



October 19, 2025

United - Ephesians 5:25-33 - Marriage Garden - Weeds

SUMMARY: In this sermon, we explored the metaphor of marriage as a garden, focusing on the "weeds" that can choke out the health and fruitfulness of our relationships. Drawing from Ephesians 5:25-33, we examined both humorous and serious examples of marital "weeds"—habits, attitudes, and priorities that undermine intimacy and unity. We discussed the importance of giving marriage its own space, maintaining proper priorities (God, spouse, then children), and the dangers of boredom, hidden agendas, and selfishness. Through personal stories and biblical wisdom, we were challenged to examine our own hearts, seek God's guidance, and intentionally invest in our marriages with honesty, humility, and selfless love.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:26-33; Psalm 139; Matthew 6:33, 16:25; 3 John 4; Malachi 2:15

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. The sermon challenged us to let our marriage have its own life and not run to parents or outsiders with every problem. When you face conflict in your marriage (or close relationships), who do you usually turn to first? How can you seek God's guidance and wise counsel instead?
2. The order of priorities given was God, spouse, then children. Looking at your own life, is there an area where this order is out of balance? What is one step you could take this week to realign your priorities?
3. Pastor Matt shared about boredom and shallow communication creeping into marriage over time. Are there routines or habits in your relationship that need to be refreshed? What is one intentional thing you could do this week to deepen your connection?
4. Hidden agendas and unspoken expectations can create distance. Is there something you've been holding back from your spouse (or close friend/family member) that you need to honestly share? What's stopping you?
5. Selfishness was described as the greatest threat to marriage. Think of a recent situation where you put your own needs first. How could you have responded differently? What is one small, selfless act you could do for your spouse (or someone close to you) this week?
6. The sermon emphasized the power of small, daily acts of love. What is one ordinary, faithful thing you can do each day to serve your spouse or family? How might this change the atmosphere in your home?
7. Pastor Matt encouraged us to regularly ask, "Is it I?" when things aren't right in our relationships. Is there an area where you need to take responsibility and seek forgiveness? What would it look like to take the first step?