



We Swim for Jesus!

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that the two become one person.”

Genesis 2:24

Bible Verse for Week #24

Life Application notes

1. God gave marriage as a gift to Adam and Eve. They were created perfect for each other. Marriage was not just for convenience, nor was it brought about by any culture. It was instituted by God. In a society where living together apart from marriage has become acceptable and where promiscuity is rampant, marriage may seem old-fashioned and unnecessary. But God gave us marriage for our protection and as the foundation for society. To devalue or violate marriage is to invite disaster. If you are unmarried, stay chaste, saving yourself for your spouse. And don't rush into marriage. If you are married, treat your spouse as a gift from God.
2. The first building block for a strong marriage is to leave home. The man must leave his mother and father and begin a new life, a new family unity with his bride. This “leaving” is more than a physical move – it involves leaving emotionally, growing up, becoming independent, and assuming adult responsibilities (such as caring for the spouse, providing for physical and emotional needs, and rearing children with love and teaching them to obey God). Many young people want the benefits of marriage (sex, closeness, and so forth) without the responsibilities. But good marriages begin with “leaving.”
3. The next building block is commitment. Translated “cleave,” or “joined,” or “united,” it means giving oneself totally to the other. This truth is reflected in the wedding vows, where bride and groom promise to stay together “till death us do part.” If there is an escape clause (for example, trial marriage or divorce), then each person will tend to hide real feelings and desires or won't do what is necessary to make the marriage work. Cleaving means holding tightly to each other, promising not to let go even when things get rough. It means staying together “for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health.” What will it take to make your marriage work?

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“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

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4. The third building block is to become “one person” or “one flesh.” In many ways, this is a by-product of “leaving” and “cleaving.” It means knowing and understanding the other person. That’s why the Bible uses the word know to describe sexual relations. In marriage, the husband and wife know each other intimately. Sex plays a major role in becoming one – that’s one reason it should be reserved for marriage. You give yourself completely and unreservedly to your spouse and vice versa. You become naked, open and vulnerable, totally honest. To have sexual intercourse without the protection of the marriage commitment is foolish and dangerous. Save sex for marriage.
5. The unity described by the phrase “become one flesh,” implies faithfulness. This is highlighted and emphasized in the commandment against committing adultery (Exod. 20:14). Having sex with someone other than your spouse violates the marriage commitment and tears the “one flesh.” You can only give yourself totally to one person at a time. Don’t even think about adultery! Be faithful to your spouse and keep your marriage strong.
6. This verse was quoted by Jesus (Matt. 19:5) and by Paul (1 Cor. 6:16 and Eph. 5:31) to emphasize the seriousness of the marriage commitment. Jesus gave His quote as part of His answer to those who asked about divorce. He went on to say, “What God has joined together, let man not separate.” In these days of easy and quick divorce, don’t be fooled into considering this as an option – it’s not God’s ideal and is always the result of sin. Instead, determine to love your spouse no matter what, and work at staying together.

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