

How to have Unity in Marriage Back to the Beginning, part 13

- The first marriage is a CULMINATION of history's first week and the FOUNDATION for a healthy home & society.
- God makes man, essentially a WORKER, and a loving leader. God gave man a work to do and a word to obey (Gen.2:7-20).
- God makes the woman, essentially a HELPER SUITABLE to the man, to reverence and respect her husband (Gen.2:18-22).
- We all need to hear about marriage.
- The truth that explodes from the first text about marriage is: TWO become ONE. (Genesis 2:24; Matt.19:5; Mark 10:7,8; Eph. 5:31)
- How can we have unity in our marriage?

1. **There must be a FIRM DECISION:** "...leave his father and his mother..."

- A. The word "LEAVE" is a strong word, often used of God that He will not FORSAKE us. We are to ABIDE with Him.
- B. Why should we make this decision?
 - 1.) Because God has BROUGHT the woman to the man.
 - 2.) Because it is GOD's WILL.
 - 3.) Adam is not commanded to love the woman he is about to marry, but man is commanded to love the woman he married.

2. **There must be a TOTAL COMMITMENT:** "...and shall cleave unto his wife..."

- A. The word "CLEAVE" is a strong word and is used in ways that refer to our relationship to Him. We are to CLEAVE to the Lord. (Deut.10:22; 11:22; 13:4)
- B. Men are to love and VALUE their wives who cleave; wives are to respect and not CHANGE their husband into their image.
- C. The permanence of marriage is not a ball and chain of unwilling commitment.

3. **There must be REAL INTIMACY, v.24b, 25:** "...and they shall be one flesh."

- A. The word "ONE" is also a strong word and is the same word used to describe the ONENESS of God:

Deut.6:4; The LORD our God is ONE LORD.

B. "Not ashamed:" Not confused, disappointed, or guilty but fully accepted.
Psalm 25:3; Yea, let none that wait on thee be **ashamed**: let them be **ashamed** which transgress without cause. Let not them that wait on thee be ashamed.

- The PICTURE of Marriage and the POWER for marriage is in found in CHRIST We must experience His love in the Gospel in order to display His love of the Gospel.

- **Important questions for every husband in loving your wife:**

- 1.) Is your wife confident that she alone has first place in your life?
- 2.) Do you compare her to other women, maybe your own mother or past girlfriends?
- 3.) Do you praise her and value her with your attitude and actions (nourish & cherish)?
- 4.) Do you justify yourself, invalidate or deny your wife's emotions?

- **Important questions for every wife in respecting your husband:**

- 1.) Do you show appreciation, admiration & affirmation to your husband in your attitude and actions?
- 2.) Do you demonstrate confidence in his decisions?
- 3.) Do you resent his past failures and sins?