

## THE BIBLICAL DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

### Part 14

#### “One Flesh”: God’s Purpose For Marriage

Gen. 2:24-25; Matt. 19:5-6

#### INTRODUCTION

It was the great NFL coach Vince Lombardi who said:

"Individual commitment to a group effort--that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

The American culture has abandoned the emphasis of the group over individualism to emphasize the needs of the individual at all costs. The focus upon the needs of the individual has had devastating effects. It has led to disunity on the job, in the sporting arena and in marriage. There is more focus upon the individual needs in marriage than the selfless pursuit of the ultimate prize of marriage: “one flesh”. God constructed the marriage union in such a way to be an object lesson for the Son’s love for the church. Today, we will see that a healthy marriage leads to a spiritual communion between a husband and wife that unlike any other relationship upon the face of this earth.

#### I. THE PHRASE “ONE FLESH” IS USED BUT SIX TIMES IN SCRIPTURE.

A. The uses of the term “one flesh” are mostly used pertaining to the marriage institution.

1. It is used with reference to the objective of marriage. Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5,6; Mk. 10:8; Eph. 5:31
2. It is used to note the unity developed when sexual relationships occur outside of marriage. 1st Co. 6:16
3. The term “one flesh” is seen as “**a spiritual oneness, a vital communion of heart as well as of body, in which it finds its consummation.**” -- Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament

B. “One flesh” is the goal of marriage.

1. “Flesh” is used in Scripture to note **a wholeness; a unity in which two persons are immersed into one mind through mutual love expressed one for the other.** -- K.D.J.
2. The word “one” is used to express the singleness of the relationship.
  - a) The Hebrew word “echad” -- “**united, that is one, alike, alone; altogether.**” -- Strong’s lexicon (as in “one nation”) cf. Gen. 34:16 (of one people); Deut. 6:4 (of one God)
  - b) The use of the numeral “mia” is used to indicate a unity. Cf. Acts 4:32 (of one heart); Eph. 4:4 (of one hope)

- C. The math that two can become one is supernatural.
  - 1. The numeral “two” is used in Scripture
  - 2. “Shall be” is an important verb used in the Hebrew and Greek.
    - a) The Hebrew word “haya” notes to come to be a thing. Cf. Gen. 1:2 (of the earth coming to be without form and void)
    - b) The Greek is the future mid. Ind. of eimi -- come into being. Cf. Matt. 24:7 (of nations shall rise against nations); 2 Tim. 3:2 (men shall in the future be lovers of themselves)

II. THE PURPOSE OF BECOMING “ONE FLESH” IS OUTLINED IN SCRIPTURE.

- A. “One flesh” was the point of God making “male and female”. Matt. 19:5
  - 1. “For his cause” is the Greek phrase heneka toutou -- for the sake of this thing. (going back to verse 4); Mk. 10:7-8
  - 2. The “one flesh” is a result of being “joined together” by God.
    - a) “Joined together” is suzeugnumi -- **“to fasten to one yoke; join together, unite.”** -- Joseph Thayer Matt. 19:6; Mk. 10:9
    - b) “What therefore” is better translated “the specific one that”
- B. “One flesh” is used to express the relationship of Christ and the church. Eph. 5:28-31

III. SCRIPTURE NOTES THE WAYS “ONE FLESH” CAN BE OBTAINED.

- A. “One flesh” is obtained by a man leaving his father and mother. Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6
  - 1. “Man” is used as the initiator due to his headship. Cf. Eph. 5:24-25
  - 2. “Leave” is a term used in Scripture of one who forsakes.
    - a) The Hebrew word for “leave” is “azab” which is defined as “to loosen, relinquish, permit, fail, forsake, fortify, help, leave, refuse.” -- Strong’s lexicon
    - b) The Greek word for “leave” is kataleipo -- “to leave down, that is by implication, to abandon.” --- Strong’s lexicon
- B. “One flesh” is obtained by a man “cleaving” to his wife. (cleave” is seen in Scripture as adhearance to a person or thing.)
  - 1. The Hebrew word is “dabaq” -- **“to impinge, that is, cling or adhere; figuratively to catch by pursuit.”** -- Strong’s lexicon cf. 1st Kings 1:2 (of Solomon being emotionally attached to women who were not good)
  - 2. The Greek term is “proskollao” -- **“to glue to, adhere to”** -- Strong’s lexicon Acts 5:13 (of no one joining believers after the discipline of Ananias and Sapphira); Acts 9:26 (of those fearing to associate with Saul); 1st Co. 6:16 (of the sex act)

C. "Adherence" is used in Scripture to emphasize the process of gluing oneself to another through a relationship. 1st Co. 6:17

CONCLUSION