**Stephen & Katie’s Wedding**

30 May 2015

(Edition 4-RG)

Prelude (before 3:00)

Honored Attendants Seated (3:00)

Rick & Stephen Enter (3:04)

Bridesmaids & Groomsmen Enter (3:05)

Bride Enters (3:08)

Welcome (3:09)

Reading #1: Love Like a Dog (Michelle)

Reading #2: Philippians 4:4-9 (Susan)

Reflection: “Peace in Marriage”

Wedding Vows

Explanation of the Rings

Exchange of the Rings

Prayer of Blessing

Pronouncement of Marriage

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional (3:40)

Announcements

**Prelude –** Background Music

**Honored Attendants Seated (3:00)**

Tom and Karen

Joyce and Bob

Gloria and Jonathan

Susan and Kurt

Michele and Aaron

**Rick & Stephen at Altar (3:04)**

**Bridesmaids & Groomsmen Enter (3:05)**

Elizabeth Applin & Stefan Larson

Lisa McReynolds & Bryan Jacobson

Rachel Brauner & Nathan Low

Hannah Patterson & John Griffith

Mallory Kronlund & Kurt Griffith

Lena Kronlund & Escort (Cydney Kronlund?)

**Bride Enters (3:08)**

Please rise in honor of the bride.

**Welcome (3:09)**

Please be seated. On behalf of the families of Stephen and Katie, thanks so much for coming to show your support and love. They have prepared for this day for years. As Stephen’s dad, I have tried to prepare him for this day for 25 years!

Most of us know the affinity that both Katie and Stephen have for dogs. Few of us bring our dog to our wedding, but you might just see Sully today. So how appropriate for Katie’s Mom, Michele, to read “How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog.”

This will be followed by Stephen’s Mom, Susan, who will read the Scripture from Philippians 4:4-9.

**Reading #1: How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog – Taylor Mali (Michelle)**

First of all, it’s a big responsibility,

especially in a city like [Seattle].

So think long and hard before deciding on love.

On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security:

when you’re walking down the street late at night and you have a leash on love

ain’t no one going to mess with you.

Because crooks and muggers think love is unpredictable.

Who knows what love could do in its own defense?

On cold winter nights, love is warm.

It lies between you and lives and breathes

and makes funny noises.

Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.

It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn’t like being left alone for long.

But come home and love is always happy to see you.

It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life,

but you can never be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No!

Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad!

Very bad love.

Love makes messes.

Love leaves you little surprises here and there. Love needs lots of cleaning up after.

Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.

Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper and swat love on the nose,

not so much to cause pain,

just to let love know

Don’t you ever do that again!

Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.

Because love loves exercise.

It will run you around the block

and leave you panting, breathless.

Pull you in different directions

at once, or wind itself around and around you until you’re all wound up and you cannot move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go. People who have nothing in common but love stop and talk to each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back, again, and again, and again.

But most of all, love needs love, lots of it.

And in return, love loves you and never stops.

**Reading #2: Philippians 4:4-9**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Reflection: “Peace in Marriage”**

“And the God of peace will be with you.” Did you catch that? Every couple wants peace in their marriage. Don’t you?

Yet we know that married couples don’t always experience peace.

Some marriages are filled with conflict.

Sometimes we have anxiety over finances or goals or something else.

Too often marriage is not an arena of peace but of war!

So how do you experience peace in marriage? How can you keep a settled and calm disposition with your spouse?

The passage you chose for today gives four practical handles on how to sustain peace in your marriage. Philippians 4:4-9 has four commands to heed. The first is…

**I. Find your joy in the Lord (4:4).**

Today is a day you have anticipated for years—you are right to find joy in it and find joy in each another—but this passage says to “rejoice in the Lord.”

Joy obviously isn’t a happy-go-lucky, naïve smile on your face.

Rather, joy is a settled conviction that God is in control and that He’s using your circumstances to conform you to his Son. That’s what it means to rejoice “in the Lord.”

You both know quite well that many joys lay ahead—but also many challenges too.

Let your joys be “in the Lord” since marriage was his idea in the first place.

Let the challenges draw you to him.

(You also experience God’s peace when you commit yourself to…)

**II. Be gentle with each other (4:5).**

The verse says, “Let your forbearing spirit be made evident to all.”

Gentleness is not weakness but rather “strength under control.” This kind of gentleness I have appreciated in Stephen as a pilot, especially during the landing—unlike the pilot I had last week who bumped onto the runaway so that the woman next to me lost her lunch.

Katie also shows this kind of gentleness in her role as a marriage and family therapist.

So the challenge is to apply the type of gentleness you show professionally to your marriage.

Gentleness is more than just being nice as a pilot or counselor. It means to be others-centered. So show gentleness to each other instead of clinging to your rights.

(You also know God’s peace when you…)

**III. Pray together (4:6-7).**

Verses 6-7 command you, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

I love the flow of these verses. Simply put, it’s this: don’t worry, but pray, and enjoy God’s peace.

Prayer is too often our last resort—and worry is our first!

Prayer leads us to God’s peace—so pray together every day of your married life.

You’ve heard much on prayer. I only want to remind you of the direct relationship between prayer and God’s peace. Little prayer, little peace. Prayer…peace.

(The last of these four ways to experience God’s peace is to…)

**IV. Think about the good stuff (4:8-9).**

Here’s the final exhortation in today’s text: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

Stephen and Katie, just look at the list of what you’re supposed to think about—what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise. Also notice the result if you do it in verse 9: “The God of peace will be with you.”

Question: What percentage of films and TV shows passes this test? Really! What percentage? That’s the percentage of programming you should be watching.

We wonder why there’s turmoil in our marriages, with no peace. Just look at the input we’re getting.

Years ago Susan wrote Psalm 101:2b-3a (an OT parallel to Phil. 4:8) on a card: “I will walk in my house with a blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing.” Then she placed it on our TV to remind us to watch only shows that Jesus Himself would watch. Certainly the list in Philippians 4:8 describes what Jesus thought about! Not a bad idea!

(So what’s the point of these six verses you have chosen in Philippians?)

Peace in marriage comes from seeking the attitude of Christ (Main Idea).

Your marriage peace depends on obeying the four commands in 4:4-9:

Rejoice: God’s peace comes from finding your joy in the Lord.

Be Gentle: Let your patience with one another be evident to all.

Pray: Peace and prayer go together.

Wholesome thoughts: God gives peace to those with minds stayed in Him.

May the God of peace be with you!

**Wedding Vows**

Stephen and Katie, I charge you both, as you stand in God’s presence, to remember that *love and loyalty* will serve as the foundations of a happy and enduring home. If the solemn vows which you are about to make are kept permanently, and if you steadfastly seek to do the will of your Heavenly Father, your life will be full of peace and joy, and the home which you are establishing will endure every challenge.

Katie and Stephen, please join hands for your vows.

Stephen and Katie have chosen to write and recite their own vows.

Stephen: I, Stephen James Griffith, take you, Katie Brianne Kronlund, to be my lawfully wedded wife. To have and to hold you, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health. I promise to demonstrate the love I have for you daily. To go forth with you on all our great adventures. To encourage you to grow personally and intellectually. To be honest with you, trust you, and remain committed to you always. To be my confidant and my best friend. To give my very best effort as your husband and partner. You have my respect, my love, and my longing to always grow with you. I love you and I like you.

Katie: I, Katie Brianne Kronlund, take you, Stephen James Griffith, to be my lawfully wedded husband. To have and to hold you, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health. I promise to demonstrate the love I have for you daily. To go forth with you on all our great adventures. To encourage you to grow personally and intellectually. To be honest with you, trust you, and remain committed to you always. To be my confidant and my best friend. To give my very best effort as your (husband/wife) and partner. You have my respect, my love, and my longing to always grow with you. I love you and I like you.

**Explanation of the Rings**

May I have the rings?

These rings form a seamless circle. As they wrap themselves around your finger, let that remind you that love must wrap around all that you do from this day forward. May their circular shape remind you of God’s endless love and the holy covenant you make before Him now.

Rings are also made of gold and diamond. Gold is the most valuable alloy that can be melted, while diamond is the hardest rock on earth. May this white gold remind you of the precious nature of marriage and the diamond remind you of your stubborn determination to sustain your marriage against all attack.

**Exchange of the Rings**

Stephen, please put Katie’s ring on and recite after me, “Katie, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.”

Katie, please commit yourself likewise, “Stephen, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love. With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.”

Let’s pray…

**Prayer of Blessing**

Lord, you have heard these vows. Look graciously upon Stephen and Katie, that they may love, honor and cherish each other, and live together in faithfulness, in patience, in wisdom and godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Pronouncement of Marriage**

Now that Stephen and Katie have given themselves to each other by the promises they have exchanged, by the authority of God committed to me as a Minister of the Gospel, and, by the law of the State of Washington, I pronounce Stephen and Katie to be husband and wife, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Stephen, you now have your Dad’s permission to kiss your bride!!!

Katie & Stephen, please face the audience.

**Presentation of the Couple**

Family and friends, I present to you for the first time Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Katie Griffith!

**Bridal Party Recessional**

**Announcements**

We will take a few pictures, sign papers and join you shortly.

Dinner will follow down the street at the Pavilion near the water.

**Parents Recessional (3:40)**