



*Two* WILL BECOME *One*

Christ at the Center

1. If any marriage has any hope of survival it must have Jesus at the very center of it.
2. **Unequally Yoked:**
  - a. This means that both husband and wife to be must have a saving relationship with Jesus
  - b. The Bible is very clear that we should not be unequally yoked.
  - c. Notice **2 Corinthians 6:14-**

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**1 Corinthians 6:14** NKJV

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

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  - a. This means that both husband and wife to be must have a saving relationship with Jesus
  - b. The Bible is very clear that we should not be unequally yoked.
  - c. Notice **2 Corinthians 6:14**
  - d. But what does it mean to be unequally yoked?
    - i. In places where two oxen are used to plow fields the oxen must be equally paired so that one ox is not doing all the work.
    - ii. In marriage this applies in the sense that both husband and wife should be pulling in the same direction together.

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Christ at the Center-*Continued*

- iii. Unequally yoked also means that the husband and wife should share the same faith.
- iv. When the home is divided over religion this creates:
  - a) Tension between you and your spouse.
  - b) Confusion for your kids wondering what truth really is.
- v. This situation is even worse when one marries a total non-believer.
3. **Personal Spirituality:**
  - a. This plays a major role in your day-to-day walk in life.
  - b. If you are not feeding your soul then you are not walking in the armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-18).

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Christ at the Center-Continued

4. **Husband is Called to be the Spiritual Leader:**
- Notice this from Ephesians 5:23, 24



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**Ephesians 5:23, 24** <sup>NKJV</sup>

“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

## Two WILL BECOME One

Christ at the Center-Continued

4. **Husbands are Called to be the Spiritual Leaders:**
- Notice this from **Ephesians 5:23, 24-**
  - Even though the husband is given this responsibility from God it does not mean that he is to be a tyrant or a dictator.
  - The Lord places great responsibility upon the husbands in the very next verse in **Ephesians 5:25-**



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**Ephesians 5:25** <sup>NKJV</sup>

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

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Christ at the Center-Continued

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- Notice this from **Ephesians 5:23, 24-**
  - Even though the husband is given this responsibility from God it does not mean that he is to be a tyrant or a dictator.
  - The Lord places great responsibility upon the husbands in the very next verse in **Ephesians 5:25-**
  - So basically, husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially.
  - So the husband is not there to lord over his wife he is there to **serve** and **lead** his wife and the rest of the family in being **servant leaders** for Christ.



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Leaving & Cleaving

1. **We must establish our own households:**
- The Bible calls us to leave home and join together in our own family unit.
  - Notice **Genesis 2:23, 24-**



*Two* WILL BECOME *One***Genesis 2:23, 24** <sup>KJV</sup>

“And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

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## Leaving &amp; Cleaving

**1. We must establish our own households:**

- a. The Bible calls us to leave home and join together in our own family unit.
- b. Notice **Genesis 2:23, 24-**
- c. The operative words here are **leave & cleave**.
- d. This means that marriage should not be considered until we have the ability to have our own place to live.
- e. There are some dangers in living under the same roof as our parents.
  - i. In their eyes you will always be their kids.
  - ii. You also need to learn how to make decisions on your own.

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## Leaving &amp; Cleaving

**2. Set Appropriate Boundaries:**

- a. This applies to family and friends.
- b. Some parents try to run the lives of their kids long after they move out.
- c. You and your spouse must learn how to tell your parents when enough is enough.
- d. If one of you is always taking your cues from your parents without consulting your spouse you are asking for trouble.
- e. Yes, it is appropriate to seek guidance from your parents, grand parents, or other family your look up to. They have wisdom from which you can draw upon.

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## Leaving &amp; Cleaving

**2. Set Appropriate Boundaries:**

- a. You must also learn to set healthy boundaries with your friends.
- b. If you have friends that come over too often or push their way into your business too much it can cause hard feelings between you and your spouse.
- c. Never share anything that would embarrass your spouse.
- d. Don't talk about your sex life too much. You do not want to cause your friends to think of your spouse in a sexual way.

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## Leaving &amp; Cleaving

**3. Divorce is Not an Option?:**

- a. I challenge every couple I counsel to make a covenant with each other and the Lord that divorce will not be an option for them.
- b. This does not mean that each of you has a license to do whatever you want and your spouse just has to sit back and live with it.
- c. But it means that you will exhaust every other resource and method of reconciliation without letting divorce become part of the conversation.
- d. And there is only one Biblical reason for divorce any way.
- e. Notice **Matthew 19:8, 9-**

*Two* WILL BECOME *One***Matthew 19:8, 9** <sup>NKJV</sup>

“He said to them, ‘Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.’”

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## Continue Courting

1. So many guys and ladies stop courting each other after they say, "I do."
2. But in order to create true intimacy within the marriage we want to do little things each day to make our spouse feel special.
3. Foreplay begins when you wake up in the morning.
  - a. I am not talking about preparing for a sexual encounter with your spouse.
  - b. I am talking about creating an atmosphere of emotional intimacy within the marriage.
  - c. Men, our wives crave emotional connection and we must learn to connect on that level
4. We want to follow **1 Peter 4:8** and have fervent love for one another. That's love that is passionately intense.

*Two* WILL BECOME *One***1 Peter 4:8** NKJV

"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

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## Finances

1. Consider following God's counsel in Malachi 3
2. Disagreement on how to handle money is a major cause of marital strife.
3. If one is a spender and the other is a saver, the saver should manage the money.
4. Develop a budget and spending plan early on and then do your very best to stick to it.
5. Begin investing before you have children and don't touch it. A small investment can grow into a great retirement if you put it aside and leave it alone.

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## Fidelity &amp; Sexuality

1. Many couples lose the happiness they had when first married.
2. Avoid situations that can cause you to place someone else in higher esteem than you hold your spouse.
3. Be very careful when using websites like, Facebook or other social media websites or apps.
4. If courting is a continual aspect of the marriage then this should never be a problem.
5. When it comes to sex you must be in agreement as to what sexual experiences you want to have in your marriage.
6. Foreplay is the key to mutual sexual fulfillment. Foreplay happens all day long and in every little thing because the intimacy that you share throughout the day is the same intimacy that will spill over into the bedroom.
7. A lack of intimacy in all other aspects of life will cause a chill in the bedroom.

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## Communication

1. Talk about things daily. Do not go to bed angry, talk about it if something has upset you.
2. Cumulative stress can kill a marriage. Deal with problems as they arise and you won't have a situation blow up in your face years down the road.
3. Don't confide things in others about things you should be talking to your spouse about. Your first allegiance, after God, must be to your spouse.
4. Schedule a weekly "Marriage Meeting"
  - a. Meet weekly
  - b. Meet just as the two of you
  - c. Get rid of distractions.
  - d. Sit together
  - e. Jot down notes through the week about what you want to discuss.

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## Communication-Continued

- f. Bring your calendar or organizational devices to the meeting.
- g. Keep the meeting to about 30 minutes.
- h. Cultivate a positive atmosphere.
- i. Allow both husband and wife to feel ownership in the meeting.
2. Four Parts of the Marriage Meeting:
  - a. Appreciation
  - b. Chores (Including "To-dos & Finances")
  - c. Plan for the Good Times
  - d. Problems & Challenges



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Child Rearing

1. Do not undermine each other's authority.
2. Talk about how you want to educate them—either public or private—before you ever have them.
3. Talk about whether or not “mom” will stay home after the birth.
4. Begin character development very early.
5. Experts say that a child's character basis is pretty well set by the time they are 6 or 7.

