

PULPIT COMPANION

**GOD'S DESIGN
FOR LOVE THAT
LASTS: BUILDING
WHAT STORMS
CAN'T BREAK**

RUTH 1:16-17

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In this powerful message, we're challenged to explore God's design for love that lasts.

The story of Ruth and Boaz serves as a beautiful illustration of purpose-driven relationships. We learn that finding our purpose should precede partnership, reminding us to invest in our personal growth and relationship with God first. The message emphasizes the importance of humility in relationships, encouraging us to ask, 'What can we build together?' rather than focusing on individual preferences. This shift from 'I' to 'We' is crucial for creating lasting partnerships. We're also reminded of the strength and purity of love, as described in Song of Solomon.

The message urges us to guard our hearts, set holy boundaries, and protect our emotional integrity. It's a call to rediscover our passion and purpose, even if we've experienced burnout or heartbreak. This teaching invites us to reflect on our relationships and align them with God's design, fostering love that can withstand life's storms.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Ruth 1:16-17
- Psalm 37:4
- Ruth 3:10-11
- Ruth 4:13
- Ephesians 5:21
- Song of Solomon 8:6-7
- Hebrews 13:4





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Finding Your God-Given Purpose

Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13, Ephesians 2:10

Devotional: In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to lose sight of our true purpose. The sermon emphasized the importance of discovering our God-given purpose before seeking partnership. Take time today to reflect on Jeremiah 29:11 - God has plans to prosper you, not to harm you. What unique gifts and passions has God given you? How might these align with His purpose for your life?

Remember, as Ephesians 2:10 states, you are God's handiwork, created for good works He prepared in advance. Pray for clarity and guidance in understanding your purpose, and consider practical steps you can take to align your life more closely with God's calling.

Day 2: Building Relationships on a Foundation of Faith

Reading: Ruth 1:16-17, Colossians 3:12-14

Devotional: The story of Ruth and Naomi demonstrates the power of committed relationships built on faith. Ruth's declaration, "Your people will be my people and your God my God," shows her willingness to align her life with God's purposes. In your relationships, are you seeking to build on a foundation of shared faith and values? Colossians 3 reminds us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. How can you embody these qualities in your relationships today?

Reflect on ways you can deepen your connections with others by putting God at the center of your interactions.





Day 3: Guarding Your Heart and Maintaining Purity

Reading: Proverbs 4:23, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Devotional: The sermon stressed the importance of guarding our hearts and maintaining purity in relationships. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to guard our hearts above all else, for it determines the course of our lives. In a world that often devalues purity, how can you actively protect your heart and mind? 1 Thessalonians reminds us that God's will is for our sanctification. This doesn't just apply to physical purity, but also to our thoughts, words, and actions.

Today, consider areas where you might need to establish stronger boundaries to protect your emotional and spiritual well-being. Ask God for the strength to live a life of holiness that honors Him.

Day 4: Embracing God's Love to Heal and Restore

Reading: Psalm 147:3, Romans 8:38-39

Devotional: Many of us carry wounds from past relationships or experiences that have left us feeling burnt out or hesitant to love again.

Today's readings remind us of God's healing power and unconditional love. Psalm 147:3 assures us that God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. If you're struggling with past hurts, bring them before God today. Ask Him to begin a process of healing and restoration in your heart. Romans 8 declares that nothing can separate us from God's love. Meditate on this truth and allow it to renew your capacity to give and receive love. How might embracing God's love more fully change the way you approach relationships?





Day 5: Partnership and Mutual Sacrifice in Relationships

Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Philippians 2:3-4

Devotional: The sermon highlighted the importance of partnership over preference in relationships. Ecclesiastes 4 beautifully illustrates the strength found in partnership: "Two are better than one... A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." In your relationships, are you truly partnering with others, or are you prioritizing your own preferences? Philippians 2 challenges us to value others above ourselves, looking not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others.

Today, reflect on ways you can cultivate a spirit of mutual sacrifice and support in your relationships. How can you practically demonstrate putting others first? Remember, when we invite God to be the third strand in our relationships, we build something that storms cannot easily break.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE :

"God's Design for Love That Lasts"

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer asking God to guide your discussion and help apply the sermon's teachings to your lives

Key Scripture:

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Pertee emphasized "purpose before partnership." How can focusing on your purpose first benefit your relationships?
2. The sermon highlighted Ruth's commitment to Naomi and her God. How can we demonstrate similar commitment in our relationships today?
3. What does "partnership over preference" mean to you? How can couples practically apply this principle in their daily lives?
4. The pastor spoke about the importance of maintaining purity to protect passion. What are some ways we can set and maintain healthy boundaries in relationships?
5. How does understanding your worth and value impact the way you approach relationships?
6. The sermon touched on the pain of past relationships and burnout. How can we help each other heal and regain hope for future relationships?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week reflecting on your God-given purpose. Write down your thoughts and share with a trusted friend or mentor.
2. If you're in a relationship, discuss with your partner: "What are we building together?" If single, consider what you want to build with a future partner.
3. Evaluate your current boundaries in relationships. Are there areas where you need to establish or strengthen boundaries?
4. Practice "outserving" in your relationships this week. Look for ways to serve others without keeping score.
5. If you're struggling with past hurts, take a step towards healing by talking to a counselor, pastor, or trusted friend.





Key Takeaways:

1. Purpose before partnership: Find your God-given purpose before seeking a relationship.
2. Partnership over preference: Invest in building something together rather than focusing on individual desires.
3. Purity that protects passion: Maintain boundaries and guard your heart to keep love holy and passionate.
4. Healing is necessary before building new relationships.
5. Love is a significant investment emotionally, mentally, physically, and financially.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying for God's guidance in applying these principles to your lives and relationships.

Scripture for Further Study:

- Ruth 1:16-17
- Psalm 37:4
- Ephesians 5:21
- Hebrews 13:4
- Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Encourage group members to read these passages during the week and reflect on how they relate to the sermon's message.

