



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Becoming the Spouse God Calls You to Be

Growing in Christlike Love and Faithfulness

The Short Answer

The first calling in marriage is not to change a spouse but to follow Jesus. God forms spouses through humility, repentance, faithfulness, truthful love, forgiveness, patience, and the daily practice of serving one another.

Ephesians 5:21-33 · Colossians 3:12-19 · 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Opening Memory Anchor

Marriage growth begins with Christ shaping each spouse.



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1. Start With the Truth

The first calling in marriage is not to change a spouse but to follow Jesus. God forms spouses through humility, repentance, faithfulness, truthful love, forgiveness, patience, and the daily practice of serving one another.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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2. What Scripture Reveals

Jesus calls His people to love faithfully, repent quickly, and serve humbly.

Read the cited passages in context. Notice what they say about God's character, human need, and the hope offered through Jesus.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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3. Hold the Whole Story Together

The Bible gives neither shallow answers nor hopelessness. It tells the truth about a broken world while directing believers to God's presence, wisdom, mercy, and promised renewal.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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4. Jesus at the Center

Jesus meets people in their need. His death addresses sin; His resurrection establishes a hope stronger than suffering, failure, fear, and death. Christian response begins with belonging to Him.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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5. Avoid Common Distortions

Spiritual growth is not a tool to pressure a spouse, ignore harm, or carry another person's responsibility.

A faithful reading refuses to use Scripture as a slogan, a weapon, or a shortcut around wise care.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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6. Walk Wisely With Others

God often provides care through the church, trusted friends, pastors, counseling, medical care, and practical support. Asking for help can be a faithful act of humility.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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Want to Go Deeper?

Read the key passages again and trace their context. Ask how the passage first speaks in its own setting before applying it personally.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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8. A Faithful Practice

Ask God to reveal one area for personal repentance and one practical way to show patient, truthful love.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.



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9. Prayer

Father, help me receive Your truth with honesty and hope. Give wisdom for the next faithful step, grace to receive help, and a deeper trust in Jesus. Amen.

Read the related passages in context, and ask what they reveal about God, people, Jesus, and faithful response.