

### In the Beginning

In the beginning God created man and saw that it was not good for man to be alone. So, God created Eve. God ordained marriage by presiding over the first wedding in the Garden of Eden.

#### Genesis 2:18-25

[18](#) And the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him." [19](#) So the Lord God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird. He brought them to Adam [\[fn1\]](#) to see what he would call them, and Adam chose a name for each one. [20](#) He gave names to all the livestock, birds, and wild animals. But still there was no companion suitable for him. [21](#) So the Lord God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam's ribs [\[fn2\]](#) and closed up the place from which he had taken it. [22](#) Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam.

[23](#) "At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called `woman,' because she was taken out of a man." [24](#) This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. [25](#) Now, although Adam and his wife were both naked, neither of them felt any shame.

Adam was blessed to have a wife. Just as God knew exactly what Adam needed in a wife to complete him, God knows exactly who you need to complete you. God has our best interests in mind and He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. (Eph 3:20)

1. What is your definition of marriage?

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2. List the reasons you are marrying your fiance'.

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### Gift From God

When Eve was created for Adam God didn't take part of Adam's head so she would rule over him, and not from his foot so he could walk all over her, but from his side near and close to his heart. God was entrusting a very special gift to Adam.

The bible says, "Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights." (*James 1:17*) A wife is a gift and God gives her to you for you to love, honor and cherish, to serve and it should be your desire to care for your wife. This gift God has given us is meant to bring you joy, excitement, and spice to your life.

3. What kind of helper did God design the woman to be?

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4. What does it mean for a wife to be a help her husband?

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5. Women: list specific ways in which you can help you fiance'? Men: list specific ways in which you would like your wife to be a helper for you?

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## Leave and Cleave

Genesis 2:23-24

[23](#) "At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken out of a man." [24](#) This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

God desires deep unity in a marriage relationship. It takes time for two people with very diverse backgrounds and lifestyles to become one. Becoming one takes patience, plenty of patience.

To become one flesh it is very important to leave and cleave. We need to leave parents and former relationships and cleave to our spouse. The marriage relationship becomes primary and all other relationships are secondary. If you don't do this you will experience greater conflict in your marriage. The word cleave means to become glued together. Wood that has been glued together if ripped apart always splinters, divorce has the same affect on people their lives are splintered. Oneness happens in marriage when you are fully and totally committed to one another.

6. What does it mean to "leave your father and mother" (Ephesians 5:31)?

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7. The bible says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Gen 2:24). List some ways you can preserve this oneness in your marriage.

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8. What does it mean to cleave?

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9. Read Matthew 9:4-6.

[4](#) "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning `God made them male and female.' [5](#) And he said, `This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' [6](#) **Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together.**"

Share your thoughts regarding verse 6, as well as your commitment to marriage?

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## Confession Session

*Psalm 66:18*

If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened.

*James 5:16*

16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

It is important to have a clean slate before God and your spouse so that when you pray together your prayers are not hindered. Prayer is one of the most powerful practices you can do to strengthen your marriage.

*1 Peter 3:7*

7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. **If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.**

Sin can hinder the effectiveness of our prayers. We need to confess our faults and sins to one another and pray together daily.

Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed until sin entered the picture, then they were naked and ashamed. Sin separates people from God and people from people. Sin kills relationships. Sin will separate you from your spouse.

It is important to be spiritually and emotionally open with one another. Does your fiancé know your past, what sins you have been forgiven of, what sins are an area of weakness, what sins the Lord is still working on?

When you are always open and honest with your spouse there are no surprises and there are no footholds for the devil to destroy your marriage.

You need to be able to open and honest at all times with your spouse able to share anything without fear.

10. Confessing your sins to one another is part of maintaining a healthy marriage. Why is it important?

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### Share Who you Are

Some people find themselves saying, "If he/she finds out who I really am they may break off the wedding". It is better to have it worked out before, than to have them find out after and find out you were being deceitful with them. This will lead to greater pain and down the long difficult road of rebuilding trust.

When husbands and wives hide things from each other because they know it is wrong it only causes division in the relationship, even if you are afraid to tell your spouse what you have done, confession is the only way to keep the relationship close. If we continue in hiding the truth the problem will only become worse. We need to be able to say to one another - This is what I have gone through, and how I have struggled - You can take me or leave me. I want victory over this in my life, you can help me have victory and I will help you. We can do this together in Jesus Christ. Begin to learn know how to make grace, mercy, and unconditional love a reality in your relationship.

11. Is there anything you have kept from you fiance' that could become a hindrance to your relationship?

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12. List three bible verses you would like to memorize in order to strengthen you relationship?

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