases, are physically weaker. They are the weaker vessel. But the godly husband who loves his wife should protect her, provide for her physical and spiritual needs, and guide his family towards Jesus Christ. God's command to husbands is to treat her, his wife, in the way that she should be treated. Peter also writes that in God's eyes, husbands and wives are equals.

God doesn't see wives as inferior to husbands, but equal partners in their respective roles within the marriage covenant. The husband is to lead, and his wife is to submit. That doesn't mean a husband is to be a dictator or a bully towards his wife. No, never. A husband who loves his wife and says he loves his wife should honor, love her, and treat her with the same respect and love as Jesus loves and cares for us.

God sees every detail of marriage and the warning for husbands is to treat their wives with love and honor them as their equals, otherwise, God has His way of getting our attention as husbands.

Peter's passage tells us that God will withhold our prayers. A disobedient husband, especially one who's abusive, would wise to follow Peter's instructions since he was a disciple of Jesus who hung out with Jesus for three years.

Malachi, Chapter 2, verses 13 to 16 tells us, **“Here is another thing that you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because He pays no attention to your**

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offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure. You cry out, 'Why doesn't the Lord accept my worship?' I'll tell you why! [Malachi shares] Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows. Didn't the Lord, [Verse 15] make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are His. And what does He want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. 'For I hate divorce!' says the Lord, [Verse 16] [For I hate divorce, says the Lord] the God of Israel. 'To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. 'So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.'"

In our society today, sadly, marriage vows are not taken seriously. Marital infidelity is rampant, even amongst Christian families. The promises made to each other in a wedding ceremony are forgotten as soon as a trial hits that marriage. A husband or wife who are united in holy matrimony because of their sinful natures, pursue their own desires. As they confront each other in anger and rage, the word "divorce" enters the fray. This scene is played out too often in marriages. The promises of commitments made to God and to each other are dishonored and, worse yet, intentionally ignored. God hates divorce. Period. Unfaithfulness can occur in husbands as well as in wives.

Adultery is a sin that God also hates. Yes, He also hates domestic abuse that occurs within a family. We all know that God will deal with our sin, especially unconfessed and unrepentant sin.

Guilty parties, they think maybe they got away with it and God doesn't see. But uncontrolled behavior has consequences, especially when it concerns children and their families. God wants to produce godly children from the union and influences of godly parents.

Sadly, many children in Christian families want nothing to do with the Lord because of the bad examples displayed by their parents. I pray that we as parents who love the Lord and are struggling with your spouse, even entering the thought of divorce, that you would pray

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and ask God to help you and your spouse with your sin natures that is selfish and wanting its own way. That God would change your hearts and bring about healing.

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verse 26 and 27 says , **“...to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.”**

When we come to Christ and we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, we're cleansed and forgiven of our sins and our past, our present, and even our future sins. We are cleansed by the washing and regenerating life changing work of the Holy Spirit.

The New King James Version reads in Ephesians, Chapter 5, verse 26, **“...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”** The word “sanctify” means to set apart. God wants to develop us to be more like His Son Jesus, who lived without spot or without wrinkle. He was sinless. As a couple grows in their understanding of God's word, they're cleansed and they blossom and they prosper. The marriage experience flourishes when Christ reigns as a head of a household. Their love for each other grows stronger as they're deepened, as they deepen their devotion to Christ our Lord.

In a healthy marriage, especially between godly parents, love consistently grows stronger and stronger, and it deepens. On the other hand, selfishness destroys and brings chaos, which is the opposite of the order that God desires for our marriages. I pray that in our devotion to the Lord and as our devotion to our spouse grows, that we become more and more like Jesus.

Verse 28 to 30 of Ephesians tells us, **“In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of His body.”**

Just as a man takes care of his body, making sure that it's healthy, functioning well and looks good — what are you guys laughing at? — so is he to love and care for his wife the same way that he cares for himself. The way that a man treats his wife and cares for her speaks volumes of his character and his integrity. A man who loves his wife reveals a love and self-

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respect that he has for himself, as well. Because just as a man loves the Lord, so should he love his wife in that same way, who is his best friend. Again, he cares and makes sacrifices for himself. So too should he do the same for his bride. A man who treats his wife this way will gain her love, her respect, and her admiration. A wife who is loved this way will find it hard to keep anything from her husband. Love will cause her to return his kindness, and in turn she will care for her husband as she cares for herself. A husband and wife who treat each other with respect and kindness, demonstrates the maturity and development of a couple who professes to know Jesus. They affirm and reveal to the world that they are truly followers and members of the body of Jesus Christ, which is His church.

Verse 31 and 32 of Ephesians. **“As the Scriptures say, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.”**

When a couple's marriage is built on and dependent on God's leading, that marriage is a blessed marriage. For the first 20 years of our marriage, Jeanne and I never went to church, nor did I know anything about God or Jesus. As I shared before, our family never went to church as I was growing up. My wife, on the other hand, went to a Seventh-Day Adventist church, excuse me, school when she was intermediate grade. So the first years of our marriage was rocky, as I was living a life apart from God. Jeanne was praying for me that my life would change and that the Lord would draw me to himself. 26 years ago I got saved and our marriage has blossomed. It's blossomed into one that I never could have thought of or imagined. As we have made Jesus the Lord of our lives, we have been blessed beyond measure. Here in Hawaii, many couples can't afford to move out on their own.

Verse 31 describes a couple merging into one, breaking free from the parental authority and influence and establishing their own family unit. Marriage, again, is a spiritual union ordained by God. God teaches us so much in and through our marriages, as many of you have experienced who are married. Yes, there are many happy couples in this world who don't know Jesus or even deny Him. But apart from God, there is only this life for them. Without Jesus as their Savior, there is no eternal hope for them. For the Christian couple, God's promise for us is eternity in heaven.

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A marriage based on godly values is so beautiful to watch, see, and experience. In fact, it's incredible. It's no longer a mystery for believers because they're experiencing marriage the way that it should be if they're being obedient to God's call. They're joined together by God and they become one.

Although we are opposites, most of us in our personalities, especially Jeanne and I, we think as one. We talk and think alike, especially in spiritual matters. We've been married for a total of 46 years, and we love each other more now than we did when we first met. My wife grows more and more beautiful as she ages. No, seriously. I promise. She becomes more beautiful. I tell her that every day. I always hear her singing songs that she makes up in her mind because she loves the Lord so much. Our grandkids love to hear her sing, ♪ Jesus loves me, this I know, ♪ ♪ for the Bible tells me so. ♪ I want my wife, Jeanne and I's marriage to be a good example, not only for our son and his children, but also for those in the world who we come in contact with. And I'm sure that you all feel the same way.

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verse 33 says, **“So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”**

What about those of you who are single and you want to be married one day? Paul the Apostle wrote to the Ephesian church, but he also speaks to you singles today. Excuse me, the Corinthian church. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 7, verse 32. He says, **“I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please Him. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. [Verse 35] I am saying this for your own benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible. But if a man thinks that he's treating his fiancée improperly and will inevitably give in to his passion, let him marry her as he wishes. It is not a sin. But if he has decided firmly not to marry and there is no urgency**

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and he can control his passion, he does well not to marry. So the person who marries his fiancée does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better."

If you can control your bodily passions and not lust after a man or a woman because you desire to serve the Lord for the rest of your life as a single person, you are blessed. If you really want to get married, wait on God and He will bring that partner that you will spend the rest of your life with, as you pray and ask Him to reveal that person to you.

Whether you're married or single, we all need Jesus. He's our Savior who loves us. He wants to save us from the consequences of our sin.

Isaiah the prophet tells us that our sin will separate us from God forever. That separation is called death. Sin is the reason that there's death in the world. Sin is the reason that all people die. All of us will die because we are all guilty of sin.

The Bible tells us in Romans, Chapter 3, verse 23, **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** Falling short of the glory of God means that you will end up in the lake of fire in a place called hell for all eternity. Sin cannot exist in heaven. In heaven, God's light is so brilliant, so bright, because it represents His purity. It will burn anything that is impure.

So sin, again, cannot exist in heaven.

The consequences of our sin is death. Romans, Chapter 6, verse 23 tells us, **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

God wants to save you by offering a free gift. His Son Jesus, willingly, selflessly and selflessly and sacrificially, excuse me, died on the cross. He gave His life to save us from eternal death so that you can instead spend all eternity with Him and His Father in heaven.

John 3:16 tells us, **"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."** The only requirement is that by faith you believe the way that God chose to save you. If you believe, then call out and cry out to Him to help you, to save you. Romans 10:13 tells us, **"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

Topical Message
The Sacrificial and Unconditional Love of Jesus
Our Example and Source For A Blessed Marriage
Pastor Leitu Karnuth

Tonight you can be saved. You, here in the sanctuary, who are maybe not in the place you want to be with the Lord, or you online, if you want my help, I'd be honored to lead you in a prayer to accept Jesus tonight. Because God wants you in heaven.

You might be asking what you need to do, or what do I need to say to God? Humble yourself and admit that you've sinned. By faith, ask Him to save you.

God never forces anyone to come to Him. If you're not ready, I pray that you don't wait too long. But if you do call out to Him tonight, I promise you your life will be blessed. If that's you, follow me in prayer. But again, it's important to be sincere because then God will hear. You online can call out to Him as well.

Let's all bow our heads now and pray. For you who are ready to accept Jesus as your Savior, and if you want to be in heaven when your time is done here on earth, repeat after me. But again, be sincere.

Pray, Father in heaven, I admit that I am a sinner. Please forgive my sins. I believe that you, Jesus, love me and that You died on the cross for me and that You were buried and rose again on the third day, and You are coming back. By faith I call out to You to be my Lord and Savior. Thank You for loving me. Thank You for saving me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

For those who — for those of you who prayed and meant it, congratulations. If I never see you here or meet you here on earth, I will see you in heaven. And God bless you.

Let us all stand and let's end our time in prayer. Father in heaven, thank You for this time in Your word. Thank You for speaking to us, Your church, concerning those who are contemplating marriage and for those who are married. For husbands and wives, Lord, who love You and profess to be Your followers, I pray that they would be obedient in that which You had just taught us tonight through Your word. So, Lord, thank You for how You instructed us tonight. Lord, we pray for your healing hand upon the hearts of the Farag Ohana, as well as their friends, our church. I pray that tonight, Lord, as we fellowship and we break bread and hang out together, that You will bless our time and that You will lead us home safely. So I pray these things in Jesus, Your name. Amen.