

January 23, 2008 Command of Christ → Honor in Marriage
Character quality → Loyalty
Scripture reference → Matthew 19:5, 6

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be united firmly (joined inseparably) to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.”

Marriage is God’s idea for the proliferation of mankind.

- Man has tried to put it asunder by redefining it.

Through the marriage covenant, we join together to form a common bond (union). [communion → common-union]

- Leave (parents), and cleave (to each other)!
- We maintain our **individuality**, but are no longer **independent**.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9 – *“Two are better than one, because they have a more satisfying reward for their labor.”*
- When 2 basic elements join together they form an entirely new substance.
- We run into problems when we want to be independent and still partake of the benefits of the union. (selfishness)

The common bond has to be maintained throughout the life of the relationship.

- When we stop maintaining it, it begins to deteriorate.
- We will only walk together to the degree that we are in unity (have common ground). See Amos 3:3
- Life situations and circumstances can either strain or strengthen the bond.
- Honor is the foundational quality that holds the relationship together.

The marriage covenant is a natural (earthly) picture of our covenant with Christ.

- Ephesians 5:22-33 (see also 1 Peter 3:1-7)

There is a God-ordained order for the relationship.

- We cannot do things our way and expect optimum, godly results.

Wife – Our submission to Christ is reflected through our submission to our husband.

Husband – “Head” does not mean dictator or tyrant.
Love your wife as Christ loves the Church!
Love your wife as your own body!