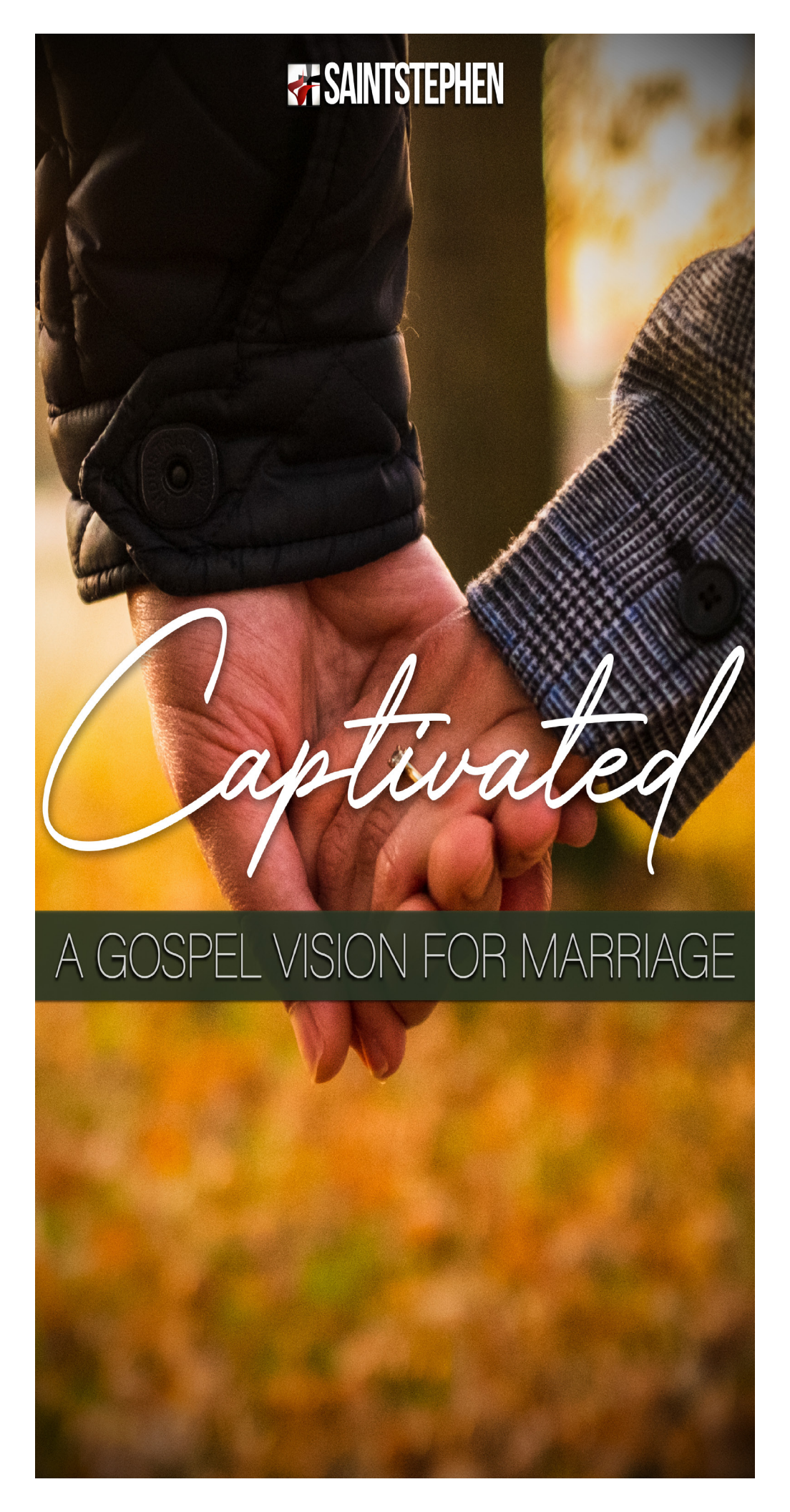


 SAINTSTEPHEN

Captivated

A GOSPEL VISION FOR MARRIAGE

Saint Stephen Church

8:25 – Traditional Service

September 20, 2026

Prelude

*Opening Chorus	<i>Awesome God</i> <i>Awesome God</i>	Choir Congregation
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*Expression of Friendship	<i>Awesome God</i>	Congregation
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*Hymn	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	(vv 1,2,3,4)
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*Affirmation of Faith	<i>Apostle's Creed</i>	
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*Affirmation Chorus	<i>Doxology</i>	
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*Registration of Attendance

Anthem	<i>And Can It Be</i>	
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*Hymn	<i>Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated</i>	(vv 1,2,3,4)
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Call to Prayer	1 Tim 2:1
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And Daniel prayed, "O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive."

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our sins, whether known or hidden, and ask for your forgiveness. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew your Spirit in us. Strengthen us to turn away from all that is contrary to your Word, and help us to walk faithfully in Your ways. We surrender our hearts to You, trusting in Your mercy, and ask for the peace that comes from Your forgiveness. Amen

Words of Assurance

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."

Pastoral and Lord's Prayer

*Hymn	<i>Trust and Obey</i>	(vv 1,3,4)
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Special Music	Bill Bingham
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Sermon	<i>"When Men Go Missing"</i>	Travis A Bennett
The 3 rd sermon in a series entitled "CAPTIVATED: A Gospel Vision for Marriage"		

Scripture	Proverbs 5:18-19, Ephesians 5:24-27
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*Hymn	<i>I Surrender All</i>	(vv 1,3,4)
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*Offering and Announcements

*Benediction

A Pastor will be at the Altar after the benediction to pray for anyone who would like to pray and to serve Holy Communion for anyone who would like to receive.

*Postlude

“CAPTIVATED: A Gospel Vision for Marriage”
“When Men Go Missing”
Proverbs 5:18-19; Ephesians 5:24-27

THE POINT: Men don’t drift toward g_____. Men drift toward s_____.
And only a man who willingly s_____ to Jesus’ L_____ can love his wife the way Christ loves the church.

1: THE THREE WAYS MEN GO MISSING.

1. P_____ — A_____ First Sin.
2. H_____ — The Cheap Substitute for L_____.
3. N_____ — The Slow L_____ That S_____ the Marriage.

2: WHAT CHRISTLIKE LOVE ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE. (VS 25-26)

1. Christlike Love Is S_____.
2. Christlike Love Is S_____.
3. Christlike Love Is S_____.

3: WHAT A WIFE FEELS WHEN HER HUSBAND GOES MISSING.

- She feels u_____.
- She feels u_____.
- She feels a_____ in the relationship.
- She feels like she has to c_____ everything.
- She feels like she’s married to a r_____, not a partner.
- She feels like she’s l_____ the man she married.

4: THE GOOD NEWS: JESUS NEVER ASKS YOU TO DO ANYTHING HE HASN’T ALREADY MODELED.

- You don’t have to be S_____. You just have to be s_____.

5: A WORD TO Husbands. (i.e. borrowed from the Navigators)

- Your wife doesn’t need a p_____ man. She needs a p_____ man.
- She doesn’t need a l_____ man. She needs a l_____ man.
- She doesn’t need a man who k_____ everything. She needs a man who s_____ Jesus.
- She doesn’t need a man who d_____. She needs a man who s_____.
- She doesn’t need a man who f_____ everything. She needs a man who s_____ up.

6: A WORD TO Wives (i.e. borrowed from the Navigators)

Your husband is not J_____. He’s a man in p_____.
E_____ him. P_____ for him. S_____ life over him.
H_____ the steps he takes. Celebrate progress, not perfection.

7: JESUS R_____ MEN WHO HAVE GONE MISSING.

QUOTES WORTH KNOWING...

“A godly man is one who stops making excuses and starts making choices.”
Promise Keepers

“The man who does not discipline himself for godliness
will drift into spiritual weakness.”
Jerry Bridges of The Navigators (Discipleship Materials)

“The man who would truly know God must give himself to Him completely.”
A.W. Tozer

“A woman’s heart should be so hidden in God
that a man has to seek Him just to find her.”
Elisabeth Elliot

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 5:19b (NLT)

“May you always be captivated by her love.”

GROWING OPPORTUNITY...

1. How’s God working in your life lately.
2. Read the Quotes Worth Knowing. What speaks to you and why?
3. Read Ephesians 5:25–27. What stands out to you about the way Christ loves the church? How does this shape your understanding of what godly leadership looks like in marriage, relationships, or community?
4. Men Drift Toward Self. Pastor Travis said: “Men don’t drift toward godliness. Men drift toward self.” (BTW: Women can do this too!) SO, where do you see drifting in your own life ...spiritually, emotionally, relationally, or in your priorities?
5. Of The Three Ways Men Go Missing, (passivity, harshness, neglect) Which of these do you relate to most in this season? What helps you resist drifting into that pattern?
7. Ephesians 5 tells us that Christlike Love Is Sacrificial. Where is Jesus inviting you to lay something down ...comfort, pride, distraction, defensiveness ...for the sake of deeper connection and spiritual growth?
8. Ephesians 5 tells us that Christlike Love Is Sanctifying. Your presence should make others feel safer, calmer, more supported, more spiritually strengthened. Who in your life needs that kind of presence from you right now? What’s one step you can take this week?
9. For Married Couples. (Singles, widows, divorced, remarried can answer from past experience or future hope.) What helps build spiritual and emotional steadiness in a marriage? What quietly erodes it? What’s one small step toward Christlike connection this week?
10. For Singles, Widows, Divorced, Remarried. What does this sermon teach you about the kind of leadership, love, and spiritual environment God desires for covenant relationships? How is Jesus preparing, healing, or strengthening your heart in this season?
11. Jesus Restores Men Who Drift (women too!). Where do you sense Jesus calling you back... spiritually, emotionally, relationally? What part of your heart needs His courage, gentleness, or restoration?
12. Pray Together. Pray for men who drift. Pray for marriages that need steadiness and sacrifice. Pray for women who need encouragement and emotional safety. Pray for singles preparing for covenant love. Pray for Jesus to restore what drifting has damaged.

September

Today	Worship & Sunday School 8:25am, 9:45am, 10:50am, 11:10am ONE High School Community Night 6:00pm
21st	Stars Choir 10:00am Craft Group 1:00pm
22nd	Men's Bible Study 7:30am SSWIM Affair to Remember 6:30pm
23rd	Debbie Skinner Bible Study 9:30am Wednesday Night Meal 5:45pm ONE Merge 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:15pm Adult Bible Studies 6:30pm Celebration Singers 7:30pm
24th	Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Saints 12:30pm

Altar Flowers

In Memory of Don Schofield.
Given by Connie Schofield

Hospitals

BSA
Phil Freeman

Prayers for
Friends of Our
Church Family

Donna Crawford
Tom Heaton
Josie Miller

Prayers for
Members of Our
Church Family

Ryder Gattis
Rick Gordon
Ryan Higgins
Phil Freeman
Jimi Hudson
Blair Mayfield
Everett Cox
Jim Downs
Joe & Katy Caskey
Tom Wilson
Colleen Faubion
Marcia and Mike Barkley

Connect With Us!



wifi
NETWORK
sscoaguest
PASSWORD
sscoa

Prayers for Our Nation and
World

President, Leaders, Law Enforcement,
Medical staff, First Responders, Military
Personnel, Persecuted Christians, United
States, Israel, Iran, Abused and Neglected
Children, Homeless, RAIN!

*Affair
to
Remember*
SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY **22** AT 6:30 PM
2026 Tickets \$25

A Women's Event

Speaker: Stacy Ferguson-Teacher, Speaker, & Artist
The Shepherd Still Speaks:
Hearing & Following the Voice of Jesus

Questions about tickets or hosting a table
please contact:

Kathy Jones/214-494-2337
Kathy-b-jones@sbcglobal.net
Paige Denison/806-681-1274
paigedenison85@gmail.com



September 27

Welcome
PARTY

SIGN UP AT FRONT DESK OR SCAN TO REGISTER!

