



Rhythm OF WORSHIP

A W O R S H I P L E A D E R ' S

Weekly Devotional

Monday Oct. 7 - Sunday Oct. 13, 2019

The Bride of Jesus

Theme for Sunday

Reflections

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing[a] her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-32

In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

Interpreting and applying Ephesians 5 in marriage is difficult. Power struggles ensue and typically the stronger personality prevails. For me, it’s most helpful to realize that Jesus died for the church. So daily I ask myself this question, “What does it mean for me, today, to die for my wife?” Maybe it means putting a particular sin to death. Maybe it means putting her needs before mine. Whatever the case, a “my spouse’s needs before mine” posture mimics the relationship of Jesus and the church.

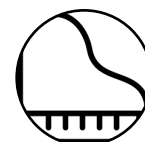
* What do I need to repent of this week?

* What feels too heavy to carry this week?

* How can I serve my spouse this week?

* Would I consider spending 5 full minutes of quietness, listening for God to speak? Not asking for anything, just simply listening?

* This Sunday, I’m expecting God to...



Prayer

FATHER OF JESUS,

Dawn returns, but without thy light within no outward light can profit;
Give me the saving lamp of thy Spirit that I may see thee,
the God of my salvation, the delight of my soul, rejoicing over me in love.

I commend my heart to thy watchful care, for I know its treachery and power;
Guard its every portal from the wily enemy,
Give me quick discernment of his deadly arts,
Help me to recognize his bold disguise as an angel of light, and bid him begone.

May my words and works allure others to the highest walks of faith and love!
May loiterers be quickened to greater diligence by my example!
May worldlings be won to delight in acquaintance with thee!
May the timid and irresolute be warned of coming doom by my zeal for Jesus!

Cause me to be a mirror of thy grace, to show others the joy of thy service,
May my lips be well-tuned cymbals sounding thy praise,
Let a halo of heavenly-mindedness sparkle around me
and a lamp of kindness sunbeam my path.

Teach me the happy art of attending to things temporal
with a mind intent on things eternal.
Send me forth to have compassion on the ignorant and miserable.

Help me to walk as Jesus walked, my only Savior and perfect model,
his mind my inward guest,
his meekness my covering garb.

Let my happy place be amongst the poor in spirit,
my delight the gentle ranks of the meek.
Let me always esteem others better than myself,
and find in true humility an heirloom to two worlds.

taken from "The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions"

SONGS AND ART

1. BUILD MY LIFE

"Worthy of every sing we could ever sing" (lyrics)

3. DEFENDER

"You restore my faith and hope again" (lyrics)

2. I'M LISTENING

"You whisper peace when I don't have the words to say" (lyrics)

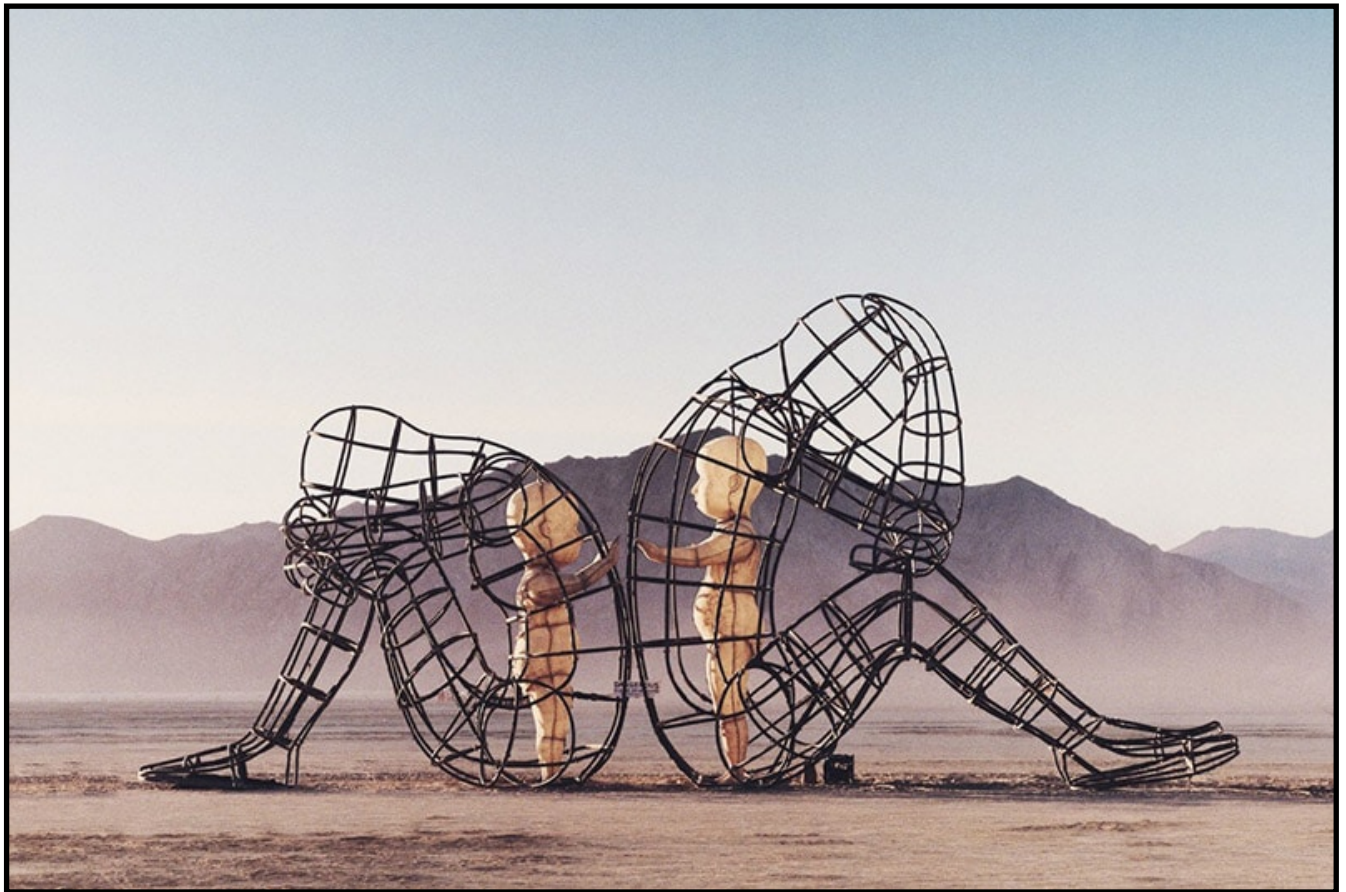
4. RISE

"Oh how I've loved you, unconditionally pursued you"

5. GREAT ARE YOU LORD

"It's Your breath in our lungs" (lyrics)

[CLICK HERE FOR YOUTUBE PLAYLIST](#)



Sculpture by Ukrainian artist Alexander Milov

