



prayer life!

Weekly Prayer Focus

July 29, 2018

Christ, the Loving Husband

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. —Ephesians 5:25-33

The glory of God shines in the Bride of Christ. Jesus is at work in His Church to reveal Himself to the world, and He shows His love to the world primarily in the way He loves His Bride the Church.

Christ is a husband to His people. How does Jesus show His love? His Word expresses it clearly, but He also demonstrates His love in the way He treats His Church—the way He created us and the way cares for us and perfects us for eternity with Him.

Christ's Love for His Church

Is Sacrificial: *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*

- Christ would not be denied His Beloved. In obedience to His Father, He gave Himself up to the curse and condemnation of the cross to purchase His Bride with His blood.

Is Purposeful: *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*

- Christ gave Himself for the Church so He could sanctify Her (make her His alone, holy and pure), by forgiving our sins, as we confess what His Spirit reveals to us through His Word (1st John 1:9).

Pleasing to Him: *so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

- Christ seeks our infinite perfection and beauty. He died for our sins to make us His own perfect bride. He has a vision of who He intends us to be, and He's working to perfect it in us. We are a blessing to Christ, and He blesses us so we can be a blessing to Him.

Binds Us to Him: *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.*

- By making us His Bride, Christ has made us one with Him. He is our head, and we are His Body. The Church is united to Christ as part of His body, because He made us one with Him on the cross and in the resurrection.

Brings Him a Blessing: *He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.*

- Christ is working in us, individually and as a body, lovingly perfecting His character in us. His work beautifies His Bride, who rejoices in her beauty and gives herself to Him out of love.

Shines in Our Closest Relationships: *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

- God foreshadowed His plan to unite us with Christ in the essential institutions of humanity.

Is Our Call: *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- Christ reveals His love in our marriages, where He calls us to imitate His love.
- Pray for our love to reveal and exalt Christ in our homes and in our church.

Our Plan Moving Forward

We have an **all-church meeting on July 29 at 4:00 PM. Please pray for good attendance with people of all ages and stages, unity as a body, and God's clear direction.

As we move into the second phase of our plan moving forward as a church. Ask God to help us ...
Rediscover

- Who we are as a body: Our uniqueness. Our call for our community.
- Who God would have us to be: Qualities we can build on. Things we need to change.
- The drives, passions, and priorities God is calling us to

Rebuild (Phase 3)

- Own, embrace, and communicate who we are as a local church
- Define, refine, and extend our vision for serving Christ
- Follow God's call on us as a congregation, as our passions become our priorities and determine our direction.

Prayer for Northpoint

Ask God to protect, strengthen, and guide our leaders at Northpoint.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

Ask God to work in Northpoint as a body of believers.

- Ask Him to make prayer a vital part of our body.
- Pray for His Word to be paramount, as we express our need of Him to open our eyes to His truth and enable us to follow it for His glory.

Pray for **John Sloan, Brent Whitefield, and their families** to receive God's grace and guidance and blessing as they serve Him where He has called them to go. Ask God to provide all they need.

Prayer Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. –Ephesians 3:20-21