

## WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN 2 (ONENESS)

September 2, 2012 Ephesians 5:28-33 by Bob Branch  
Living Out Our Inheritance In Christ, Part 27

**MAIN IDEA:** When you marry, two people become **one**. That **oneness** must be nurtured, protected and fortified through intentional work. Both spouses are responsible for this, but the husband is to lead the effort. Look at the **Oneness** this passage describes and how it works.

- <sup>1</sup> **self-giving**/sacrificing love
- <sup>2</sup> **does what's best for beloved**, builds up the beloved, vision for beloved
- <sup>3</sup> **builds, fortifies/protects and nurtures the oneness dynamic** (moving us into greater and deeper unity) *Acts as One, for Oneness.*

Together they form one complete unit. As they come together physically, intellectually, emotionally, there is a wholeness that did not exist before. They are fused into one. **Jay E. Adams**

<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **Ephesians 5:28**

<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—<sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. **Ephesians 5:29-30**

### 1. Self-giving love **NOURISHES** and **CHERISHES** your spouse.

#### **ONENESS with Christ and His church is the example.**

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." **John 17:20–23** NLT

<sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." **Ephesians 5:31** (Genesis 2:24)

#### The **LEAVE** dynamic: Separating from all others.

A marriage is not a joining of two worlds, but an abandoning of two worlds in order that one new one might be formed. In this sense, the call to be married bears comparison with Jesus' advice to the rich young man to sell all his possessions and to follow Him. It is a vocation to total abandonment. **Mike Mason** *The Mystery of Marriage*

The **CLEAVE** dynamic: Joining to each other.

Your **PRIMARY** Relationship: It must get your attention, feeding, strengthening.

The reason it must have priority is because of the power of marriage. Marriage has the power to set the course of your life as a whole. If your marriage is strong, even if all the circumstances in your life around you are filled with trouble and weakness, it won't matter. You will be able to move out into the world in strength. **Tim Keller**

There are **COMPETING** influences: over commitment to...

What **erodes** our oneness? What **builds** our oneness?

An **INSEPARABLE** Bond: a bond jealously held, unbreakable.

Includes **SEXUAL** oneness: self-giving in sexuality. 1 Cor 7:4

<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. **Ephesians 5:32**

SEE Romans 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:51

<sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also *must* love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife *must* respect her husband. **Ephesians 5:33**

**Your wife needs your love**

**Your husband needs your respect**

<http://www.marriagemissions.com/100-ways-you-can-love-your-husband-his-way/>

#### **CONCLUDE:**

"Marriage is a total commitment and a total sharing of the total person with another person until death." **Wayne Mack**, *Strengthening Your Marriage*

Restart...

Refresh...

Repent...

Reconcile...