

AN E-BOOK SHORT



# CHARLES AND SUSANNAH SPURGEON

*Quotes from a Marriage Centered on Christ*

EDITED BY ANNA FASOLINO

© Anna Fasolino 2021

All writings of the Spurgeon family are in the public domain. Photos within by Anna Fasolino. All Rights Reserved.

[www.theRestfulHome.com](http://www.theRestfulHome.com)

*To my own husband, David, I dedicate this collection. May we seek the Lord together for all the days of our lives.*

# Table of Contents

Prologue .....	5
1. Finding Love.....	6
2. Love Letters .....	9
3. Thoughts on Love and Marriage .....	12
4. A Love Song.....	20
5. The Great Foundation.....	23
About the Editor.....	28

# Prologue

Times have changed since the Victorian age of Charles and Susannah Spurgeon. Dating looks far different from the discreet courtships of the past. Marriages look different, as Western culture no longer urges men to take headship of their families as it once did.

However, our natures have not changed. Since the Fall of Adam, when Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden with a brand new marriage problem, we have all faced a common foe: sin. Sin glorifies selfishness over unity, our rights over our spouses's needs, and our momentary pleasures over eternal joy.

Charles and Susannah Spurgeon were no different from us. They, too, sinned against each other and against God. But they shared a deep love for God and desire to serve Him first. This love for God centered their marriages and their souls, and it sustained a romantic love between them that otherwise could have fizzled out through financial strains and the poor health both of them suffered. Patricia Krupper, who wrote a biography of them, said:

“To the end of their lives, they were lovers...”

May we read their words and be inspired to love God and each other the way they did. Our marriages can stay strong when built upon the same rock, and that Rock is Christ.

# 1. Finding Love

---

**W**hen Susannah first met Charles, she was unimpressed by the country boy who had a strange accent and terrible lack of fashion sense. She was particularly appalled by his spotted handkerchief.

*“How little I then thought that my eyes looked on him who was to be my life’s beloved! It is a mercy that our lives are not left for us to plan, but that our Father chooses for us; else might we sometimes turn away from our best blessings, and put from us the choicest and loveliest gifts of His providence.” –Susannah*

Later, it was Charles who helped Susannah find assurance of salvation. They became engaged, and she

wrote out her testimony during the process of joining the church where he was pastor. He read her testimony and was so touched, he immediately wrote her a letter:

*“Dear purchase of a Savior’s blood, you are to me a Savior’s gift, and my heart is full to overflowing with the thought of such continued goodness. I do not wonder at His goodness, for it is just like Him, but I cannot but lift up my voice of joy at His manifold mercies. Whatever befall us, trouble and adversity, sickness or death, we need not fear a final separation, either from each other or our God.” –Charles*

Trouble, sickness, and death, would indeed befall them. But from the beginning, their marriage was rooted in praise of the Savior’s goodness. In later years, Charles was well aware how blessed he had been in his wife, as he no doubt witnessed countless marriage difficulties in his years of pastoring. One of his sermons contains a caution:

*“When men and women are about to be married how much of life then trembles in the balances! Upon the choice of a partner in life the fashion of that life may depend. Whether self or Christ, the world or God, shall be the master-motive of the household, may be decided...”<sup>1</sup>*

---

<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “Man Through Maxims.” *Exploring the Mind and Heart of the Prince of Preachers*, [www.spurgeon.us/mind\\_and\\_heart/quotes/m.htm#preparation](http://www.spurgeon.us/mind_and_heart/quotes/m.htm#preparation). Accessed 7 June 2021.



## 2. Love Letters

---

**C**harles never lost his appreciation of Susannah's faithful love. In an 1871 letter to his wife, he let her know just how much she'd enabled him to serve, even though she spent much of their marriage as an invalid.

*“My Own Dear one—None know how grateful I am to God for you. In all I have ever done for Him, you have a large share. For in making me so happy you have fitted me for service. Not an ounce of power has ever been lost to the good cause through you. I have served the Lord far more, and never less, for your sweet companionship. The Lord God Almighty bless you now and forever!”* —Charles

The Spurgeons were often separated, as Charles traveled to preach or occasionally traveled to France for his health. Early in their marriage, Susannah stayed home raising their twin boys. Later, she was confined to their home and often

to her bed because of an operation gone wrong. Letters kept the two lovers connected.



*“God bless you and help you to bear my absence... Do not fancy, even for a moment, that absence could make our hearts colder to each other; our attachment is now a perfect union, indissoluble for ever. My sense of your value and experience of your goodness are now united to the deep passion of love which was there at the first alone. Every year casts out another anchor to hold me even more firmly to you, though none was needed even from the first.” –Charles<sup>2</sup>*

**From a birthday letter:**

*“What an immeasurable blessing you have been to me and are still. Your patience in suffering and diligence in service are works of the Holy Spirit in you for which I adore His Name. Your love to me is not only a product of nature, but it has been so sanctified by grace that it has become a spiritual blessing to me. May you still be upheld, and if you may not be kept from suffering, may you be preserved from sinking!”  
–Charles<sup>3</sup>*

---

<sup>2</sup> Free Grace and Dying Love, including The Life of Susannah Spurgeon. P. 177-8.

<sup>3</sup> Free Grace and Dying Love, including The Life of Susannah Spurgeon. P. 237.

### 3. Thoughts on Love and Marriage

---

**D**uring Charles's time as a pastor, he preached often on marriage. He occasionally used his own relationship with his beloved "Susie" as an illustration. His ultimate example, though, was His Lord. Following are quotes from Charles on marriage:

*"When husbands and wives are well yoked, how light their load becomes!"*

*"I have no doubt that where there is much love there will be much to love, and where love is scant faults will be plentiful."*

*"A well-matched couple carry a joyful life between them....They multiply their joys by sharing them, and lessen their troubles by dividing them: this is fine arithmetic."*



*“Married life is not all sugar, but grace in the heart will keep away most of the sour.”*

*“It is wise to marry when we can marry wisely, and then the sooner the better.”<sup>4</sup>*

---

<sup>4</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “Man Through Maxims.” *Exploring the Mind and Heart of the Prince of Preachers*, [www.spurgeon.us/mind\\_and\\_heart/quotes/m.htm#preparation](http://www.spurgeon.us/mind_and_heart/quotes/m.htm#preparation). Accessed 7 June 2021.

*“I never was half so happy, before I was a married man, as I am now. When you are married, your bliss begins. Let the husband love his wife as he loves himself, and a little better, for she is his better half. He should feel, “If there’s only one good wife in the whole world, I’ve got her.” –Charles<sup>5</sup>*

Charles spoke in a sermon about how a “man’s home is the place where his affections are centered.” He continued:

*“Every Christian man will feel, with regard to his own family, that they are the warp and woof of his own nature...and there he centers his affection. He can not afford to lavish his love everywhere. He centers it in that particular spot, that oasis in this dark desert area. Christian man, is God your habitation in that sense? Have you given your whole soul to God?”  
–Charles<sup>6</sup>*

Susie made their home one that Charles could think of as an “oasis in this dark desert area.” Because they had given

---

<sup>5</sup> Rhodes, Ray Jr. Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, Wife of Charles H. Spurgeon. Chicago, IL, Moody Publishers, 2018. P. 110

<sup>6</sup> Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. Sermons: 1st series [-6th series].. United States, Sheldon, Blakeman, 1857.

their whole souls to God and made Him their habitation, their own home was a haven rather than the battlefield a household with more than one adult can often become.

*“Happy woman and happy man! If Heaven be found on earth, they have it! At last, the two are so blended, so engrafted on one stem, that their old age presents a lovely attachment, a common sympathy, by which its infirmities are greatly alleviated, and its burdens are transformed into fresh bonds of love. So happy a union of will, sentiment, thought, and heart exists between them, that the two streams of their life have washed away the dividing bank, and run on as one broad current of united existence till their common joy falls into the ocean of eternal felicity.” –Charles<sup>7</sup>*

---

<sup>7</sup> Spurgeon, Charles Haddon, et al. C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography: 1854-1860. United Kingdom, Curts, 1899.

*“A husband should love his wife with an enduring love, for nothing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” A true husband loves his wife with a hearty love, fervent and intense. It is not mere lip-service. Ah! beloved, what more could Christ have done in proof of His love than He has done? Jesus has a delighted love towards His spouse: He prizes her affection, and delights in her with sweet complacency. Believer, you wonder at Jesus’ love; you admire it—are you imitating it? In your domestic relationships is the rule and measure of your love—even as Christ loved the church.” –Charles<sup>8</sup>*

---

<sup>8</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “Charles Spurgeon on Marriage - Resources.” *Eternal Perspective Ministries*, [www.epm.org/resources/2010/Mar/12/charles-spurgeon-marriage](http://www.epm.org/resources/2010/Mar/12/charles-spurgeon-marriage). Accessed 5 June 2021.



*“Marriage is cemented by mutual love. Where there is not this mutual affection, it deserves not the name of marriage. The dark shadow of a blessing they cannot realise must be a heavy load for either heart to bear; but where there is true and genuine love, it is the sweetest and happiest mode of living. It is one of the blessings of paradise which has been preserved to us after the fall. Without love, wedded life must be a very purgatory above ground. In the solemn contract which has brought our souls this night to God, the marriage is sustained, cemented, strengthened, and made delightful by mutual love. Need I talk to you of the love of God? It is a theme we are scarcely competent to talk of. You need to sit down and weep about it for very joy, joy which fills the heart, and makes the eyes overflow, but well nigh chains the tongue, for it is a deep, profound, and inexpressible.” –*  
*Charles<sup>9</sup>*

---

<sup>9</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “The Relationship of Marriage.” *The Spurgeon Center*, 1867, [www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-relationship-of-marriage/#flipbook](http://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-relationship-of-marriage/#flipbook). Accessed 5 June 2021.

*“How shall we call that a marriage where the husband and wife are still two persons, maintaining individuality as if it were a scrupulous condition of the contract? That is utterly foreign to the divine idea. In a true marriage, the husband and wife become one. Henceforth their joys and their cares, their hopes and their labours, their sorrows and their pleasures, rise and blend together in one stream.” –Charles<sup>10</sup>*

---

<sup>10</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “The Relationship of Marriage.” *The Spurgeon Center*, 1867, [www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-relationship-of-marriage/#flipbook](http://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-relationship-of-marriage/#flipbook). Accessed 5 June 2021.



## 4. A Love Song

---

**C**harles wrote a love song to his wife called, “Married Love.” Like most of his writings, it cannot stay away from his life’s theme of praising God. Here are the lyrics:

Over the space that parts us my wife,  
I'll cast me a bridge of song,  
Our hearts shall meet, O joy of my life,  
On its arch unseen, but strong.

The wooer his new love's name may wear  
Engraved on a precious stone;  
But in my heart thine image I wear  
That has long been thine own.

Thy glowing colors on surface laid,  
Wash out in a shower of rain;  
Thou need'st not be of rivers afraid,  
For my love is dyed ingrain.

And as every drop of Garda's lake  
Is tinged with sapphire's hue,

So all the powers of my mind partake  
Of joy at the thought of you.

The glittering dewdrops of dawning love  
Exhale as the day grows old,  
And fondness, taking the wings of a dove,  
Is gone like a tale of old.

But mine for thee, from the chambers of joy,  
With strength came forth as the sun,  
Nor life nor death shall its force destroy,  
For ever its course shall run.

All earth-born love must sleep in the grave,  
To its native dust return;  
What God hath kindled shall death out-brave,  
And in Heaven itself shall burn.

Beyond and above the wedlock tie  
Our union to Christ we feel;  
Uniting bonds which were made on high,  
Shall hold us when earth shall reel.

Though He who chose us all worlds before,  
Must *reign* in our hearts alone,  
We fondly believe that we shall adore  
*Together* before His throne.

Susie's reaction to the song, years after it was written:

*“None can be expected to feel the same rapturous delight in the sweet verses as I did, when I first read them; I was far more proud of them that I should have been of chains of gold or strings of pearls; and they have still the power to move my soul to an overwhelming tenderness both of memory and anticipation;— but they may at least touch a chord of sympathy in some loving heart, and set it trembling with the tones of the long-forgotten music of bygone years.” —Susannah*

## 5. The Great Foundation

---

Christ is the cornerstone of any truly good marriage. Both Charles and Susannah spent much time glorying in Christ and urging others to find their joy in Him alone. They set the example with their fervent desire to know Christ better and better with each year.

*“My soul, never be satisfied within a shadowy Christ...I cannot know Christ through another person's brains. I cannot love him with another man's heart, and I cannot see him with another man's eyes.....I am so afraid of living in a second-hand religion....Lord save us from having borrowed communion. No, I must know him myself. O God, let me not be deceived in this....I must know him on mine own account.”*  
—Charles<sup>11</sup>

In a marriage sermon, Charles closes with a call to trust Christ:

---

<sup>11</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “Do You Know Him?” *The Spurgeon Center*, 31 Jan. 1864, [www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/do-you-know-him/#flipbook](http://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/do-you-know-him/#flipbook). Accessed 7 June 2021.

*“Trust the Saviour! Trust him! Have done with trusting to thy good works. Have done with depending upon thy merits. Take his works, his merits, and rest alone upon him, for now doth he say unto thee, “I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.” So may he do unto every one of you, and may Christ’s name be glorified for ever. Amen.” –Charles<sup>12</sup>*

Susannah wrote a devotional book, called *Free Grace and Dying Love*, in which she often wrote lavishly of the love of God:

---

<sup>12</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “The Relationship of Marriage.” *The Spurgeon Center*, 1867, [www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-relationship-of-marriage/#flipbook](http://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-relationship-of-marriage/#flipbook). Accessed 5 June 2021.





*“Dear Lord, when I see, as I often do, some earthly fathers, whose love for their little ones is intense, forbearing, and unspeakably tender—I feel ashamed that I do not better understand the love of Your heart toward me – Your child through faith in Christ Jesus! Do You ask, “How much more?” I cannot work out such a sum, Lord! But I know that Your love must be infinitely greater, closer, and dearer – because*

*You are the infinite God, and that You have loved me with an everlasting love!” –Susannah<sup>13</sup>*

*“...a miserable Christian is an anomaly in God’s universe. Lord, help me to cultivate gladness, teach me to improve every occasion of receiving mercy from Thee; ... fill my mouth with praise and thanksgiving that there may be no room in it for anything less choice and precious!” –  
Susannah<sup>14</sup>*

After Charles’s death, Susie wrote:

*“Dear Lord, in taking him, You seem to have taken ALL THAT I HAVE, so that it is no longer a question of “surrender”, but only of quiet, happy submission, as Your will daily unfolds itself, and directs my work and my way.*

---

<sup>13</sup> Ray, Charles, and Susannah Spurgeon. *Free Grace and Dying Love, Including The Life of Susannah Spurgeon*. Carlisle, PA, Banner of Truth, 2006.

<sup>14</sup> *Free Grace and Dying Love*, p. 91.

*“Lord, keep me ever thus in the secret hiding-place of Your love, “as having nothing, yet possessing all things;” it is so safe a shelter for a weary, waiting soul, and so blessed a way of being made fit for the coming inheritance!” –  
Susannah<sup>15</sup>*

Both of the Spurgeons had found a safe “shelter” for their “waiting souls,” and they call to us yet today to join them in that shelter.

*“Beloved, how many there are who have heard of Christ and read about Christ, and that is enough for them! But it is not enough for me, and it should not be enough for you.*

*“O sinner, he is a gentle Christ; he is a loving Savior, and they that seek him early shall find him. May you seek and find him, for his name's sake. Amen.” –Charles<sup>16</sup>*

---

<sup>15</sup> Free Grace and Dying Love. P. 112-113.

<sup>16</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. “Do You Know Him?” *The Spurgeon Center*, 31 Jan. 1864, [www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/do-you-know-him/#flipbook](http://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/do-you-know-him/#flipbook). Accessed 7 June 2021.

## About the Editor



Anna Fasolino once planned to be a single missionary. She already had 12 imaginary adopted kids named when she met David, the 3rd generation Italian American who stole her heart (even though he didn't like any of the names on her list). They've been happily married for six years now and have two children. Anna has a degree in Middle Childhood Education. She is currently writing a full-length book about Christian women, including Susannah Spurgeon, who have shown us how to live faithful lives.



[THERESTFULHOME.COM](http://THERESTFULHOME.COM)