

## Making Marriage work

Genesis 2:21-25

Tim Timmons maintains that there are basically three stages in marriage: Stage 1.

Is the DEAL. That's when everyone is excited, when love is grand, and "our marriage is going to be different!" But then along comes stage 2. The DEAL becomes an ORDEAL. This is when you realize that your prince charming has warts, and that your sleeping beauty is not near as lovely when she wakes up. Then, far too often, along comes stage 3. That's when either one of spouses begins to look for a new DEAL. Have you noticed that trend in our culture?

- I know there are many problems in marriage and I believe we ought to turn to God's original blue prints to find out how marriage ought to be.
- You see, you cannot make proper use of anything until you understand what it is made for. That's true about anything. Example: Wrench and a Paint Brush.
- A wrench is a great tool but it doesn't work very well as a paint brush. We have practically ruined the institution of marriage because we've tried to make marriage into something it was never intended to be. Which is why we should open up God Word and get it right.
- Let's focus on Genesis 2:24. I want to suggest that this verse is the foundational verse on marriage. From this vs. we will learn that marriage is designed by God to operate according to three fundamental priorities.
  1. Leaving: IF your marriage is going to be what it ought to be—there must be a leaving! "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother."

- What this means is, we must sever the emotional umbilical cord. Whether it's an emotional dependency or even a financial dependency, a physical dependency---- you are to leave them!!!!
- The reason for leaving is this, NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON EARTH, IS TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MATE!!! And when it does you are in clear violation of the first fundamental priority of marriage.
  2. Cleave: If your marriage is going to be what it ought to be, there also has to be cleaving.
- “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife.” The KJV says “he shall cleave to his wife.” Now, let’s make this perfectly clear, this does not mean a meat cleaver!
- The word “cleave” has nothing to do with slicing and dicing ok. It means to “cling or to glue to something. To keep close to something or to bond to.”
- God said, at the very inception of marriage, said: This thing is for life!! I know there are some here today who have been divorced and remarried or are currently divorced. Yes God said he hates divorce, but he didn’t say he hated you!!
  - ILLUSTRATION: Changing the marriage vows.
- When we stood before the Lord and said, “I take you to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, richer

or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish until death do us part," you were making a covenant with the future

- The force of the word "cleave" when you consider how it was used in the Bible. Deut 10:20/Deut 11:22/Deut 13:4/Deut 30:20.
- This means in the eyes of God cleaving means wholehearted commitment, first of all spiritual, but flowing over into every area of our being, so that the cleaving is also intellectual, emotional and physical. After all man are spirit, soul, and body.

3. Weaving: Finally, if your marriage is going to be what it ought to be, there has to be a weaving!! "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will be one flesh."

- Notice it says, "They become one flesh." In other words, they weave themselves into each other's lives. That's a process not an instantaneous event. Becoming one flesh doesn't happen when the preacher pronounces you husband and wife; or when you both sign a legal document, or in a hotel. It is a lifelong process!!!
- Men, according to a recent survey 84% of women feel they don't have intimacy or oneness in the marriage. A large majority of female divorcees say their marriage years were the longest years of their lives. God has called us to love our wives as ourselves and to lay down our lives that we might one with them.
- God's plan for marriage is that we become one!! He designed marriage for companionship! STOP using it as a paint brush and use it for what it was designed for!

- Let me give you some elements necessary for weaving two lives together.

1. You need a Vow: Only when you make a vow to cleave unto your wife will you be willing to so blend your heart with hers that you become, in every sense of the word a team!

2. Time: Only as you make room in your life for your mate can you weave your life into his or hers.

3. Hard work: Marriage is hard work.

4. Forgiveness: You will be hurt, disappointed, and offended by your spouse. And the only way you can recover is committing now to grant forgiveness. There are 12 words that will keep any marriage together: "I was wrong, I am sorry, please forgive me, I love you." And those words MUST be spoken often in marriage.

5. Avoid criticism: You don't have to be football fan to know you don't tackle the person who has on the same uniform as you do!

6. Prayer: Your marriage better be a matter of prayer with and for one another!

7. Ministry task: Get involved in a ministry together and serve together.

8. Lastly, fun: Enjoy each other!!

9. Rodney Dangerfield said, "We sleep in separate beds, we have dinner apart, we take separate vacations, were doing everything we can to keep our marriage together."

Conclusion: You must accept the fact that your marriage is not perfect. The only ideal marriage in history was Adam and Eve and they managed to mess it up. Even the best of marriages go through times of breakdown, doubt, disillusionment, anger, distress, and conflict. BUT, that doesn't mean that the marriage cannot work! Will you focus on the problems or the potential?