

# 5-Day Devotional: The Gospel in Marriage

## Day 1: The Divine Design of Marriage

**Reading:** Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33

**Devotional:** From the very beginning, God designed marriage as more than a social contract—it's a living picture of the gospel. When God created Eve from Adam's rib, He established the pattern: two becoming one flesh. This mystery, as Paul reveals, points to Christ and His church. Your marriage isn't primarily about your happiness, though joy is a beautiful byproduct. It's about displaying Christ's sacrificial love and the church's faithful devotion to a watching world. When you face marital challenges, remember you're not just fighting for your relationship—you're proclaiming the unbreakable bond between Jesus and His bride. Let this eternal perspective transform how you view your covenant today.

## Day 2: Love and Respect—God's Prescription

**Reading:** Ephesians 5:33; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**Devotional:** God's design isn't arbitrary: wives need love, husbands need respect. These aren't preferences but divine prescriptions for marital health. Husbands, your wife desperately needs to feel your love—not just hear it, but experience it through intentional actions. Wives, your husband thrives on respect, even when he falls short of perfection. This isn't about earning love or respect; it's about giving what glorifies God. When your marriage hits turbulence, ask yourself: "Am I showing Christ-like love? Am I demonstrating church-like respect?" The world teaches us to withhold until we receive. Christ teaches us to give sacrificially, trusting God with the results. Today, choose to be the first to love, the first to respect.

## Day 3: Servant Leadership in the Home

**Reading:** Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:3-8

**Devotional:** Jesus redefined greatness as service, and this truth must permeate our marriages. Husbands, leadership isn't domination—it's laying down your life daily. Like Christ washing His disciples' feet, true authority serves sacrificially. Wives, submission isn't weakness—it's the church's powerful trust in Christ's perfect leadership. Both roles require humility and selflessness. When you wake up married to someone difficult, remember: you're serving Christ, not just your spouse. Your faithfulness when they're unfaithful, your kindness when they're harsh, your patience when they're frustrating—this is Christlikeness. Greatness in marriage isn't found in winning arguments or getting your way. It's discovered in

the daily, often unseen acts of service that mirror Jesus' love for us.

## **Day 4: Guarding Against Stumbling Blocks**

**Reading:** Mark 9:42-50; James 3:1-12

**Devotional:** Jesus warned that causing others to stumble deserves severe judgment. How sobering that our marriages can either draw people toward Christ or push them away! Your spouse is your first mission field. Are you a stumbling block or a stepping stone? When you withhold affection, speak harshly, prioritize work over family, or live with unconfessed sin, you tempt your spouse toward bitterness and despair. Your children watch and learn what "Christian marriage" means from your example. Are you teaching them that Christ is harsh and the church is rebellious? Or are you showing them sacrificial love and joyful submission? Today, examine your heart. Confess any ways you've caused stumbling. Ask God to make you a source of encouragement, strength, and spiritual growth in your home.

## **Day 5: Restoration Through the Blood**

**Reading:** 1 John 1:5-9; Jeremiah 3:1-8

**Devotional:** Perhaps your marriage has been shattered by sin—yours or your spouse's. Take heart: no sin is greater than the cross of Christ. God Himself used the metaphor of divorce to describe Israel's unfaithfulness, yet He continuously offered forgiveness. While God permits divorce for serious covenant violations, He delights in restoration. If you're the offender, understand that forgiveness and trust are different. Your spouse may graciously forgive you, but rebuilding trust takes years of humble, consistent faithfulness. If you've been sinned against, know that choosing reconciliation can become a powerful testimony of gospel grace. Either way, the blood of Jesus cleanses all sin. Today, whether you need to confess, forgive, or simply recommit, come to the table. Let Christ's blood renew your covenant.

*May these readings draw you closer to Christ and strengthen your commitment to reflect His gospel through your marriage. Remember: your union is a living epistle, read by all who know you.*