

Relationships Part Five - Marriage

Everything in life is built upon relationships!

- Our relationship with God
- And our relationship with one another.

Can anybody remember the first four lessons?

1. **Understanding who you are.**
 - a. I talked about the need to understand who you are, where you came from, and where you are going.
2. **The importance of Self Respect.**
 - a. If you don't respect yourself, how can you expect **others to respect you?**
3. **Our need for friendship.**
 - a. Showing ourselves friendly.
 - b. You are who your closest friends are.
4. **Communication.**
 - a. We **communicate** differently with different people.
 - b. Be careful who you communicate your dreams to.

Today I am going to talk about the marriage relationship!

Some of you are already getting nervous.

This lesson will lead into two more lessons.

- These lessons may be as close as we get to **marriage counseling** -
- **So, if you need help** make sure you are here over the next few weeks.

- If you don't need help, come anyway...you will eventually need it.
- If you are not married come anyway...you may be married soon...
- It happens **quicker** than you can think 😊

- I want to begin today by giving a Bible definition of marriage.
- The Bible defines marriage back in the second chapter of Genesis.

Genesis 2:24 - ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Somebody asked me one time, ***what about the woman?***

- **Doesn't she** have to leave her parents as well...
- Does this scripture mean that ***the man must live with the in-laws?***

For all you men ***who are getting nervous***, I am pretty sure **that is not what God had in mind!**

God was introducing the concept of marriage to humanity....

- **Nobody** had been married before....
- In fact, this ***was not the nature*** of ***the first marriage....***
- **God was Adam's father**, and they had **no mother**.

- ***God was setting the standard and foundation*** for marriage for all generations to come.
- This would be **the norm**.
- This would be **the standard**.

Man's standard may have changed, but God's standard has not.

Mankind is constantly redefining what constitutes a marriage, but ***God has not changed***. ***He is the same*** yesterday, today, and forever.

What God said in ***Genesis chapter two***, **still applies today!**

In fact, **Jesus reinforces** this teaching in....

Matthew 19:4-6 - ⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them **male and female**,' ⁵ and said, '**For this reason** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. **Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.**"

Jesus said this is what constitutes marriage!

1. **Marriage is between a male and a female!** One male joined to one female.
2. There is a **leaving behind of family**.
3. There is **a cleaving together**. They become **one flesh**.
4. According to God they are **no longer two, but one**.
5. And God said ***let no man divide this union***.

This is God's definition of marriage!

- Are you thankful that we have a record of what God says is right?

There is a reason that God created marriage...

- I believe that it is important to study that reason.

Man's reason for marriage is not God's reason for marriage!

Over the years, man's reasons for marriage have become warped:

- **Marriage became a way to civilize men....** some of you ladies might agree with that thinking.
- Another **theory** proposed marriage as **a way to gain tribal status**.
- And yet another stated that **marriages were created so** that **families would be able to pass their property** on to the next generation.

Even today, many individuals **approach marriage** with the same mindset.

- People want to **marry** someone who has a higher status than they do.
- Many people **marry for money** or security, or to have children.
- Still others marry just for the sake of being married.

Yet, the Bible says that marriage is part of **God's creative work**!

God was the one who invented marriage! It was **not** man's idea!

Our text says, '**therefore**', or '**for this reason**' shall a man leave his father and mother and **cleave unto his wife**!

There is a **reason that God created marriage** that we all need to understand!

We must go back a few verses to **see the reason**.

Let's go back to verse 18 and begin reading....

Genesis 2:18-24 - ¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "***It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.***"

God said it was not good for man to be alone...he needed help. And all the ladies say amen!

God said I will make a help-meet (Helper) for him. Remember that word.

Let's keep reading....

Genesis 2:19-24 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, ***that was its name***.²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.**

²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man ***He made into a woman***, and He brought her to the man.

²³ And Adam said: "This *is* now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

God took a rib from the man and created an ideal partner, a woman, a help mate for him and brought them together.

Adam was overjoyed to have a partner and said, "***this woman is from my bones and from my flesh, she is part of me.***"

- ***Adam was saying*** this in the one who corresponds to me.
- This is who I will share my life with.
- This is the one who I will be intimate with.
- This is the one who will help me.

Remember, it is Moses who is writing this under the inspiration of the Spirit.

- **Moses says, for this reason**, a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife.

It is obvious that **Moses is not writing about Adam and Eve** in this scripture.

- **They did not have a physical father**; they **didn't** have a mother.
- Moses is addressing this writing to us, to mankind.

The reason we get married is because God created a perfect partner for man.

- The man and the woman were **designed** to help one another.
- **The man was not created for the man.**
- **Nor the woman for the woman.**
- But the woman was created for the man, and the man for the woman.

The Hebrew word for helpmeet is 'Neced' which means a counterpart or mate.

- The word lends itself to opposites....
- **A counterpart** is something that works in conjunction with another part
- It **does not** work alone.

The man and the woman were originally **designed by God as counterparts**...one **does not work without the other.**

In fact, **Man and woman do not** work well together until they are joined together, **two counter parts working together** as one!

This is part of **God's design!**

In a nutshell, **this is the reason** for marriage!

- Marriage **was, and is, part of the creative work of God!**
- It is an amazing thing to be able to enter this creative work of God!

Marriage is unique in that it displays the character of God to mankind!

Love that is **displayed** in marriage reflects **the love God has** for His Church.

This leads into another teaching that I will share later...but this is the reason for marriage!

There are **three phrases in our text** - that we need to examine today because they are ***the foundation of marriage!***

Genesis 2:24 - Therefore a man shall **leave his father and mother** and be **joined to his wife**, and they shall **become one flesh**.

1. Leave father and mother.
2. Joined to his wife.
3. Become one flesh.

1. Leave his father and mother!

I touched on this a little **earlier....**

The scripture says that a **man should leave** his father and his mother.

- In Bible times, and in most cultures, it was **typical** for the woman to leave her home of origin and be united with her husband.
- Even living with the man's family was quite normal.
- It is **significant** here that Moses calls on the man to leave father and mother.
- By **focusing** on the man, **Moses makes the case** that **leaving** takes place for both the man and the woman.

So, men **you do not have to live with your in-laws**, and neither do you ladies.

Still, the **leaving is an important part** of marriage.

- This is the very first part of marriage, **leaving behind** those things you have counted on.
- You are **entering** into a **brand-new phase of life**, and it begins when you leave your father and mother.

We call this growing up, **becoming an adult!**

- Hopefully your parents have prepared you for this day.
- It is time to leave.
- It is time to fend for yourself and your wife.
- It is time to be an adult.

It doesn't always happen overnight, but **it must happen for marriage** to be successful.

- We know that this **is not** a separation from our parents.
- We are still family.
- They will **be there** for us when we need them.
- They will even **help us** from time to time. Good parents will do that.

Yet, it is part of **God's plan** for you to make it on your own.

Some of you have awesome parents who have taught you well and brought you up **according to God's word**. And you never want to leave.

Now I know that some of you **may still be living with parents...** I want to be sure that you understand me... **Pastor is not asking you to move out**.

- The leaving **doesn't** always happen overnight.
- We are **not like the baby birds** who are kicked out of their nest and either fly or die.
- **Each of us is different** and sometimes leaving is a process that takes time.

Sometimes it is **necessary and beneficial** to live with family for a time, for specific reasons.

Still, God said the leaving must take place...it is part of marriage!

- Take **what you have learned** and put it to use.
- If you had **terrible parents**, you would only benefit from leaving.
- If you had **abusive parents**, leave behind the hurt and pain.

Leave it behind and become a child of God! Let God lead you! Let God disciple you!

2. The second part "Cleave unto your wife." Or "Be joined to his wife"

There is the leaving, and then there is the cleaving.

Cleaving means the joining together.

This is not referring to a **physical act of intimacy**.

This is referring to the mental, emotional, and spiritual **makeup of a marriage**.

There must be **a joining together**.

This is **a life-long process**.

- This goes way **beyond** the marriage vows.
- Actions **speak louder** than words here.
- **Both** the man and the woman **must make a choice to unite** this relationship.

If anything enters in that may weaken the union of marriage, both the man and the woman must work toward strengthening it again.

- ***That means*** listening – Communicating – Compromising – Forgiving – Loving – Laughing – Helping – And sharing.

Little things that are left unresolved **only get bigger** and bigger as time goes by.

God said that a marriage is a joining together.

3. The third point " *And they shall be one flesh.*"

The word flesh here is a clear reference to the physical act of intimacy.

I don't think I need to say much here...there are still a lot of babies being made in this church.

God has ordained that this takes place only in a marriage.

Yet, there is **much more to becoming one flesh** than a physical act.

- What happens at the physical level should happen at every level.
- ***Body, soul, and spirit.***
- Your souls become one.
- Your thinking is joined. Your emotions are joined.

Part of God's creative work is making two into one in marriage.

Some doctors and therapists will tell you ***that what affects your body doesn't necessarily affect your spirit, or what affects your mind does not affect your soul.***

- Yet, the Bible says **out of the abundance of the heart** the mouth speaks.
- Our emotions, our mental thought process **does affect us physically and spiritually**.
- There is **no separation**.

Why do you think the scriptures are so concerned about sexual immorality.

Those kinds of choices have enormous repercussions for your spiritual and your mental state.

That's why it's God's will for you to ***give all of you*** to your spouse in marriage.

- This process of ***becoming one flesh*** *takes a lifetime* to achieve.
- You ***can't really be*** united to somebody *in a few years*.
- ***Becoming one flesh*** *is a process* that lasts a lifetime.
- We must learn to ***enjoy*** the process.

Jesus said... Mark 10:8 - ⁸and the two shall become one flesh'; so, then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

CLOSE: Jesus said we are no longer two, but one!

Each marriage will have *its own challenges*... still, *every couple must* find a way to *become one flesh!*

Some marriages are *filled with so much life and energy* that they start charging off in *all different directions*.

- Those marriages need to ***slow down and enjoy the process*** of *becoming one*.
- ***Some marriages*** are like *love stories*...the *perfect* couple...no *fights*....no *problems*...no *bad days*... and everybody ***stands back in wonder*** and awe *thinking how do they do that?*

Do you *know* anybody like that?

- Let me tell you, they are *not perfect*....
- But there is *something special* about those marriages.

Do you *know* what it is?

- They are simply ***enjoying the process*** of becoming one flesh.
- ***Some marriages*** *are stormy*, some *are peaceful*, yet ***each marriage must*** find a way to *become one flesh*.

It isn't always easy, but every answer you need is *in the Word of God*.

Leaving, cleaving, and becoming one is the foundation for every God ordained marriage in the world.

Remember, your marriage is a type and shadow of Christ and His Church!

Let's come and let God know that we are going to *keep working on the process of becoming one!*