

# One Flesh

Mark 10:6-9  
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We have considered two principles of good marriage in this text. First, God made them male and female, therefore, He knows what makes us happy and fulfilled in marriage. Second, God ordained that young people leave parents in order to be joined together. That principle of leaving in order to cleave to one another must be guarded and nurtured for the marriage to be a happy one.

Now, in verse eight, we find the third good marriage principle. For the whole thought let's begin in verse seven. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So then they are no longer two, but one flesh." Did you get that? The two shall become one flesh. The sexual union of male and female serves a special, unifying function. The two become one. Because of this special unity found in sexual intimacy, Paul warned against illicit sex, unlawful sex. Listen to him in 1 Corinthians 6:16. "Or do you not know that he that is joined to a harlot is one body with her? 'For the two,' he says, 'shall become one flesh.'" I want us to see the special oneness God intended husband and wife to find in being joined together in holy matrimony. Not as a means of warning us against sex outside of marriage - that is, of course, wrong - but, rather, that we might appreciate what God planned for those who are married.

In this connection the creation scene is helpful. Genesis 2 describes a scene in the beginning after God created man. Adam is naming the animals, a job given him by God. As the animals parade before Adam, none is found suitable for him. Every animal had its mate, but Adam was alone. Genesis 2:18 says, "So God made woman a helper, suitable (or complementary) to man." As we all know, men and women are different. Not just biologically, but emotionally. Women view things differently than men. They react differently. By these differences a woman complements a man, rounding him out so to speak. And, for the same reasons, by these differences, he complements her. Together they become more than they could have been separately. They become a new and greater entity. My friend, the differences between you and your spouse are not by happen-stance. God planned it that way. Remember, He is the Creator.

Sometimes two people allow the differences between them to become obstacles, even to the point of destroying the marriage. She might be heard to say, "He never listens to me." Or he might say, "She doesn't understand me." Let's count the differences as blessings, and work to overcome any problem they may seem to cause. You need your mate so that together you might become all that God wants you to be. We're talking about more than a sexual union. It's two people coming together in a "one flesh" concept. Two people complementing one another and being bless for it.