

LEAVE TO BECOME ONE FLESH

LESSON 2



Gen 1:27

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Two drastically different beings, designed perfectly by God to:

- 1) **Complete** each other
- 2) **Meet** each other's needs
- 3) **Fulfill** together the many purposes God has for them

And notice carefully, the first word in our foundation verse in **Gen 2:24**:

The foundation verse for God's Design for Marriage



*“**Therefore** shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” **Gen 2:24***

THEREFORE . . .

Because of everything that's gone into God's design for a husband and wife to complete each other . . .

THEREFORE . . .

Because of God's Sovereignty and Power to bring together the perfect puzzle and piece . . .

THEREFORE . . .

A man (& woman) – shall **LEAVE** their parents – shall **CLEAVE** to their spouse – and shall **BECOME ONE FLESH**.



PLEASE READ THE NEXT 2 STATEMENTS
VERY CAREFULLY!



Becoming One Flesh is the absolute greatest supernatural blessing of God's Design For Marriage. The process of **how** to do that is laid out in **Genesis 2:24: LEAVE – CLEAVE – BECOME ONE FLESH**

AND . . .

EVERY major problem you will ever face in your marriage can be traced back to some conflict with these same three commands in

Genesis 2:24: LEAVE – CLEAVE – BECOME ONE FLESH

Dr. Ed Wheat – Biblical Marriage Counselor:

“Genesis 2:24 remains the most concise and comprehensive counseling session ever presented on marriage . . . All else that is said emphasizes or amplifies the 3 fundamental principles originated here, but never changes them in the slightest . . . any real problem you face in marriage will come from ignoring some aspect of God's Genesis commandment.”

In EVERY MAJOR marriage problem:

- Someone is not **Leaving** someone or something, or
- Someone is not **Cleaving** to their spouse . . . and in either case,
- The two are not becoming **One Flesh**

And your marriage will continue to experience problems until you allow God to make you one flesh in that specific area.

Is the strong emphasis on this verse a **NEW** thought to you ? _____

Can you think of any major marriage problem that would **NOT** fall under this verse?



The **Reason** God calls us to “**Leave**,” in varying degrees, all other relationships, is so that we can become “**One Flesh**” with our spouse.

In **Genesis 2:24**, this principle is applied specifically to our parents, but by implication, it applies to all other relationships as well.

Dr. Ed Wheat:

“Marriage begins with a ‘leaving:’ leaving all other relationships. The closest relationship outside of marriage is specified here, implying that if it is necessary to leave your father and mother, then certainly all lesser ties must be broken, changed, or left behind.”



The first thing that God requires, in order for you to become one flesh, is for you to **LEAVE**.

In the sense of **emotional**, **relational**, and **physical** dependence, we must ‘Leave’ in some sense, all other relationships, and we must refocus all of our relational priorities on our spouse.

The following is adapted from “A Biblical Portrait of Marriage” by Dr. Bruce H. Wilkinson.

Hebrew “Leave” (AZAB) – has 3 Key Definitions:

- 1 To Loosen
- 2 To Depart from
- 3 To Forsake or Abandon

These 3 definitions apply, in some way, to all other relationships and interests in our lives.

Read them again, slowly, thinking carefully about each of their meanings.

M.I.P.

Session 2 – Most Important Point

**YOU MUST LOOSEN, DEPART FROM, OR ABANDON
ALL OTHER RELATIONSHIPS TO BECOME
ONE FLESH WITH YOUR SPOUSE**

Notice the graduating levels of intensity in the three definitions?

- 1 To Loosen (release)
- 2 To Depart From (pull back)
- 3 To Forsake or Abandon (utterly)

 FIRST LEVEL – “TO LOOSEN”

This is the level of “Leave” that parents must take;
It means, to Loosen, to Release, to Loosen the Grip.

The married child’s primary **allegiance**, primary **relationship**, and primary **care** must change from their parents to their spouse.

*This doesn’t mean we stop honoring our parents.
And it doesn’t mean we can’t have friends and interests.
But it does mean there can never be any relationship or
interest that compares to the commitment and
priority we put on our marriage relationship.*

In the sense of priority, we must “**LEAVE**,” to some degree, every other relationship in order to Become One Flesh with our spouse.

SECOND LEVEL – “TO DEPART FROM”



This definition has a definite **physical** sense to it. It means to separate (pull back) from *physically*.

Some relationships require a physical ‘*departing from.*’

This applies to departing (pulling back) from the control of parents and others. No **emotional** control, no **financial** control, no **relational** control.

This means, unless necessary for a short period of time, you should **NOT** live with your parents, or rely on them financially. **AND**, you must be very careful of 'long distance' relational or emotional control. You must **LEAVE** that in order to become one flesh with your spouse.

THIRD LEVEL – “TO FORSAKE AND ABANDON”

The strongest definition of the Hebrew word translated “**Leave**” is;
“to forsake and abandon.”

EXAMPLE . . .

*I got a phone call from a newlywed couple having an argument . . .
Was it ok for the husband to maintain a strictly friendship relationship
with a girl who used to be his high-school girlfriend . . . ???*

Absolutely, Positively, Without a Doubt, NO, NO, NO!!! God’s command is to **Forsake and Abandon** those old relationships.

You must **Forsake and Abandon** any relationship that could be detrimental to your marriage in order to **Become One Flesh**.

*In reality, all **individual** relationships with the opposite sex should be, in effect, forsaken and abandoned. There should be no **individual** relationships with the opposite sex.*

Graduating intensity of Hebrew AZAB – “Leave:”

- 1 Some relationships you must “**LOOSEN**” (release)
- 2 Some relationships you must “**DEPART FROM**” (pull back)
- 3 Some relationships you must “**FORSAKE & ABANDON**” (utterly)

And you must not subtly protect any relationship that is causing stress and conflict in your marriage.

 EXAMPLE . . .

A Wife’s single friends would take her dancing with other guys on a ‘girl’s night out.’ Should she maintain that part of her relationship with her friends? . . . hello !!!

Those are relationships that must be forsaken and abandoned.

And not only relationships, but interests:

work, ministry, friends, recreation

Does this mean you can’t be involved in, or enjoy, any of these other areas? **NO!**

But from a priority standpoint, you must be **willing** to forsake and abandon all other relationships and interests for your spouse.

THAT is the first step to Becoming One Flesh.

Response Time . . .

PLEASE TRADE WORKBOOKS WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

The following is to be completed by your spouse:

Three relationships or interests I would like to see take a lower priority in our marriage (*written by your spouse*):

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

PLEASE TAKE YOUR OWN WORKBOOK BACK FROM YOUR SPOUSE. *The following is to be completed by you:*

Am I willing to take tangible steps to reprioritize the three relationships listed above?

#1 (*from above*) yes no

#2 (*from above*) yes no

#3 (*from above*) yes no

Am I willing to loosen, depart from, or even abandon all other relationships in order to become one flesh with my spouse?

If you ever desire to become one flesh with your spouse, you must be willing to Loosen, Depart from, or even Abandon all other relationships.

And when you do, you will be on your way to becoming one flesh.

Let's Pray: *“Heavenly Father, thank you for Your design for marriage. May we choose to live by your design. Please give us the desire and the power to loosen, depart from, and even forsake and abandon all other relationships so that we may become one flesh. We surrender our self-will. May our self-will be crucified with Christ. And may You make our marriage all that You designed it to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.”*