

Prayers for **UNITY** *in Your Marriage*



an ebook by
TONY EVANS
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THE BELT OF TRUTH

MARK 10:8 NIV

“The two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh.”

.....

“One of the elements of God’s rule is His heart for oneness, also known as unity. Unity can be defined in its simplest of terms as oneness of purpose. It is working together in harmony toward a shared vision and goal.”

Tony Evans

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Dear Lord, unity in our marriage is about so much more than just agreeing on things. Your Word tells us that our unity actually reflects You to others. Our disunity reveals how far we are from You in our spiritual lives and character. Help us to keep a mindset of unity that is tied to the truth in Your Word, rather than view our decisions and disagreements as competition of thoughts and will.

Jesus described the purpose of unity when He said, “I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me,” (John 17:23). Unity is our way of sharing and validating Your love not only for Christ and that You sent Him, but also for all of us.

Jesus said we are “perfected in unity.” That being so, we are far from perfected when we quarrel or hold strong to our own desires or decisions, with no regard for our mate. Help me—help us—to be perfected spiritually through the sanctifying process of unity in our marriage. In Christ’s name, amen.



THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

PHILIPPIANS 2:2

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

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“Marriage is a sacred covenant not just a social contract. God promised to bless the male and female and their offspring if they faithfully functioned in accordance with His rule.”

Tony Evans

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Father, Your blessings and favor are critical for our marriage to reach Your intended destiny for us. Yet Your blessings and favor don't come automatically to us simply because we are married. We seek them by living, thinking and loving according to Your established plan. Help us to view our marriage as more than a relationship to bring each of us pleasure or to satisfy our needs. Help us to view it as the sacred covenant You intended it to be. When we view marriage through Your lens and with Your perspective, it will motivate and inspire us to live in greater unity than we experience right now.

We ask that where it our place to bend, grow or be united with each other on a deeper level that You will give us the desire and ability to do so.

Please also provide the ability and willingness for that to happen. When we function together being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, and intent on Your purpose, we will be fulfilling Your kingdom agenda for our home. That is our prayer for us as a couple. In Christ's name, amen.



THE SHOES OF PEACE

EPHESIANS 4:3 NIV

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.*

.....

“Many husbands and wives work as a team to provide for the emotional, spiritual and overall needs of their family. How beautiful it is when they bring that sense of teamwork home and model it for their children and for others in their spheres of influence?” *Tony Evans*

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Lord, unity takes effort. If it didn't, Paul wouldn't have written what he did to the church at Ephesus. He told them to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit.” Forgive us as a couple when we feel entitled to unity from our spouse simply because we are married. Forgive me when I expect my spouse to get on the same page with me when I think I am in the right.

Unity takes effort. Effort comes in the form of humility, listening, grace, understanding, patience and also wisdom. Provide me with these virtues in a greater measure so that I can do my part to work toward keeping the unity in our marriage. Provide the same to my spouse, and help us both to respond to each other with peace when the other has neglected these things.

Let that peace be a reminder that our unity is a critical tool in Your hands to advance Your kingdom and to bring about Your purpose for us. In Christ's name, amen.



THE SHIELD OF FAITH

ROMANS 12:4-5

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

.....

“Unity does not mean uniformity or sameness. Unity means oneness of purpose. Just as the Godhead is made up of three distinct Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—each unique in personhood, yet at the same time one in essence, unity reflects a oneness that does not negate individuality.”

Tony Evans

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Dear God, my spouse and I have some things in common but we also have a number of differences. These come in a variety of places—You know them all. Sometimes they are okay for us to handle, but other times it gets frustrating. When I do get frustrated, I lose faith that it is even possible to be unified when we are so obviously different. But You didn’t say we had to be the same to be unified. Rather, our unity should reflect what Paul wrote in Romans that the members of Your body do not have the same function, but they are still one body and members of each other.

It is easier to understand unity and to have faith that we can obtain it when I understand that You are not calling me to be like my spouse, but rather to be like-minded with my spouse, under You.

Where our spiritual perspectives and life views differ, please unify us under Your truth. As we align our thoughts, beliefs and values under You, we will naturally be more unified with each other.

Also, Father, help us to enjoy and allow each other's differences within the unique personalities You have chosen to give us. Provide the insight we need to understand that unity does not mean we have to like the same music, events or TV shows, but rather, unity means our minds, thoughts, joint purposes and morals need to be aligned under Your Word. When we live in faith trusting in Your Word, we will be unified. In Christ's name, amen.



THE HELMET OF SALVATION

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

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“Unity occurs when we combine our unique differences together as we head toward a common goal. It is the sense that the thing that we are gathered for and moving toward is bigger than our own individual preferences.”

Tony Evans

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Lord, through Christ's death and resurrection, You provided me with salvation for eternity. Jesus laid down His life so that my eternal salvation would be secured. You bought me with a price through the sacrifice of Your Son. Because of this truth, I exist to glorify You with my life. So does my spouse. We are not our own. Our purpose is to bring You glory through our choices, words and the state of our hearts.

Help us to relinquish our will and rights to having our own way in order to honor You in unity together. Give us the bigger picture of Your kingdom and remind us of our greatest purpose which is to glorify You. Disunity is rebellion

because disunity sets my desires and will above Yours. Disunity says I lay claim to my life, my body and my choices with no regard to Christ's sacrifice and Your gift of salvation through the forgiveness of sins.

Unity reflects hearts of surrender under You, Lord, which is what Your Word says we are to do based on Christ's redemption of us. Give us this reminder when things are disunified in our marriage, and enable us to overcome the challenges we face in order that we might unify our hearts in alignment under You. In Christ's name, amen.



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

ROMANS 15:5

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.

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“Satan spends most of his time trying to divide couples in their marriage. He does this because he knows that God’s power and glory are both accessed and magnified through unity.”

Tony Evans

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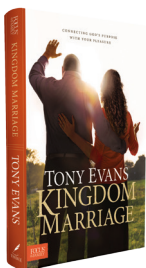
Lord, Jesus spoke these words, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matthew 12:25) I take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and rebuke any attempt to bring about or continue disunity in my marriage. A house divided against itself will not stand, so I refuse to accept and remain in a disunified state of mind with my spouse. Father God, bring our hearts, minds and our spirits together where we have disunity. Your Word says we are to “pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another,” (Romans 14:19). You have made it clear. We as spouses are to seek to say and do things that build each other up in You.

Give us insight and wisdom for how to do that. I don't always know what is going to build up my spouse in You. I may think it is one thing when it is actually something different which will be impactful toward that end. So Lord please help my mind to be in tune to say and do the things which will truly build my spouse up in You. Whether it's the words I text, speak or whatever I do that involves my spouse, let it be something prompted by You in order to build us up and to unify us as a couple under You. In Christ's name, amen.



GO DEEPER

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Kingdom Marriage

What happens when a kingdom man marries a kingdom woman? Kingdom Marriage: Connecting God's

Purpose with Your Pleasure helps couples grow together as a kingdom couple to fulfill God's design and purpose for their marriage. Through practical insights and powerful stories, Dr. Tony Evans inspires and instructs so couples will discover the hope, challenge, and guidance God's Word provides for their journey together.

Kingdom Marriage shows couples that the key to influencing our society and world with lasting impact is found in solidifying biblical marriage in the way God intended. It starts with both wife and husband reflecting God and His image and modeling that reflection within the roles and responsibilities of their union. This is based on a correct understanding of God's kingdom and their responsibilities in it.



Kingdom Prayer

Prayer is the single most misunderstood and neglected aspect of the Christian life. It has been estimated that most Christians pray three to five minutes a day. Compare that to the time many spend complaining, and you'll gain insight into the spiritual and emotional condition of our day. Yet God has constructed the world in such a way that there is much He won't do in a Christian's life apart from prayer. Prayer, when combined with faith, can accomplish great things.

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The power of prayer and praise

Fasting and prayer

Prayer and God's purposes

Tony's expositions of various passages on prayer will help you realize its critical importance and encourage you to make it a dominant mark of your life.

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THE URBAN ALTERNATIVE

The Urban Alternative (TUA) is a Christian broadcast ministry founded over 30 years ago by Dr. Tony Evans. At TUA, we seek to promote a kingdom agenda philosophy designed to enable people to live all of life underneath the comprehensive rule of God. This is accomplished through a variety of means, including media, resources, clergy ministries and community impact training. The Urban Alternative's daily radio broadcast airs on over 1,000 radio outlets in America and in over 100 countries worldwide. Find us online at TonyEvans.org.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Tony Evans is the founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national ministry dedicated to restoring hope and transforming lives through the proclamation and application of God's Word. For over three decades, Dr. Evans has also served as senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He is a prolific author of numerous books, including the best-selling *Kingdom Man*. His radio program, "The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans," is heard daily on over 1,000 radio outlets. Dr. Evans is also the chaplain for the Dallas Mavericks and former chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys.



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