

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Lesson 17-October 5, 2025

If you're in the resident congregation, turn off your electronic devices and put them away. Let this be a place where you aren't distracted by the world.

Welcome To BARAH MINISTRIES

**Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher**

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with a worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. Thanks for listening to this Bible lesson!

OPENING AGENDA

We're always happy to answer a few critical questions about our approach to the spiritual life...

Who is the God we worship?
What is our source of truth?
Who is our enemy?

Who is the God We Worship at Barah Ministries?

We worship a Triune Godhead...One God who reveals Himself as three beings who are separate, distinct, co-equal, co-infinite, and co-eternal Persons...God the Father...God the Son...and God the Holy Spirit.

GOD THE FATHER is the author of the Triune Godhead's plan for all creatures.

What is God the Father's attitude toward spiritual death? WRATH according to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18...

ROMANS 1:18

For the wrath of God the Father is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and against all unrighteousness of unbelievers who suppress the truth of the gospel in unrighteousness...

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Spiritually dead unbelievers are ungodly and unrighteous in God's eyes. You don't want to be at the wrong end of the wrath of God the Father when you close your eyes in this life.

GOD THE SON (the Lord) volunteered to execute God the Father's plan for mankind by taking on human form (as Jesus...the Christ...the Messiah). Jesus Christ is God, and He is the one who rescued all mankind from spiritual death through His sacrificial death at the Cross.

Everyone will meet the Lord Jesus Christ one day. The spiritually dead will meet Him at the Great White Throne judgment of unbelievers. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verses 11 and 12 say...

REVELATION 20:11

Then I (the apostle John) saw a Great White Throne and the Lord Jesus Christ who sat upon the throne...from whose presence earth and heaven fled away...and no place was found for these unbelievers to live.

REVELATION 20:12a

And I (the apostle John) saw the spiritually dead...the great and the small (the famous ones and the not so famous ones) standing before the Great White Throne...and the books were opened...and another book was opened, which is the book of life...

REVELATION 20:12b

...and the spiritually dead were judged from the things written in the books...according to their deeds.

The Lord won't mention sins at the Great White Throne judgment, but He will mention one deed...unbelief...the rejection of a relationship with Him.

We worship GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT. He is our Mentor and Teacher...our Guide...the rudder of a Christian's life. He is a Person...fully God...and equal in every way to God the Father and God the Son. He is not a "ghost" as some like to call Him. The Spirit frees us from bondage to spiritual death when we place our faith in Christ for salvation. In Acts, Chapter 1, Verse 5 the apostles were told by the Lord...

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ACTS 1:5

"...John the Baptist baptized with water...but you will receive the baptism of God the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

At the moment of salvation, believers in Christ are placed into union with Christ through the baptism of the Spirit, and we become spiritually alive.

In God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, believers in Christ have a power team specializing in the impossible...a team always on their side...a team always available to help in times of trouble.

What is Our Source of Truth at Barah Ministries?

The Bible does not come from the source of man. The Bible is the Word of God, a supernatural work breathed into human writers by God, and it is our source of absolute truth about eternal things. As Christians, we develop a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the members of the Godhead through studying the Word.

In the Garden of Eden, the Lord gave Adam a warning, both for him and for his soon to be created wife Eve in Genesis, Chapter 2, Verses 16 and 17...

GENESIS 2:16

The Lord God commanded Adam, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely..."

GENESIS 2:17

"...but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...for in the day you eat from it you will surely die."

You will surely die is "dying die" in Hebrew. In the day Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, they died spiritually, so they had to die physically. Spiritual death is the condition all of us are in when we are born.

The Bible offers hope to those who are spiritually dead...John, Chapter 8, Verse 12...

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JOHN 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to the scribes and Pharisees, saying, "I am the Light of the world...he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness of spiritual death, but will have the light of the resurrection life (a spiritual life)."

Who is Our Enemy at Barah Ministries?

GOD HAS AN ENEMY...Satan...whom God made 'the ruler of this world' for a finite period. Since he is the enemy of God, he is the enemy of believers in Christ as well. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 10 describes Satan's fate...

REVELATION 20:10

And the devil who deceived believers in Christ in the beloved city...Jerusalem... was thrown into the Lake of Fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are also...and the three of them (the counterfeit trinity) will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

There is no reason for spiritual death to be a master over anyone. Investing your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ gifts you with a spiritual life...the resurrection life...eternal life in heaven with God when you die.

The biggest enemy of believers in Christ is IGNORANCE OF THE ENEMY. Don't be ignorant.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

A Few of the Lord's Principles for Happy Marriage

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Over the next three weeks, we'll complete our study of Ephesians, Chapter 5. The subject of the final twelve verses is marriage. Since we have several married believers in the congregation, let's turn the next three lessons into a mini-marriage series. Welcome to the first lesson, where we'll explore some of the principles at work in great marriages.

OPENING SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's hear some music! For those of you who are married, even though it may have been a while ago, think back to the day you were married. Then reflect on the

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words of this Matthew West song...WHEN I SAY I DO. Here's hoping it takes you back to the time when you realized the person you married is special. Here's hoping it revives that spirit of wonder in you.

MUSIC

OPENING SONG

Let's Sing the Lord's Praises

WHEN I SAY I DO

Matthew West

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for another chance to study the absolute truth of the Word of God...

Father, thanks for providing us with a divine classroom for unity called MARRIAGE...a place to teach us the miracle of two becoming one for all the world to see...You provided the same example for believers in Christ when you made us one with your Son through the baptism of God the Holy Spirit...

...help us understand the power of unity through our study of Your commands for marriage...remind us that marriage is special in Your eyes...encourage us to set aside time for our marriages and our marriage partner...remind us we don't need our partner's permission to love them unconditionally, even when they don't value such love, because none of us are worthy of the unconditional love You showed by sending Your Son to die as a substitute for us...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

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A Few of the Lord's Principles for Happy Marriage

LESSON PART ONE

Let's study the final passage of Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 22 to 33. In these verses, the Lord gives instructions to the human race through the apostle Paul,

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teaching us how to walk in a manner worthy of our calling in the blessing called marriage. Here's the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD translation of the passage...

EPHESIANS 5:22

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, just as you are subject to the Lord.

EPHESIANS 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, with Christ Himself being the Savior of the body of Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:24

And just as the church is subject to Christ, so ought wives to be subject to their own husbands in everything.

EPHESIANS 5:25

Husbands, love your wives unconditionally, just as Christ loved the church unconditionally and gave Himself up as a substitute for her...

EPHESIANS 5:26

...so that He might sanctify the church...having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word of God...

EPHESIANS 5:27

...that the Lord might present to Himself the church in all her glory...a church having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing...that she would be holy and blameless.

EPHESIANS 5:28

So husbands ought also to love their own wives unconditionally, just as they love their own bodies unconditionally. He who loves his own wife unconditionally loves himself unconditionally...

EPHESIANS 5:29

...for no one ever hated his own flesh...instead, he nourishes and cherishes his own flesh, just as Christ nourishes and cherishes the church...

EPHESIANS 5:30

...because we are members of His body (the Body of Christ).

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EPHESIANS 5:31

For this reason, marriage, a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife...and the two shall become one flesh.

EPHESIANS 5:32

This mystery is great...but I (Paul) am speaking with reference to the mystery of Christ and the church.

EPHESIANS 5:33

Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife unconditionally even as he loves himself...unconditionally...and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

The final passage of Ephesians, Chapter 5 divides nicely into two parts.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE

The Lord's Instructions to Women for a Happy Marriage
Verses 22 to 24

The Lord's Instructions to Men for a Happy Marriage
Verses 25 to 33

Before we study each part of the passage next week and the week after, let's consider a few principles concerning marriage that may seem obvious, but must not be taken for granted.

What is marriage?

MARRIAGE

A formal, legal union of two people as partners in a personal relationship

Now a few Biblical principles related to marriage.

PRINCIPLE 1

In God's design, marriage involves one man and one woman

Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 22...

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GENESIS 2:22

The Lord ...God (the Son)...fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man...and He brought her to the man.

This is the first marriage ceremony.

No matter what pop culture is selling us concerning both the viability and the legality of male to male and female to female marriages, the Lord doesn't see it that way. His design for marriage has not changed.

PRINCIPLE 2

God doesn't ask us to do things He hasn't done

The Lord is married.

All believers in Christ are in a marriage union with Christ. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:17a

...if anyone is in union with Christ, and all believers in Christ are, there is a new creation...

The new creation is in a never-ending marriage with the Lord.

The Lord has been divorced.

The Creator-creature conflict, the very reason human history exists, is to resolve a prehistoric divorce between the Lord, God the Son, and Satan the Lord's former bodyguard...Ezekiel, Chapter 28, Verses 14 and 15...

EZEKIEL 28:14a

"You (Satan) were the anointed cherub who covers (the four winged officer angel and bodyguard of the Lord...God the Son)...and I (the Lord) placed you in that position...."

EZEKIEL 28:15

"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you."

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PRINCIPLE 3

The Lord created the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher and gave it to men so they could help people “rightly divide the Word of Truth.”

Pastors help people understand the Bible accurately so they can use it as a guide for their thoughts and actions. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 11 and 12...

EPHESIANS 4:11d

And the Lord gave some men as Pastors and teachers...

EPHESIANS 4:12a

...to equip believers in Christ for the work of service...

PRINCIPLE 4

If you have chosen what the Bible would call a counterfeit lifestyle, please don't listen to this lesson.

What is a counterfeit?

COUNTERFEIT

An exact imitation of something valuable with the intent to use it to deceive or defraud.

Satan, the enemy of God, offers many counterfeit lifestyles to the human race, among them counterfeit marriages. Male with male marriages are counterfeit. Female with female marriages are counterfeit. Just because humans in government have chosen to legitimize these marriages does not change God's design.

Please don't shoot the messenger.

You are welcome to live any lifestyle you choose. It's none of my business. It's not anyone else's business. Furthermore, it's not a concern for me what lifestyle you choose *because* it's not my business. Yet my job as a Pastor is to teach what the Bible says and to keep my opinion out of it.

If what the Bible recommends does not affirm your lifestyle, be okay with what you have chosen. But please don't try to get anyone else to affirm your choice. Live with your decision.

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PRINCIPLE 5

Jokes about marriage are not funny.

What are the jokes people make about marriage being better if the wife is happy? One is, "Happy wife...happy life." When I "googled" the question, "What are the jokes people make about marriage being better if the wife is happy?" ... here was the answer...

GOOGLE SAYS...

"It is not appropriate to provide jokes that are based on harmful stereotypes."

Amen?!

PRINCIPLE 6

Submission is not a weak relationship.

Satan's sales pitch is that submission is weak. That's not the Lord's viewpoint. More on that as we study the passage.

PRINCIPLE 7

No husband in his right mind wants his wife to be a mindless drone who does everything the husband says. That's Satan's definition of submission.

Wives have amazing contributions to make, both in a marriage relationship and in a home, and a husband who doesn't want to hear her ideas and take advantage of those contributions is not worthy of husbanding anyone.

When we return from the break, we'll take the offering and then you'll hear more marriage principles for your consideration.

FIVE-MINUTE BREAK

THAT'S THE WAY I ALWAYS HEARD IT SHOULD BE

Carly Simon

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

A Few of the Lord's Principles for Happy Marriage

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OFFERING INTRODUCTION

As believers in Christ, when we give freely to those in need, we reflect the Lord's generous nature. Deacon Denny Goodall is on vacation, but he'd recommend generosity. Let's give as he has given to this ministry for over two decades.

OFFERING SONG

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU

Instrumental Version

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

A Few of the Lord's Principles for Happy Marriage

LESSON PART TWO

Let's continue reviewing a few marriage principles...

PRINCIPLE 8

Women are not inferior to men, and men are not inferior to women.

In television commercials and on television shows, men are portrayed as mindless goofs, with women being all-knowing of what's best in every situation. If women are homemakers, why wouldn't they be more knowledgeable about home issues than men? Conversely, men might be more knowledgeable about what goes on where they work if they are working.

Effective couples value their partner's contributions, and they avoid the arrogance of thinking they're better than their partners. Don't let Satan sow the seeds of unhappiness and divisiveness in your relationship. Your relationship may not be going the way you want it to go, but it is going the way God knew it would go.

PRINCIPLE 9

Wives who submit to Christ will have no issue submitting to their husbands.

When we follow the divine order, things work.

PRINCIPLE 10

Submission connects to harmony, cooperation, and happiness.

Did you ever look at submission as cooperation?

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PRINCIPLE 11

Every relationship requires submission.

We submit to traffic lights, speed limits, customers, coaches, Christ, and the Word of God. Learn what submission is and master it.

PRINCIPLE 12

Couples who pray together stay together.

There is a divine power present when we invite the Lord into our lives. In First Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 Paul says...

FIRST THESSALONIANS 5:17

...pray without ceasing,,,

What he means is, "Make it a habit to pray."

PRINCIPLE 13

Couples need to study the Word of God together.

If couples don't, they are not building a relationship on a firm foundation. It's one thing if you indict your partner for a wrong. It's more powerful if the Word of God does the indicting. Make studying the Word together under a prepared Pastor who is teaching accurate truth a priority. Second Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 15...

SECOND TIMOTHY 2:15

Study to show yourselves approved unto God as workmen who need not be ashamed...handling accurately the Word of Truth.

PRINCIPLE 14

When there is no submission in the home there is a civil war like the war between the States.

Be on each other's side. Otherwise there is no winner. Let's close with the NEW LIVING TRANSLATION of the marriage passage... Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 22 to 33...

EPHESIANS 5:22

Wives, submit to your husbands just as you submit to the Lord.

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EPHESIANS 5:23

For a husband is the head of his wife, just as Christ is the head of the church. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior of his body...the church...the body of Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:24

And just as the church submits to Christ, so you wives ought to submit to your own husbands in everything.

EPHESIANS 5:25

For husbands, love your wives unconditionally, just as Christ loved the church unconditionally. The Lord gave up his life for the church...

EPHESIANS 5:26

...to make her holy and clean...washed by the cleansing of God's word.

EPHESIANS 5:27

The Lord did this washing to present the church to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

EPHESIANS 5:28

In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives unconditionally just as they love their own bodies...unconditionally. For a man who loves his wife actually shows unconditional love for himself.

EPHESIANS 5:29

No one hates his own body...instead, he feeds and cares for his body, just as Christ cares for His body, the church.

EPHESIANS 5:30

And we believers in Christ are members of the Lord's body.

EPHESIANS 5:31

As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."

EPHESIANS 5:32

This is a great mystery (something not previously revealed) ... but the mystery is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

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EPHESIANS 5:33

So I say each man must love his wife unconditionally as he loves himself... unconditionally...and the wife must respect her husband.

We'll see what the Lord has to say to wives about how to have a happy marriage in our next lesson.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus Christ's Salvation Offer to the Human Race

The next ten minutes could be the ten most important minutes of your life. You'll be introduced to the good news concerning how you can spend all eternity in heaven when you close your eyes in this life. We want you to know that...

GOD WANTS YOU!

He Wants You Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

...and what He wants for you is that you make the most important decision of your life.

Do you have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? If not, God considers you to be a sinner...the description of an unbeliever. Yet as one of God's creatures you are a focus of His concern and His mercy...Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 4 and 5...

EPHESIANS 2:4

But God...being rich in mercy toward unbelievers...because of His great unconditional love with which He loved us...

EPHESIANS 2:5

...even when we were spiritually dead...

God loves you unconditionally and forgives you totally, especially when you are at your worst. In the spiritual realm you are at your worst when you live a lifestyle that follows the direction of God's enemy, Satan, and his kingdom of darkness. A life in spiritual darkness is not the life God wants for you. John, Chapter 10, Verse 10 highlights the life God is eager to provide...

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JOHN 10:10

I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that My creatures may have the resurrection life... and have it abundantly.

The resurrection life is a life in the light.

All of us were born in a state of unrighteousness...as citizens of the world...as members of the kingdom of darkness. Said another way, we were born physically alive and spiritually dead as ungodly, unrighteous unbelievers.

It's not your fault you were born this way, but it is your circumstance.

Who says so? The Lord says this is true in His Word...First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:22a

For all in union with Adam at physical birth (and that is every human who comes to earth) are set to die the second death in the Lake of Fire...

Living a lifestyle of darkness means we don't have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 6...

FIRST JOHN 1:6

If we say we have fellowship with God and yet walk in a lifestyle of darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth...

What's the way out of a lifestyle of darkness? The Bible shines a light on the way out...John, Chapter 20, Verse 31 says...

JOHN 20:31

...these things written in the Bible have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ...(the Messiah...the Lord...God the Son who took on human form) ... and that by believing in Him you may have the resurrection life...eternal life...in His name.

The way out of darkness can be summed up in one word...CHRIST. A second word? BELIEVE! When you choose to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, He will be your personal escort into a lifestyle of light...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 5...

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FIRST JOHN 1:5

This is the message we apostles have heard from the Lord Jesus Christ personally and announce to you...that the Lord is Light...and in union with Him there is no darkness at all.

By trusting the Lord Jesus Christ to accomplish your salvation, He'll provide you with a lifestyle in the light...John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to the doubting apostle Thomas, "I am the way (to salvation) ... and I am the truth (through the gospel message in the Word of God) ... and I am the resurrection life (eternal life) ... and no one comes to God the Father in heaven but through believing in Me."

So what do you have to do to have a relationship with the Lord? Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved by God, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

JUST BELIEVE!

It's pretty simple. The Lord's invitation is described in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3

For I (Paul) delivered to all of you as of primary importance the gospel message I also received from God...that it was Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:4

...and that He was buried...and He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

RIGHT WHERE YOU SIT, RIGHT NOW, RIGHT THIS MOMENT you can have a relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will welcome you into a lifestyle in the Light. John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 offers and invitation and a warning...

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JOHN 3:36

“He who believes in the Son has the resurrection life right at that moment...but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”

The Lord's offer is directed to EVERYONE who wants to live a lifestyle in the light...in John, Chapter 6, Verse 37 the Lord says...

JOHN 6:37b

...the ones who come to Me to believe in Me...I will certainly not cast out into the outer darkness...the Lake of Fire.

If you reject a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ...which is your choice...remaining in spiritual darkness...Revelation, Chapter 21, Verse 8 warns...

REVELATION 21:8

“...the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars (descriptions of the lifestyles of unbelievers who are in spiritual darkness)...their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Unbelievers move from spiritual death to the second death in the Lake of Fire when they close their eyes in this life. The worst part is they do so voluntarily. It is NOT God's will for them. Don't let that happen to you!

Join God in heaven, the kingdom of light, when you leave this life. Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 13...

ROMANS 10:13

“...whosoever will call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved by God.”

First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 9 describes the Lord as...

FIRST PETER 2:9b

...Him who has called you unbelievers out of darkness into His marvelous light...

The Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom of light are waiting for your call.

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THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus Christ's Salvation Offer to the Human Race

CLOSING SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's close with music! Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 24 says...

GENESIS 2:24

For this reason, marriage, a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

Let's learn the significance of this union as we listen to Jonathan and Emily Martin sing a beautiful song about the miracle of TWO BECOMING ONE.

MUSIC

CLOSING SONG

Let's Sing the Lord's Praises

TWO BECOMING ONE

Jonathan and Emily Martin

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Almighty God and Father...

...only You could invent something as wonderful as marriage to illustrate unity... only Satan would introduce ways to destroy it...help us live what You intended for marriage...help us enjoy learning about unity through marriage...teach us to value the partner we've chosen, and show us how to love our imperfect partners just as You love Your imperfect creatures, unconditionally...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

LISTEN TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make it a habit. They are posted separately. Keep current on the things going on and coming up in Barah Ministries.

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JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE LESSON AND PRAYER CIRCLE

Either Live or on Zoom Immediately Following the Lesson

The Zoom link is in the newsletter.

GOT BIBLICAL QUESTIONS OR WANT US TO PRAY FOR SOMEONE?

Send your request to pastor@barahministries.com

KEEP ON STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD DAILY!

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

www.barahministries.com