

**Petition:**

***A Prayer for Sex and Intimacy within Marriage***

**Scripture Reading:**

Psalm 19, Song of Solomon 4:8-15

**Reflections of the Heart:**

There is a special place within a marriage that epitomizes the width and breadth of the true expression of love. God has sanctified that place. It's roots are found and secured in Him. This very personal, physical expression is purposed to stay within the protective realm of the marital covenant. Intimacy between husband and wife can only be defined and enhanced through intimacy with the Father Himself. The world and all it's offerings will never measure up to that.

**Scriptural Prayer:**

Holy Father, Your Name is worthy to be praised! Thank You for surrounding us with songs of victory every day. Thank You for being there to guide us along the best pathway for our lives. Thank You for allowing us to be the temple where Your Spirit lives. You have blessed Your children, united in Christ, with every spiritual blessing. We are ever grateful to be adopted into your family. You have showered us with kindness, wisdom, and understanding. We stand before You, still and quieted, knowing without a doubt that You are God. Through Your great wisdom, we have been given the gift of sexual intimacy to enjoy within the covenant of marriage, which was also created by You. How awesome are Your ways, O God! You do great things to marvelous for us to understand.

Devoted Father, we honor the sacredness you have embedded into the marriage covenant between husband and wife. As a Church Family, we confess that the married couples here at Windsor Village UMC regard Your laws about sexual intimacy as perfect and completely trustworthy. We decree and declare that they don't just listen to Your Word, but they do what it says. We proclaim that the married couples within our Church Family remain alert and watchful against the devil and they stand strong in their faith against him. We decree that they hide Your Word in their hearts so that they might not sin against You. We confess that our married couples honor their marriage and they remain faithful to one another. We declare that as they come together as one in the flesh that they are free from shame. As a Church Family, we confess that You empower our married couples to turn their eyes away from worthless things so that they may gain life through Your Word. We decree and declare that our married couples stay watchful and pray together daily in order to refrain from giving in to temptation.

***As a married person, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to build sacred sexual intimacy within your marriage. Write down His instructions to you here:***

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***As a single person, ask the Holy Spirit how you can support the married couples you know to guard against sexual temptation. Write His instructions to you here:***

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Holy Spirit, help our married couples at Windsor Village UMC to grow closer as one in the Lord. For those who are struggling with sexual temptation, please remind them that You are faithful to show them a way out so that they can endure. Help our married couples to build good relationships with those who are strong in the Lord. Make them willing to be accountable to one another and to those who lead them in the ways of righteousness. Deliver them from pride, guilt, shame, and any strongholds and generational curses that have lured them away from the sanctity of their marriage vows. Assure them that You can work Your will into their hearts, giving them the desire and the power to do what pleases You. Loving Lord, heal the broken hearts and bind the wounds that have been caused by lies, unfaithfulness, sexual abuse, perversion, and abandonment within the lives of our married couples. Teach them to take full advantage of the grace provided through the Blood of Jesus.

Merciful Father, forgive the married couples within our Church Family for committing sins against You and against one another. Forgive them for hardening their hearts to Your Word. Forgive them for them for not recognizing or acknowledging that their bodies are not their own, but was bought with a high price. Forgive our married couples for shying away from opportunities to confess their sins to each other and pray for each other so that they may be healed. Lord, forgive me for **(list any sins that you have committed)**. Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. **(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names and faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say aloud, "I forgive names of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul cause by unforgiveness.)**

Righteous Father, help the married couples of Windsor Village UMC not to yield to temptation; build deliver them from the evil one.

Exalted Father, You are the only true God. You are the everlasting King! You sit in majesty in Jerusalem, exalted above all the nations. Lord, You are named Faithful and True. You judge fairly and wage righteous war. You created the heavens and earth. You put everything in place. You created the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. You publicly proclaim bold promises. You do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner. You, O Divine Father, speak only what is true and declare only what is right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 32:7-8, I Corinthians 3:16, Psalm 46:10, Job 5:9, Psalm 119:138, James 1:22, I Peter 5:8-9, Psalm 119:11, Hebrews 13:4, Genesis 2:25, Psalm 119:37, Mark 14:38, I Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 2:13, Psalm 147:3, I Corinthians 6:20, James 5:16a, Matthew 6:13, Jeremiah 10:10, Psalm 99:2, Revelation 19:11, Isaiah 45:18-19

***Today I will trust God to:***

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