

Sunday Morning, May 6, 2018
Keeping the Seventh Commandment by Celebrating The Creator's Design of Marriage (2)
Exodus 20:14; Genesis 2:18–25

- I. Aspect #1: Build a Successful Marriage: to Leave
- II. Aspect #2: Build a Successful Marriage: to Cleave Gen. 2:24a
 - A. How Does a Couple Cleave to One Another Physically?
 - B. How Does a Couple Cleave to One Another Psychologically?
 - 1. To Think, Decide, Act as One
 - 2. To Show Pride in the Other
Prov. 31:10; Eph. 5:33
 - C. How Does a Couple Cleave to One Another Covenantally?
 - 1. Marriage Is Being Attacked
 - 2. Marriage Is Honored by Cleaving
Jn. 6:37; Rom. 8:35; Matt. 20:28
- III. Aspect #3: Build a Successful Marriage: to Weave Gen. 2:24c "Become One Flesh"
 - A. How Does a Couple Weave with One Another Physically?
 - 1. Negative: No Adultery
1 Cor. 6:15–17; 7:3–5; Heb 13:4
 - 2. Positive: Commitment to Meet the Sexual Intimacy Needs of the Other
WLC 138; 1 Cor. 7:5
 - B. How Does a Couple Weave with One Another Psychologically?
 - 1. For Companion of Common Personhood
Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:21
 - 2. For Companion of Common Needs
Gen. 2:18; Ps. 54:3–5; Ps. 115:9–11; Gen. 2:20; Eph. 5:28
 - 3. For Companion of Common Ability Gen. 1:27
 - C. How Does a Couple Weave with One Another Covenantally?
 - 1. Must Spend Time Together
 - 2. Must Communicate
 - 3. Must Practice Servanthood
 - 4. Must Give Trust

QUOTES

“Staying married, therefore, is *not about staying in love*. It is about keeping covenant. “Till death do us part,” or, “As long as we both shall live” is sacred covenant promise—the same kind Jesus made with his bride when he died for her. Therefore, what makes divorce and remarriage so horrific in God’s eyes is not merely that it involves covenant breaking to the spouse, but that it *involves misrepresenting Christ and his covenant*. Christ will never leave his wife. Ever. There may be times of painful distance and tragic backsliding on our part. But Christ keeps his covenant forever. Marriage is a display of that! That is the most ultimate thing we can say about it. . . . Staying married is not about staying in love. It’s about covenant-keeping. If a spouse falls in love with another person, one profoundly legitimate response from the grieved spouse and from the church is, ‘So what! Keep your covenant.’” (John Piper)

“Bonding is the mystery of human attachment between two persons . . . so profound. . . that it cannot be understood merely in physiological terms. It includes biological, psychological, spiritual, even ethical dimensions . . . I refer to that exclusive, lifelong, mutually attaching relationship in which a woman and a man form one new entity . . . while each retains individuality and integrity as a separate, distinct person, they together form a persona both greater and different from the sum of the two parts.” (Donald Joy)

"If God had meant woman to rule over man, He would have taken her out of Adam's head. Had He designed her to be his slave, He would have taken her out of his feet. But God took woman out of man's side, for He made her to be a helpmate and an equal to him." (Augustine)

“Woman is not made out of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.” (Matthew Henry)

“We must say to ourselves something like this: ‘Well, when Jesus looked down from the cross, he didn’t think, “I’m giving myself to you because you are so attractive to me.” No, he was in agony, and he looked down on us— denying him, abandoning him and betraying him— and in the greatest act of love in history, he *stayed* [on the cross]. He said, “Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing.” *He loved us, not because we are lovely to him but to make us lovely. That is why I am going to love my spouse.*’ *Speak to your heart like that, and then fulfill the promises you made on your wedding day.*” (Tim Keller)

“Communication and compatibility are important to marital success, but taking time to be with each other has been found to be more important . . . “TAKE time” ie from all the forces in daily life that squeeze in on your marriage relationship. . . . Aside from spending time with God, spending time with your spouse is THE MOST important thing you have to do . . . Couples who habitually dash past each other in the bedroom and bathroom as they hurriedly dress for work, or quickly gulp dinner standing at the kitchen counter before they rush off to separate meetings, or fall exhausted into bed late every night without energy to talk, cuddle or make love, are not building commitment. They are building disaster.” (Jim Conway)

“We marry another sinner. There is no such thing as two perfectly compatible people. And a good marriage will take work and investment. All who have a good, long-term marriage is not because you married the perfectly compatible person, that person doesn’t exist. But it is because you went through seasons in which you had to learn to love a person you didn’t marry, who was something of a stranger. You will have had to make changes that you don’t want to make, and so will your spouse. . . As Duke University ethics professor Stanley Hauerwas: “Destructive to marriage is the self-fulfillment ethic that assumes marriage and the family are primarily institutions of personal fulfillment, necessary for us to become ‘whole’ and happy. The assumption is that there is someone just right for us to marry and that if we look closely enough we will find the right person. This moral assumption overlooks a crucial aspect to marriage. It fails to appreciate that fact that we always marry the wrong person. . . . We never know whom we marry; we just think we do. Or even if we first marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage, being [the enormous thing it is] means we are not the same person after we have entered it. The primary problem is . . . learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married.” (Tim Keller)