

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

COUPLES EDITION

30 DAYS TO BUILD

A Better Home THE BASE

Here is a Daily Devotional to enable you to make the most out of this sermon. You may use it for you and your spouse's personal growth.

November 24: Committed to building a better home TOGETHER.

Read Ephesians 4:2–3, 17–32. Unity is built by humility, gentleness, and practical changes in speech and actions. Any marriage can work when both partners work at the marriage.

- What spoke to you the most during the sermon “THE BASE”? Did any truth Pastor Whitcomb shared surprise you? What was one truth that you really needed to hear?

- What did you think of the true story of David and Emily Weinlick? They married just two hours after they first met! Their marriage succeeded because they were committed to being working together to make the marriage work.
- Read Ephesians 4:2 and 3 again. Meditate on the general principles of love we can learn from these verses. Read verses 17-32. Commit to live out the practical ways listed for us to walk out those principles.
- Where do you each need grace from the other? How will you work at the marriage together?

Home Building Prayer: Pray and ask Jesus to help you work at your marriage.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:
“Any marriage can work when both partners work at the marriage.”

November 25: Love Is a CHOICE.

Read 1 Corinthians 13. Focus on verses 4-7. Love acts whether or not feelings are strong. Choosing love grows love.

- What is the main truth that stands out to you in 1 Corinthians 13?
Which one of these descriptions of love is easiest for you to practice?
Which one is hardest? Why?
- It's easier to DO loving things when we FEEL love – but we can always choose love, whether we feel love or not. What can help you remember to act in love even when you don't feel love?
- How can your spouse help you practice love this week?

- What will “love never fails” look like in marriage?

Home Building Prayer: “Father God, help me to love my spouse as You love me. Help me to act in love even when my emotions don’t feel loving. Fill me with a love that never fails. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip:
“Love is a choice.”

November 26: FEELINGS Follow Choices.

Read Matthew 5:43-47. Focus on verse 44. Obedience reshapes emotion. As you pray and do good, God turns bitterness into peace.

- Meditate on this statement by Pastor Whitcomb, “**Emotions follow motions. When you choose to act in love, the**

feelings of love will follow.”

What does this statement mean to you? Have you ever experienced this truth in your life?

- How much of a priority is seeking God together in your marriage? Why? Have your feelings turned from love to anger?
- Do you find that bitterness and annoyance are more common in your heart than love? Choose to love today. Commit loving acts and see how God changes your heart.
- What boundary or practice protects tenderness between you? What are some spiritual traditions that you've created with your spouse or would like to create in your home? Invite the Holy Spirit to help you.

Home Building Prayer: Pray and ask God to help make Him a priority in your home.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:
“Emotions follow motions. When you choose to act in love, the feelings of love will follow.”

November 27: Love Is CONSIDERATE.

Read 1 John 3:11–19 and focus on verse 16. Real love serves and sacrifices. “How can I help you?” turns good intentions into tangible care.

- Pastor Whitcomb taught us to ask the question, “How can I help you?” When we ask this question in our homes and follow through with the actions requested, we are showing genuine love. Commit to ask each other: “How can I help you?” this week. Which act of

service would mean the most to you?

- Real love is what Jesus did for us. He showed real love by giving up His life for us. When we help each other with acts of service, encouraging words, and meeting needs, we also are giving up our lives for others.
- What else can we learn from these verses? Where have words replaced action in your home?
- What drains your spouse right now? What can you do specifically to lift your spouse? How will you follow through together?

Home Building Prayer: “Jesus, make our home a place of serving love. We commit to serving each other for Your Glory. Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

“When we ask the question, ‘How can I help you?’ and follow through with the actions requested, we are showing genuine love.”

November 28: HUMILITY.

Read 1 Peter 5:5–11 and focus on verses 5-6. God exalts the humble. Mutual submission means leveraging your power for your spouse's good.

- What does mutual submission mean in your roles? What is the reward promised for the humble?
- How can you practice humility in your marriage or relationships? Think of a conflict you had recently with someone and ask yourself, “How would a humble person respond to this situation? What about the conflict would humility have changed?”

- Where do pride and fear show up in your marriage?
- What does “leveraging influence for your spouse” look like? What grace do you need from God today?

Home Building Prayer: “God, I humble myself before You! I submit to You. Help me submit to others in accordance to Your will. Give me grace, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip: “Mutual Submission means that I am here for you, regardless of your place in the family. I will leverage my power, influence, and resources for your benefit.”

November 29: Honor Christ and Honor Each Other.

Read Ephesians 5:21–25. Submission is willing alignment to Christlike leadership: Husbands love sacrificially and wives respond in trust. Both start with reverence for Christ.

- Discuss what “submit to one another” means for you in your marriage?
- Husbands, do you fully submit to Christ’s instructions? List one area you need to improve upon.
- Verse 24 says, “Wives should submit in everything”. Wives, in what ways have you been struggling with this instruction?
- How can you make decisions as a team under Christ? What one adjustment will honor Jesus in your roles this week?

Home Building Prayer: “Lord Jesus, lead our marriage; help us honor You and each other. Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip:
“Submission is to willingly follow leadership.”

November 30: Love & Respect Cycle.

Read Ephesians 5:25–33. Love motivates respect, and respect fuels love. Be intentional about both, every day.

- Discuss this statement: “Love motivates respect and respect motivates love.”
- As couples, are you loving and respecting each other in obedience to God’s Word? What does it mean to love your wife? What does it mean to respect your husband?

- Where does this cycle break in your home and why?
- What daily habit will keep love/respect flowing?

Home Building Prayer: “Father, fill our hearts with Your love and teach us to honor one another. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

Pastor Whitcomb’s Building Tip: “Meditate on Ephesians 5:33 (APV) below and decide to be intentional about loving and respecting each other from today: ‘However, each man among you [without exception] is to love his wife as his very own self [with behavior worthy of respect and esteem, always seeking the best for her with an attitude of loving kindness], and the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear].’”

Get counseling at Agape House!

The Counseling Ministry at Agape House is concerned about the holistic well-being of all church members. We have professional counselors to attend to your needs.

Please fill out a **Communication Card** at the **Welcome Center** and you will be contacted within the week.

"In the multitude of Counsellors, there is safety." Proverbs 11:14