John 15, Jesus says, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

In a little bit, we’re going to sing a song.

We are going to sing, “I want to know you, Lord, like I know a friend.”

Our friends know is intimately.

Our friends see us from the outside, but we let them in.

We lean on them.

We are vulnerable with them.

We consider them family.

Friends are knitted into our lives.

We love them.

We don’t hide things from our friends.

Jesus, when talking to His disciples, explained to them that they are no longer slaves to Him.

Slaves didn’t mean what we picture it to mean.

He said that they are no longer slaves.

They are His friends.

In John 15, Jesus says, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

Tonight, everyone here has the luxury of having a husband and wife.

I’m sure you’d all agree that your significant other is your bestie, right?

God designed marriage to be more than mere companionship.

He didn’t design it to cure loneliness or to make things easier to do, strength in numbers.

Ecclesiastes 4 says that two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?

But that’s companionship, right?

That’s friendship.

Comfort, warmth, trust.

You see, friendship is rare.

True friendship.

Yes, we have had hundreds of people we’ve considered friends in our past.

Who have you been honestly vulnerable with?

Who have you fought with and got over it?

But who have you cried with?

Who have you shown your true self to?

You see, there’s a reason we always think of Adam and Eve as a set, as one.

God created Adam and Eve to be one flesh.

When you get married, you become joined with that other person more deeply than their own family, their parents, and their siblings.

Genesis says for this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

I mean, as soon as Adam saw her he said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh;”

I’m sure you had similar thoughts when you met yours.

I remember the first time I saw Katie.

I was on this stage, playing keyboard.

She was the most beautiful thing I’ve ever seen.

Statistically a family with a father and mother is the healthiest thing for any kid.

Statistically crime drops, emotional disorders drop, suicides, gangs, etc.

Why?

Because God created marriage and designed it.

Human beings messed it up.

I’m just saying, I’m happy for you guys.

I know each of you sets aside time to pray with your significant other.

It doesn’t have to be every day, I know we don’t.

But God is with you, in your relationships.

Keep Him there.

You see, right after the verse about having someone to help you up when you fall, someone to keep you warm, is an important verse that you can put to use in your marriage.

And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

You see, this world wants to change marriage, it wants to make up new rules.

But if you keep God in there with you, your marriage won’t be torn apart.

You can fight and quarrel and whine and stress all you want.

But don’t forget about God.

He’s your third strand.

He in braided with you, intermixed with your marriage.

Rise above this world.

Holding the hand of your wife, your husband.

Holding God’s hands.

Prayer: