

Leaving and Cleaving Genesis 2:24-25

In this passage of scripture God gives us His model for marriage. You should note that this is the only kind of marriage that He is willing to bless; one man, one woman separate from others ties and made one flesh before God. We see that even without clothes there was no shame between them. There were no secrets between mankind's first couple. While there are references to polygamy and polyamory throughout the Old Testament we should see them as what they are, sinful and contrary to God's plan here. This model is bare bones, there is a lot more needed for a Godly marriage, but without this framework there is nothing to hang the rest of it on. If you want to please God in your marriage it has to have the proper bone structure.

-A man. When does a boy become a man? It's not his age, I am sure we can all agree on that! There are a lot of 30-70 year old boys in this society. Paul says that when he was a child he spoke as a child but when he became a man he put those things away and took responsibility. When a boy quits his hours of play and apathy and addresses the expectations and responsibilities on him he begins to be a man. He must be teachable, correctable and willing to work hard. Until he is at this point, he is not ready for a wife. A woman ought to be a helpmeet to a man, not a second mother.

-Leave his father and mother. We can take this to mean both physically, financially and mentally. If you can't afford your own home, don't marry. If you, living on your own can't keep the bills, maintenance and chores organized without your mom and dad, don't marry. How on earth can you support a wife and children if everyone in your life is still supporting you?

-Cleave unto his wife. Shes your one and only! Ladies this goes for you too. All issues are shared issues when you are one flesh. When your eyes look at a man or a woman, let it be the one you are married to. If you need a shoulder to cry on, make sure that shoulder is connected to the hand you put that ring on. Your prayer life should be together, your problem solving should be together, your hopes and dreams are a team effort. Your faith should be as one too!

We see in this formula for marriage something interesting, while they had no clothes there was no shame. This verse is there to help us mark the difference between our minds before and after the fall. Before the fall we didn't have a lascivious thought in our heads. After the fall it all turned to sewage. Dirty thoughts, affairs, lust and all other kinds of sexual sin came easy to us. There is shame in these things. Shame and embarrassment no matter how the world views it. In a sin saturated society they like to pretend that impurity is neutral and misunderstood we need to remember that shame is still there. The marital act belongs in marriage and shouldn't be used outside of it and should never be used as entertainment.

Conclusion: The sanctity of marriage involves more than just the genders involved. If we want to make sure that we have a marriage that God would honor or bless we need to match His model. We can't be satisfied to be doing a better job than the rest of the world simply because a man married a woman and they haven't divorced. God expects that and more. Men, lets make sure we are acting like men. Let both spouses push away from the rest of the world and unite as one before God. Loving the other more as they love themselves and God more than they love the other.