



Marriage: Making Christ the Third Strand



Explore how intertwining Christ in marriage strengthens the bond, reflecting Ecclesiastes 4:12's truth of a threefold cord unbreakable.



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Introduction

Marriage is more than a union between two people; it's a sacred bond that involves a spiritual dimension when *Christ is made the third strand* in this intimate relationship. The Bible describes this powerful unity in **Ecclesiastes 4:12**: "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." This verse beautifully symbolizes the strength that comes when a couple weaves their lives together with the presence and guidance of Jesus.

Many marriages today face various challenges—communication breakdowns, conflicts, external pressures—but when Christ becomes the center, He changes the dynamics profoundly. His love, grace, and wisdom act as the binding agent that holds the couple through trials and joys alike. Incorporating Christ means inviting His qualities like patience, kindness, forgiveness, and unconditional love into the relationship.

Over these three days, this study will focus on what it means to make Christ the third strand in marriage. You'll reflect on practical ways to invite Him daily, once intentional, and how He empowers a couple to be united in purpose, joy, and resilience. Whether you are engaged, newly married, or have shared decades together, this time will encourage you to explore the biblical foundations and personal application of a Christ-centered marriage.

Glory comes not from human strength but from Holy Spirit power within two hearts intertwined. Let's embark on this journey of deepening connection



with your spouse and with Christ, so your bond remains strong and unbreakable like a threefold cord. 🙌





Day 1: 🧵 The Strength of a Threefold Cord



Your Verse

Ecclesiastes 4:12 NIV - "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Ephesians 4:2-3 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*
- *Colossians 3:14 - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*



Devotional: Discover Strength in the Threefold Cord

Ecclesiastes 4:12 gives us a vivid picture of what marriage can be when Christ is included. Imagine two strands representing husband and wife—each strong in their own right. Alone, they can face challenges, but when intertwined with Christ, the third strand, the cord becomes nearly unbreakable.

What does it mean practically to have Christ as that third strand? It begins with humility and patience, as Paul encourages in **Ephesians 4:2–3**. When trials strike or misunderstandings arise, leaning on Christ means we extend grace and forgiveness because He has modeled this for us. Similarly, **Colossians 3:14** reminds us that love is the glue binding all virtues in perfect unity.

Today, reflect on the current state of your marriage. Are you relying on your own strength, or are you inviting Christ to steady and strengthen your bond continually? Christ invests strength beyond human ability, weaving a tapestry of love that sustains against every storm.



Reflect and Apply

1. In what ways have you experienced the strength of Christ in your marriage?

2. Where might you be trying to carry the marriage burdens alone without leaning on Christ?

3. How can humility and patience transform difficult moments between you and your spouse?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when relying on Christ helped you overcome a marital struggle.

2. List ways you can invite Christ into daily moments with your spouse.

3. Reflect on the qualities of love described in Colossians 3:14 and how they show up in your marriage.



Day 1: 📖 The Strength of a Threefold Cord

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the example of Your unbreakable love. Help us to weave You deeply into the fabric of our marriage. Teach us humility, patience, and grace so our bond grows stronger with You as our third strand. Protect us from relying solely on our own strength and draw us closer together under Your guidance and love. May our marriage reflect Your steadfast care, unshakeable and full of joy. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏❤️🕊️





Day 2: ❤️ Christ's Love as Our Bond



Day 2: ❤️ Christ's Love as Our Bond

Your Verse

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV - "Love is patient, love is kind... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 15:12 - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*
- *Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*



Day 2: ❤️ Christ's Love as Our Bond

Devotional: Embody Christ's Love In Your Marriage

True love in marriage resonates with the love Christ shows us.

Jesus gave us a clear command in **John 15:12** to love as He loved, sacrificially and selflessly. Marriage becomes a living example of this call when couples intentionally seek to reflect His love. Romans 12:10 encourages us to honor and prioritize one another, which strengthens mutual respect and unity.

How can you imitate Christ's love in daily actions with your spouse? Perhaps it's in listening more attentively, forgiving quicker, or serving selflessly. These acts embody making Christ the third strand — His love flows through the marriage, transforming it from within.



Day 2: ❤️ Christ's Love as Our Bond

Reflect and Apply

1. Which aspects of Christ's love do you find most challenging or uplifting in your marriage?

2. How can you and your spouse better honor and prioritize one another today?

3. What small acts can you do to reflect Christ's sacrificial love daily?



Day 2: ❤️ Christ's Love as Our Bond

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe how Christ's love has shaped your view of marriage.

2. Write about ways you want to improve loving your spouse as Christ loves you.

3. List practical ways you can demonstrate patience and kindness in your relationship.



Day 2: ❤️ Christ's Love as Our Bond

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for Your perfect example of love. Teach us to love one another with the same patience, kindness, and perseverance that Christ shows. May our marriage be a testament of Your sacrificial love, bringing glory to Your name. Help us to put each other first and serve one another joyfully. We surrender our hearts to You as the binding strand knitting us together. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* ❤️ 🙏 ✨





Day 3: Growing Together in Faith



Day 3: 🌱 Growing Together in Faith

Your Verse

Matthew 18:20 NIV - "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 10:24-25 - Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*
- *Philippians 2:2 - Be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*



Day 3: 🌱 Growing Together in Faith

Devotional: Nurture Spiritual Growth Together Daily

Christ's presence in marriage brings spiritual growth for both partners together. Matthew 18:20, Jesus assures us that where two are united in His name, He is there with them. This promise encourages couples to cultivate a shared faith journey, praying and studying God's word side by side.

Hebrews 10:24-25 motivates believers to encourage each other toward love and good deeds, which is essential within marriage—building each other up amid challenges. **Philippians 2:2** exhorts one-mindedness and unity in spirit, which grows naturally as the couple seeks Christ together.

Consider how spiritual practices like praying together, reading Scripture, worshiping, and serving can strengthen your bond. As you grow jointly in faith, your marriage becomes not just a partnership but a glorious reflection of God's kingdom on earth, tightly woven by the third strand: Christ Himself.



Reflect and Apply

1. How can you and your spouse create regular spiritual habits together?

2. What steps can you take to encourage and inspire each other's faith walk?

3. In what ways does unified prayer bring peace and strength to your marriage?



Day 3: 🌱 Growing Together in Faith

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when praying together brought renewed closeness.

2. List spiritual goals you want to pursue as a couple.

3. Reflect on how being 'one in spirit' affects your daily interactions.



Day 3: 🌿 Growing Together in Faith

Prayer for Today

Jesus, thank You for Your presence in our marriage. Help us to grow closer to You and to each other as we seek You daily. Teach us to pray, serve, and love united in spirit and purpose. Let our marriage be a light that reveals Your kingdom's beauty through our faithfulness. Guide and strengthen our hearts to remain intertwined with You, the third strand that holds us firm. *In Your holy name, Amen.* 🙏🌿💕





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