



November 2, 2025

United - Ephesians 5:26-33 - Marriage Garden – Fertilizer

SUMMARY: Today's sermon continued our series on marriage, using the metaphor of a garden to explore how to keep a marriage fruitful and alive. Just as a garden needs fertilizer to keep producing, marriages need intentional investment to stay healthy and vibrant. Drawing from Ephesians 5:25-33, we looked at seven "fertilizers" for marriage: creativity, appreciation, physical touch, knowledge, friendship, calmness, and the gospel covenant. Through personal stories, practical advice, and biblical insight, we were challenged to actively nurture our marriages, not letting them grow stale or depleted. The ultimate foundation is the gospel itself—a covenant of grace, selflessness, and security that shapes how we love and serve our spouse.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:26-33; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, 6:12; 1 Peter 3:7; John 8:32, 15:15; 2 Corinthians 1:20

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. 1. When was the last time you did something creative or out-of-the-ordinary for your spouse (or, if single, for someone you care about)? What was the result, and how did it make you feel?
2. The sermon challenged us to make a list of things our spouse does for us. Take a moment to think about (or even write down) some of those things. How can you express appreciation for them this week?
3. Physical touch was described as a way to build deep memories and connection. Are there ways you could be more intentional about physical affection in your marriage or close relationships?
4. Pastor Matt talked about "knowing your spouse" as a lifelong pursuit. What is one thing you've learned about your spouse (or close friend/family member) recently that surprised you? How did you respond?
5. Are there any "molehills" in your relationship that you've been treating like "mountains"? What would it look like to let go of control or relax about those things?
6. The gospel gives us security and grace in our relationships. Is there an area in your marriage (or another relationship) where you need to extend grace or ask for forgiveness? What's holding you back?
7. The sermon mentioned the importance of friendship in marriage. What is one practical way you can invest in friendship with your spouse this week—maybe serving together, sharing a hobby, or just having fun?