

Intoxicating Love

Sunday, June 1st 2014

Genesis 2:24

I. Introduction

This passage of Scripture is the only one about marriage that God includes four times in the Bible.

Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7,8, and Ephesians 5:31. It is used one time in OT and three times in NT. He makes it once before man fell into sin and three times after man fell into sin.

This statement contains God's martial purpose for perfect man and sinful man!

II. Leaving and Cleaving

What does it mean to 'leave your parents?'

It means that you establish an adult relationship with them. It means that you are more concerned with your spouse's ideas, opinions, and practices than those of your parents. It means that you must not be overly dependent on your parents for affection, approval, assistance, and counsel. It means you get rid of any bad attitudes or feelings so that you are not emotionally tied to them. It means that you make your husband and wife relationship your priority human relationship.

We, as parents, must prepare our children to leave, not stay. When our children get married we must not try to run their lives. We must allow the young husband to be the head of his home, to make decisions for himself, to look to his wife, not us as his primary responsibility and helper. We must encourage our daughters to depend upon her husband, not you for guidance, help, companionship, and affection.

What does it mean to 'cleave' to one another?

To cleave means to 'be united to' or 'be glued to something.' It means to 'unite to someone through a covenant, a binding promise, or oath.'

Marriage is the most deeply covenantal relationship because it has both a horizontal and vertical meaning to it.

Malachi 2:24 – *“Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”*

Proverbs 2:17 – *“who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God...”*

This cleaving to one another is made 'before God' and with your spouse and is the deepest of human covenants.

Marriage means that a husband and wife enter into a relationship for which they accept full responsibility and in which they commit themselves to each other regardless of what problems arise.

III. Becoming One Flesh

Husbands and wives are no longer two, but now are one flesh and this concept must manifest itself in practical, tangible and demonstrable ways.

But total oneness is not easily achieved because sin came into the world. Martial oneness is difficult because of the sin of selfishness, pride, bitterness, neglect, harshness or stubbornness.

Genesis 3:16b – *"...your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

This is why we need Jesus. We need Him to bring us into a right relationship with God and that is the foundation for our relationship with each other.

Jesus alone enables us to leave father and mother, cleave to one another, and become one flesh. Jesus cleanses us from sin, breaking its power in our life. He gives us His Holy Spirit who produces the fruit of Spirit in our lives.

IV. Conclusion

Throughout this series, we will trust that Jesus will make our love intoxicating for our spouse. May He give us grace to pursue our spouses with passion and selflessness.

Most important, let's pray our marriages reflect Christ and His Church and that we would become 'one flesh' with our spouse.