

## A Prayer for Married Couples

### Scripture Reading:

Psalms 93, Genesis 2:18-25, Matthew 19:3-11

### Reflections of the Heart:

Christian husbands and wives must understand: As God's creation, you are ultimately accountable to God, the Creator for your marriage. It is critical, married couples, to respect and honor your marriage vows. Always include the Holy Spirit in your relationship. He will teach you how to please and bless each other. Despite what the world tells us, marriage is a beautiful gift from God.

### Scriptural Prayer:

Magnificent Father, the heavens proclaim Your glory, O God. The skies display Your craftsmanship. Have we never heard? Have we never understood? You, Lord, are the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. You never grow weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of Your understanding. You give power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in You will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. O Lord, we will honor and praise Your Name, for You are our God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now You have accomplished them. We thank You, Abba Father, for instituting the covenant of marriage for our benefit. Thank You, Father, for blessing the marriages of Windsor Village United Methodist Church.

Thank You for Your steadfast love that never ceases and Your mercy which never comes to an end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

Loving Father, Creator of all things, You formed the man from the dust of the ground. You breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. You caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, You took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then, You made a woman from the rib, and You brought her to the man and united them into one. You blessed Your man and woman and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Father, we claim Your perfect vision of marriage and receive it as our own. Since husband and wife are no longer two but one, we decree that no one will split apart what You have joined together at Windsor Village United Methodist Church. We decree that everyone who marries within our congregation will give honor to their marriage, and remain faithful in marriage. Lord, we decree that You will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. Almighty God, You have given believers a glimpse of Your heavenly model for every marriage on earth by showing us the love that Christ, the Bridegroom, has for the church, His bride. He gave up His life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of Your Word. He did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without spot of wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, we believe that the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, our children would not be holy, but now they are holy. As husbands and wives, Father, we proclaim that we will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

*Father, I commit to honoring Your model for Christian marriage by:*

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Holy Spirit, inspire each husband to desire to be like Christ in His relationship with the church so he will love his wife, sacrifice for her, support her endeavors and aspirations, listen to her concerns, take care of her, and be as sensitive to her needs and her hurts as he is to his own body and be a true covering. Illuminate and inspire each wife to desire to be like the chosen bride, the church, in its relationship with Christ, so she will respect and honor her husband, acknowledge his calling as head of the family, respond to his leadership, listen to him, praise him, be unified in purpose and will with him, and be a true helper. Inspire all of us to keep our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

Merciful Father, let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to You, so that You may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to You, O God, for You will forgive generously. Father, when Your people come to You in sincere repentance, forgive them for failing to submit to their husbands or wives as You have commanded them to do. Forgive Christian husbands who misuse their authority as the leader of their homes. Forgive Christian wives who contend with their husbands, instead of honoring Your Word as a wife. Forgive husbands and wives who yield to the world's idea of marriage. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. Forgive those who seek to put a wedge between a husband and wife by promoting worldly alternatives to one or the other. Forgive those who desire to destroy a marriage because of their own lust for one of the covenant partners. Holy Spirit, inspire those caught in satan's web of adultery or homosexuality to turn and seek the Father's forgiveness. Send help to break them from the entanglement of the devil. Father, forgive me for ***(list any sins that you have committed.)*** Holy Spirit, remind our married couples of those they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say aloud, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)***

Holy Spirit, help our married couples to not yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

O God, how awesome are Your deeds! Your enemies cringe before Your mighty power. Everything on earth will worship You; they will sing Your praises, shouting Your name in glorious songs. Let everything that breathes sing praises to You, Lord! We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 19:1, Isaiah 40:28-31, Isaiah 25:1, Lamentations 3:22-23, Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2:21-22, Genesis 2:24, Genesis 1:28, Matthew 19:6, Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5:25-27, I Corinthians 7:14, Ephesians 5:21, Isaiah 55:7, I John 2:16, Psalm 66:2-4, Psalm 150:6

***Today I will trust God to:***

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