

# Developing Marriage Oneness

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## God's Design for Oneness (Genesis 2:18, 20-25)

### **Companionship:** A universal need for oneness

- It is not good for man to dwell alone. Adam needed someone who was equal in creation, someone who was spiritually alive and created in the image of God, someone like himself (Genesis 2:18).
- We all have a need for love, acceptance, security and significance. After the Fall of man and his perfect communion with God was lost, sin, fear, rejection, and insecurity entered mankind (Genesis 3).
- We must understand that only Christ can meet my need for oneness completely. A relationship with Christ and a healthy identity in Him enables me to love myself properly and express that love to others (1 John 4:7-11).

### **A Covenant Relationship:** The basis of oneness

Marriage was designed by God to fulfill the needs that He created within a person and to accomplish His will in the world. It was the first and most important act of God following creation. Therefore God designed marriage as a covenant to reflect both the unchanging and unconditional love that Jesus Christ has for each one of us.

## Covenant vs. Contract Marriage

In today's society, marriage is often regarded as a legal contract between a man and a woman. While this certainly is true, God regards the marriage relationship as more than just a legal contract between a man and a woman. It is a covenant relationship between God and the couple. It cannot be broken. Notice some of the decisive distinctions between a contract marriage and a covenant marriage:

Covenant Marriage	Contract Marriage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established with God</li><li>• Based on trust</li><li>• Parties commit in spite of circumstances (vows)</li><li>• Honoring commitment in spite of breach (unlimited responsibility)</li><li>• Unconditional commitment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Established between people</li><li>• Based on distrust</li><li>• Protect parties in case of default</li><li>• Can be broken because of breach (limited liability)</li><li>• No obligation to keep</li></ul>

### **Criteria for a successful marriage: Maintaining oneness**

- Both the husband and wife need to leave Mom and Dad—physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and financially (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7-9).
- They need to bond together in such a way that they become one.
- They must have no unresolved issues between themselves and God, so that intimacy and transparency are the norm for their relationship (Acts 24:16; 1 John 1:5-9).

### **Becoming one**

- Bonding takes place between a man and a woman when there is a total commitment of spirit, soul, and body to each other without reservation (1 Corinthians 7:33; Proverbs 5:18).
- Bonding takes place as each spouse meets the needs of their mate by fulfilling their God-given responsibilities (Ephesians 5:21-27; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Colossians 3:18-21).

## **Personal Evaluation Questions**

1. Does the approval of relatives mean more to you than the approval of God?
2. Are you still trying to live up to the expectations of your parents or siblings?
3. Is your relationship with God the most important relationship in your life?
4. Is your relationship with your spouse the second most important relationship in your life?
5. In what ways have you not left your mother or father: physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, or financially?

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