31 Prayers for Marriage



Daily Scripture-Based Prayers to Access the Power of God

Nathaniel Turner

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Learning reading speed 0%

DEDICATION

Uxori meae, sine qua cassus sum.

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My gratitude goes to God, above all, Whose direction and constant help make this work possible. I also want to thank my wife for her loving devotion, care, and assistance in all things. My parents, too, deserve a mention for the fine example they have given me these many years.

Author's Note

What I have written here is meant to help the readers vocalize their prayers to the Lord directed by the Word of God. I have introduced each prayer with the phrase, "Dear Lord," and finished them with the phrase, "In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN," which is my own custom. Both the prayers themselves and the introductory and concluding words are meant to be a guide only; feel free to supplement or alter these prayers for your personal use.

You may notice that these prayers use the plural pronoun "we," instead of the singular "I." I have made this alteration to my earlier standard because I think that these prayers are most helpful when a married couple prays them together. They can, of course, be prayed in isolation, but a married couple ought to pray together anyway, and this is a good way to help with that. You will also notice that I have, at times, referred individually to each spouse in the third person. How you address these sections is up to you. My suggestion is that each of you prays for the other, but you may also pray on your own behalf; you may even replace the pronouns with your names. However you do it, of course, you may alter the prayers so that they flow more naturally.

It is my intention that these prayers assist the readers in their personal prayer life and help them to speak to God when they cannot find the words. If the readers do wish to pray publicly what I have written here, I would appreciate a mention that it was I who wrote it.

Please feel free to visit the 31 Prayers website at
http://www.31Prayers.com
to find out about past and future installments in the 31 Prayers series and to post your comments and questions about this book. More infor-

mation on all of my works is available at http://www.VersorBooks.com.

Marriage Seeking Unity

Genesis 2:23

The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

Dear Lord,

Marriage is the unity of two persons which You ordained from the beginning of the world. Help us to participate in that unity; help us to realize that our bones and our flesh are one, just as You created them to be. Help us to pursue that unity in our daily lives, both in and out of the bedroom. Help us to realize that our unity ought to extend beyond the marital act as we each live for the good of the other, serving and helping in every way. Guide us in unity; let us model our unity on the unity of persons in the Godhead, for the unity of marriage ought not to be between two people alone, but it ought to include You integrally, O LORD.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Matthew 19:6

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Dear Lord,

As You ordained it from the beginning, marriage is the unity of two persons into one flesh. In our marriage, You have joined us together, and to separate us now would be to destroy us. Help us to recognize this union and to work for it, that we may be improved and that we may grow closer in intimacy to each other and to You. Let us not work against it, for our own selfish desires. Let us realize that this union goes beyond the marital act, uniting us not only in our bodies, but also in spirit and truth. Help us to see that if we sin against our own flesh, we sin against a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in us; we are not our own, O God, but we are Yours. Guide us and strengthen us to remain faithful to each other and to You. Therefore, what You have joined, O LORD, let us not separate.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Dear Lord,

May this admonishment from Your apostle take hold in us. Let us not be led astray by the ways of the world, but let us instead walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which You have called us. Your calling brought us into the marriage vows that we swore on that day when You joined us together in a holy union. Help us to be humble towards one another, giving up ourselves for the sake of the other, and gentle, that we may not harm one another as we make ourselves vulnerable in intimacy. Help us to be patient with and tolerant of one another, that we may not quarrel, but rather that we may work together toward Your will. Let us always be diligent to preserve this unity of Your Spirit in us through the bond of peace, not letting strife build beneath the surface, but putting ourselves aside that You may be glorified.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Ephesians 5:33

Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Dear Lord,

Teach us to love one another as You have commanded. Help us to understand how each of us thinks and feels, that our relationship may flourish and grow. Help him to love her even as he loves his own body, supporting her and cherishing her, protecting her first and giving up his own willful desires for her. Help her to love him, showing that love through respect and subjecting herself to him, not as a slave, nor as one without her own voice and her own devotion to You, O LORD, but even as a helper and supporter, an aide and advisor. The world encourages mockery of men and objectification of women; let us not participate in these destructive practices, but rather let us express our great love for one another, building each other up in truth.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Philippians 2:2

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Dear Lord,

May the unity You have ordained for us and exemplified in Your Son be made whole in us by the guidance of Your Spirit. Help us to be one as You are One, being of the same mind, not without individuality, but rather without divisiveness. Let us maintain the same love that You have shown to us and have begun in us. Help us to be united in spirit and intent on one purpose, that is, to bring glory to Your name among all people. Help us to be humble and to place one another before ourselves, dedicating ourselves to You, that we may be like You and, through that likeness, bring glory to You on the earth.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage under Attack

II Samuel 11:2

Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.

Dear Lord,

Improper decisions lead to sinful situations. Let neither of us be like King David, who sent his generals away and stayed at home in the spring, that time when kings go out to battle. Help us to avoid that selfish first step that opens up sinful and destructive possibilities, that leads to temptation which, when indulged, leads to sin; sin, when it is completed, leads to death and destruction. Help us to avoid that path, O LORD, that our unity, trust, joy, and love may be preserved. Help us not to imagine foolishly that we are more resilient even than a man after Your own heart, that we are able to weather temptation without sin. Help us, instead, always to be faithful to each other.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Matthew 5:28-29

"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

Dear Lord,

Help us to realize that lust begins with a glance, and even a lustful look is adultery. Help us to persevere in our marriage, not giving the devil a chance to work on us, but making a covenant with our eyes not to look lustfully upon another person. Help us to recognize that lust, excess desire, is a sin, and that such possessiveness over another person, especially one who is not our spouse, is adulterous and destructive. Help us to combat sin and temptation, casting aside our selfishness and any disordered desires or sinful tendencies. Let us place these burdens upon you. Let us not submit to our temptations, our sinful wants, and let us not argue that those wants should be indulged because they are naturally a part of us. For indeed, it is better for one part of us to be destroyed than for our whole selves to be cast into hell and our marriage to be torn asunder.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Romans 13:13-14

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Dear Lord,

When darkness comes and we are alone, help us not to fall to temptation. For in the shadows and out of sight, when we believe we are away from judgment and accountability, we remove the mighty armor of God and let down our guard, and the devil chooses these moments to attack. Let us not engage in the deeds of darkness, but let us cast light upon ourselves, in order that we may realize that You see us always and we are not alone. You have given us the armor of light to guard against the invasion of darkness. Let us put on Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for He Who defeated sin will fight sin for us. Further, we must not make any provision for the lusts of the flesh. And so help us to avoid carousing and drunkenness, so that we may maintain control of ourselves. Help us, also, to combat sexual promiscuity and sensuality, because these sins could lead us astray through falsehoods and deceits. Instead, let us remain faithful in the truth. Finally, guide us in battle against strife and jealousy, for we must not destroy our union out of misguided anger and spite.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Dear Lord,

Help us always to be faithful to one another. Let marriage be precious in us; help us to realize how immensely valuable our marriage is. May we hold it in high esteem, for You ordained it from the beginning to be for us a mutual covenant of unity, trust, and constant edification. Help us to grow in intimacy and strength of spirit, not only between ourselves, but also with You. In this way, help us always to keep our marriage bed pure, neither becoming adulterers in deed nor even entertaining thoughts of others, for even to look at another with lust in our hearts is to commit adultery. Strengthen us and keep us, that we may preserve our holy unity with one another and with You, lest we be judged even as the fornicators and adulterers on the last day.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

James 1:15

Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Dear Lord,

Protect us, O God, from the sinful desires of our flesh. Let us not be carried away and enticed by that desire, lest we fall into temptation. Help us to remember that, when our lusts have drawn us away from You and we fall into temptation, when we entertain these desires and conceive them fully in our minds and in our hearts, we give birth to sin in our lives. Help us to recognize that thoughts and sinful desires are not harmless, but they give rise to sin in us, that we indulge them and bring about our own ruin. For indeed, when that sin, in its infancy in our thoughts, becomes full-grown in our actions and is accomplished, it brings forth death and destruction. Let us not destroy our marriage by this path, but let us remain faithful to each other and to You through all things.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage in Need of Healing

II Samuel 14:14

For we will surely die and are like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away life, but plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him.

Dear Lord,

We know, O God, that things we have done, once accomplished, cannot be undone. Like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again, sins cannot simply be taken back as though we never committed them. But let us not be as the king who banished Absalom without hope for reconciliation. Let us instead realize that You do not take away life, so we should not complete the destruction of the unity which we have damaged through sin. Help us to realize that You plan ways for the sinner not to be cast from Your presence, so we should also forgive and work to rebuild the unity, trust, and love that was harmed by the sins committed.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Lamentations 3:22-24

The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"Therefore I have hope in Him."

Dear Lord,

We suffer in memory of the sin that has damaged our marriage. We fear and we worry that it will destroy us both. O LORD, help us to remember Your unceasing lovingkindness; renew Your unfailing compassion every morning within each of us. We struggle with bitterness, with anger, with grief, with guilt, with sorrow; spark in us the fire of forgiving love, Heavenly Father. Great is Your faithfulness, O God; help us to grow in faithfulness to each other, to rebuild the trust which we have lost to sin. You are our portion, O LORD; You are sufficient for us. We have lost unity and intimacy, but we still have You. In You, and You alone, lies our hope. Because You are here, we have hope for the future; because You are here, we can recreate the love, the trust, the unity which we promised to each other, for better or for worse.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Ezekiel 18:31-32

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD . "Therefore, repent and live."

Dear Lord,

One or both of us have committed transgressions, O LORD, against You and against ourselves. Help us to cast away those sins and put them far from ourselves. Help us to repent, to turn away from that which has harmed our marriage, and help us to forgive, to repair our marriage and to rebuild our trust through hard work and devotion. This rebuilding is the creation of a new heart and a new spirit within us, one devoted to You and to each other. Why would we rather destroy our unity and rend our marriage to pieces? We both would suffer in this world if we destroy that which you have built to unite us. Help us to share in your displeasure for the death of our union and life as one. Help us to repent and live.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Ephesians 4:20-24

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Dear Lord,

One or both of us have brought sin into the unity which You ordained for us. But our task is not to cast blame or wallow in guilt and despair, but to take responsibility for our old selves and turn away from them, repenting and seeking forgiveness for our sins. For in our former selves, we were being deceived because of the desires of our flesh; we were being corrupted by our indulgence of those desires. Help us to be renewed in the spirit of our minds; let that renewal bring us a right and steadfast spirit, and create in us a clean heart. Help us to put on our new selves, created through the sacrifice of Your Son, renewing the design You formed with Adam in the beginning, in Your likeness, in the righteousness and holiness of the truth.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I Peter 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Dear Lord,

Help us to persevere. Hardship, distrust, and sin drive wedges between us. It would be easier to turn aside from our covenant and to allow our promises to fall by the wayside. It would be easier to stop trying, to stop loving, especially when attraction and desire have passed and intimacy has been weakened or betrayed. But even so, let us persevere. Let us stand strong through every hardship, rebuild after every collapse, and forgive after every sin. Let us both strive continually to treat one another with love and respect, waiting and striving for the time when You, the God of all grace, Who called us to eternal glory in Christ, will Yourself complete and perfect us, confirm us in our faith, strengthen us in our resolve, and establish us in Your glory. To You be the dominion forever and ever.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage and Family

Psalm 127:3-4

Behold, children are a gift of the LORD ,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.

Dear Lord,

Marriage is about the unity of persons in love. Help us to recognize this in our marriage, O God. This love leading to unity is also a love leading to life, for as You are love and You are the source of all life, so also the love and unity ordained by You from the beginning is the source of new life. Just as the union of Christ with His bride the Church gives life to a fallen world, so our union in love brings life into the world. Help us to accept this life in the loving creation of our family, guided by Your wisdom and direction, O LORD.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Psalm 128:3-4

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
Within your house,
Your children like olive plants
Around your table.
Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD .

Dear Lord,

Help us to fear you, Father, and to respect Your holy Name, that we may be blessed. Help us to be obedient to Your will, that Your blessings may cover us as the rains cover the fields. Help us to follow You, that my husband may be righteous and loving. Help us to follow You, that my wife may be joyous and so abounding in love that new life grows forth from her. Help us to follow You, that our children may be respectful and obedient, calm as the olive branch retrieved by doves after the turmoil of the flood. Help us to discern and follow Your will, that You may bless us indeed with unity, with holiness, with joy, with life, with peace, and with love.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage Opposed to Divorce

Malachi 2:16

"For I hate divorce," says the LORD , the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

Dear Lord,

We seek to retain a remnant of Your Spirit; we desire not to lose Your presence and Your grace in our lives. You have been a witness between us; we are companions and spouses by a covenant of Your ordination. Help us to take heed to our spirit and our conscience, and let us not deal treacherously with each other. For You hate divorce, O LORD; let us share in that hatred and let us share in your love of the unity of persons through marriage. Help us not to cover the pure garment of our marriage with the stain of wrongdoing. Keep us clean in Your Spirit, O God.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Matthew 19:8

He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way."

Dear Lord,

Let us not be fooled by the laws and rules of those whose hearts are hardened against Your love. For You ordained marriage from the beginning to be a faithful union of two persons, once and forever. Help us to realize that the union You have created is designed and ordained to last us the rest of our lives. Let us not be tricked into our own destruction by the allowances of the world for the sake of those who are weak and sinful. Even if we participate in legal divorce, help us to realize that our marriage persists and let us not commit adultery with another.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Mark 10:11-12

And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

Dear Lord,

Marriage persists in spite of our actions in the eyes of the world. For truly, in Your eyes, that which You have ordained is permanent and indestructible. Even if we call upon the laws of the land and the allowances of Moses and the precedents set by those who come before us, help us to realize that not one of these things, nor indeed all of them together, is more powerful than You and Your will. It is not by human laws, nor by Moses, nor by our ancestors, nor by any fabrication of any creature in this world that we are judged, but we are judged by the Holy One of Israel, by You, O holy and just God. Help us, then, not to sin through adultery because of divorce, but help us to remain faithful to the union You have ordained for us.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I Corinthians 7:10-11

But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

Dear Lord,

The union in which we participate is an eternal ordination for our benefit as a gift from You. Let us not be led astray and tempted to sin through divorce. Yet if there are other circumstances, if our union is harmful, even abusive, because of the sins and shortcomings of one or both of us, let us not destroy ourselves in adultery with another. Instead, let a legal divorce stand to protect us from suffering at the hands of a hardened heart, but let our marriage stand in Your eyes that we may not live in sin. Even so, O LORD, as is best, help us to reconcile, repent, and forgive, that You may be glorified and we may be sanctified by our union with each other and with You.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage Seeking to Exemplify God

I John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Dear Lord,

Help us to love one another, not as the world loves, but as You have loved us. Do not let us love selfishly, that we may receive some benefit, like money or pleasure or admiration. Instead, let us love as You loved us, not because we first loved You nor because we were in the least worthy of Your love, but let us give up our whole selves, all that we have and all that we are, for one another. Let us not love under any condition, but help us to humble ourselves and give ourselves fully to each other, expecting nothing in return. Let our love unify us and make us one, as You have designed, for Your glory and as a grace for us. Let us, by this love, be in each other and in You as You are also in Christ.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I John 4:12

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

Dear Lord,

No one has ever seen You except Your Son, Who has explained You and made You manifest to us. That explanation and manifestation was the exemplar of love, the gift of life to those deserving death, even unto us. Help us to love one another as You have loved us, giving up our whole selves as a gift to one another. In this way, let us manifest You, Who are this very love, in and of Yourself. May this come to pass that we may be built up and perfected according to Your will, and that You may be glorified. Let those who look upon us and our love for one another see past us and find Your love for them. Abide in us, O LORD, and bring Your love to completion in us, that all may know Your love for us all.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage in Accordance with God's Will

Ecclesiastes 9:9

Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.

Dear Lord,

Help us to enjoy life in each other's company for all the days which You have given to us under the sun. Help us to labor for Your will in love of Your commandments, that our reward from You may go well with us. Help us to remain steadfast in love and righteousness, that we may not harm the unity which You have ordained for us to last all of our days. Let our toil in this life be holy and in accordance with Your will, O God, that we may remain one in joy, love, and peace.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I Corinthians 7:4

The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Dear Lord,

Help us to recognize that our union is not only of bodies, but indeed of whole persons. For we have become one flesh to such a degree that we do not any longer possess our own bodies, but each of us is in possession of the other's body. Guide us, then, to participate in the marital act as each of us has need, but with proper respect and self-control for the benefit and care of the other. Help us neither to abuse the flesh we now possess nor to deprive it, except in a mutual spiritual fast, devoting ourselves to prayer and spiritual intimacy in union with You. Help us to remember that this union You have ordained for our benefit, that we may not be alone and we may not suffer temptation to sin. Direct us, then, to participate fully in that union as often as each of us has need, for the benefit of each of us and the growth of our intimacy and strength as one flesh.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Dear Lord,

Help us to remain vigilant in our marriage, O God. Let us be on the alert, keeping watch for temptation and sin and all that could destroy us. Help us to be prepared when the forces of evil inevitably assault our holy union; grant us faith and the resilience to stand firm therein, that we may not be overcome and lose ourselves in the way of the world. Let us be like men, but not men of the world, who cheat and lie and steal and destroy. Instead, let us be like men of God, putting on the armor You have provided for us, girding ourselves in truth, righteousness, preparation in the Gospel, faith, salvation, and Your holy Word. Help us to be strong, O LORD. In all of these things, whatever we do, let us do it in love for You and for one another.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Colossians 3:18-19

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

Dear Lord,

Guide us both to follow Your commandments to preserve the unity and intimacy of our family and especially our marriage. Help her to respect and submit to him as is fitting in unity with You. You have designed him to be the spiritual leader of our family, the head of the household; in support of this design, help her to submit her own will to his leadership, advising him and helping him, but following him so long as he follows after You. Help him to love her, serving and pleasing her with his actions and with his words, always striving to be uplifting and supportive. Let him lay aside his own will in order that he may love and support her, not being embittered toward her, but appreciating and adoring her for all the days of our lives.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

James 4:1-3

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Dear Lord,

Let us not fight and quarrel. Help us, instead, to resist the pleasures that wage war in our members. Help us to resist the desires that lead us to lust, to want, and to long for things of this world that we do not, should not, or cannot have. Help us to recognize our gifts and our roles in Your design, that we may act toward Your plan instead of on behalf of the desires of the flesh. Help us to seek in You all that is lacking in us. When we find ourselves in need, do not let us turn on each other in blame or envy, but let us cast our burden upon You, that You may sustain us. Guide us and fulfill us, O LORD.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I Peter 3:1, 7

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives ... You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Dear Lord,

Help us to understand Your will for our lives and to pursue it. Help her to be submissive to him, showing that she possesses chastity and respect, pursuing only him in line with You. Help her to be adorned in the hidden person of her heart with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit. Let her act, without fear, in devotion both to him and to You, that he may be brought back to You by her example. Likewise, help him to serve, protect, and support her, not resenting her, but understanding the design You have ordained for marriage. Help us both to recognize that neither of us is superior to the other, but that we are fellow heirs, equal but different, of the grace and gift of life from You. Indeed, let her show respect and let him show honor, each of us humbling ourselves, not in self-deprecation, but in love and dignity towards one another, that we may be one, even as You are One.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

Marriage Seeking Perfection

I John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

Dear Lord,

Let there be no fear in us, but only love. Because fear is not in love, there is no room for fear when love has been made complete, but love throws fear out. May it be so with us. Fear leads to jealousy, suspicion, distrust, and division. Even a seed of fear can corrupt love. Let us not have any fear, but grant that we be made complete with complete love. Help us to cast out fear from our love and from our marriage, that we may not punish ourselves and each other because of fear. Help us, O LORD, to be perfected by the perfect love that You have exemplified for us.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Dear Lord,

Let our actions express the intimacy we share. Help us to be patient with each other, growing only so quickly as each of us is able; help our patience to strengthen our bond and draw us closer together as we wait upon Your word. Help us to be kind and not jealous, caring for one another in service and trusting that You will guide us closer together. Help us not to brag or to be arrogant, but let us put aside our selfishness and lay down our pride, humbling ourselves in devotion to each other. Help us not to act unbecomingly, as though our marriage were a tool by which we achieve a selfish goal. Help us not to seek our own benefit, but guide us to strive daily for the good of each other, that we may build each other up and direct our unity more fully toward You. Let us not be provoked, lest we cast aside our love in anger, nor let us take into account a wrong suffered, lest we erode the burgeoning edifice of our lifelong commitment and covenant. Let us not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rather, help us to rejoice with the truth, that we may better ourselves and each other through the marriage which You have ordained for us. Help us to bear all things, for when one of us is weak, the other may be strong by Your grace, that we may be able to bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. Help us to believe all things, trusting first in Your Word and also in one another, sowing seeds of intimacy and unity with our faith, instead of sowing discord with suspicion. Let us hope all things, trusting in Your divine plan, that through all things, You may be glorified in us. Help us, too, to endure all things, not suffering in silence through hardship and fault, but standing resolute in the face of every trial; no matter what hardships we face, no matter what struggles we endure, no matter what pains we suffer or fears we encounter or sins we fall into, help us to stand firm, with Your

strength to sustain us. Help us to love one another always, O God.

In Thy Son's Name we pray, AMEN.