Building Excellence in the Husband / Wife Relationship

Two glaring observations come to mind in preparation of this message.

1. Many marriages are not providing the satisfaction that God intended for them to bring.

2. Weaknesses within our marriage

I. God’s purpose for marriage -**Gen. 2:18 - 23** God stated that Adam needed a help meet, animals created from the ground demonstrated to Adam what kind of superior being his suitable help would be, so he caused deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he took one of his ribs creating woman…Adam then stated, “this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” Not just another creature created from the dust but from the very being of man.

 **24**Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. In this verse we see the relationship starting…notice each element naturally progresses to the next…

**Matt. 19:5** – and they twain shall be one flesh

**Mark 10:7-9** - …what God has joined together let no man separate.

**Eph. 5:31** - one flesh.

These three elements provide the foundation to building an excellent relationship in your marriage.

1. Leave - “abandon”,- allegiance to your spouse, still honor your mother and father but our

spouse comes first. Dependence - not looking for Mom and Dad for support

but looking to

each other. We are not discounting the help from our parents but a “leaving”

of dependence.

1. Cleave - to glue upon, glue to join one's self to closely, loyalty, devotion.

**Mark 10:9** – “let no man separate.” “not stuck with one another!” but committed through the good and the bad, not just throw away and find a new one! Let’s consider how to build a strong marriage not what do we do to develop an “escape route” in divorce.

1. One Flesh -Unity, **Hebrews 13:4** – “[Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Ctdarnell%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemp%5CXPgrpwise%5C%20%5C%20cr-descriptionAnchor-5) [the sexually immoral and adulterous.](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Ctdarnell%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemp%5CXPgrpwise%5C%20%5C%20cr-descriptionAnchor-6)” A violation of the marriage covenant will be judged by God. **I Cor. 6:9** – those in violation shall (not) inherit the kingdom of God.

One flesh goes beyond the physical union…to the men and boys…not a female version of yourself, a clone of your likes and dislikes but work in concert and a genuine concern for your spouse.

**Eph. 5:28**- **28 “**So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that

 loveth his wife loveth himself.”,

**Prov. 31:12, 27** - **12**She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life

 **27**She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of Idleness.

Do we express ourselves in terms of me or me, him/her or **us / we**?

In what areas are you one? Spiritually, emotionally, financially, in our style of parenting, or in our conduct?

II. Commitment – In order to be excellent we must be in concert with one another and follow God’s divine purpose.

To add to the foundation of Leave, cleave, and one flesh the next building block is Commitment.

**Hosea 1:2 - 10** – Israel is in a time of division between the kingdoms of the north and the south. The northern kingdom has faltered into spiritual adultery, worshipping other gods. To convict the Israel nation of their infidelity, God chooses to work through the prophet Hosea.

 **2**The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

 **3**So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

 **4**And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

 **5**And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel, in the valley of Jezreel.

 **6**And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

 **7**But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

 **8**Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

 **9**Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people and I will not be your God.

 **10**Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

Gomer leaves and enters a life of harlotry.

**Hosea 2:5**

 **5**For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

**Hosea 3:1 - 3**

**1**Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

 **2**So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: (the price of a slave)

 **3**And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.

Regardless of the condition of our marriages we can restore, renew and make it better. It is not beyond repair. Commitment is the key.

III. In what areas do we seek to be committed?

Many scriptures to choose from to understand our areas of commitment. The book of Ephesians is a guide book for unity and living the Christian life. I would like to focus on **Ephesians 4:25-32** to pinpoint some areas.

1. Honesty - v. 25 - Wherefore **putting away lying** , (conscious and intentional falsehood ) speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. pseudo -in a broad sense, whatever is not what it seems, to be of perverse, impious, deceitful precepts. Stretching the facts, not telling the whole story, or twisting the truth.

## Be a peacekeeper 26Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:  27Neither give place to the devil. This gives the devil an opportunity to surface back up if the anger or the argument is dealt with properly. If allowed to fester it will do nothing but damage your marriage.

##  Proverbs 21:9  9It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a

##  brawling woman in a wide house. (I don’t know about your house but we have a steep roof so it’s would be much easier to keep contention out!)

1. Giving - **28**Let him that stole **steal** (take away by stealth,theft) no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Honest work is important but as one author put it, “ Do we allow our work to steal time from our spouse, if we do not give our best to our spouse are we stealing from them joy we could be having?
2. Wholesome speech –  **29** Let no corrupt( rotten, putrefied, vegetable or animal substance ,corrupted by one and no longer fit for use, worn out of poor quality, bad, unfit for use, worthless) **communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of **edifying** , (building up, an act or process of building a house) that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
3. Kindness and Honor – **31** Let all bitterness, (a bitter root, and so producing a bitter fruit) and wrath, anger (forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again) and clamour, (outcry, loud noise) and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice (ill will): **32** and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

I Peter 3:7 [Likewise,](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=3668) ye [husbands,](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=435) dwell [with](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=4924) them according [to](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=2596) [knowledge,](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=1108) [giving](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=632) [honour](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=5092) (a valuing by which the price is fixed, of the price paid or received for a person or thing bought or sold) unto the [wife,](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=1134) [as](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=5613) unto the [weaker](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=772) [vessel,](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=4632) [and](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=2532) [as](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=5613) being heirs [together](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=4789) of the [grace](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=5485) of [life;](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=2222) [that](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=1519) [your](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=5216) [prayers](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=4335) [be](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=1581) [not](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=3361) [hindered](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=g&t=kjv&sn=1581) .

I heard a man make a statement in regards to women…”treat them all like queens and some day you will marry one.” What value do you place on your spouse?

**Proverbs 14:23** - In all [**labour**](http://www.studylight.org/lex/heb/view.cgi?number=06089) there is [profit:](http://www.studylight.org/lex/heb/view.cgi?number=04195) but the [talk](http://www.studylight.org/lex/heb/view.cgi?number=01697) of the [lips](http://www.studylight.org/lex/heb/view.cgi?number=08193) tendeth only to [penury.](http://www.studylight.org/lex/heb/view.cgi?number=04270)

Talking only leads to want, lacking, needing! Build, take action!

**English Standard Version**

**Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, forwe are members one of another. 26(**[**BK**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29282BK)**) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27and give no opportunity to the devil. 28Let the thief no longer steal, but rather(**[**BM**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29284BM)**) let him labor,(**[**BN**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29284BN)**) doing honest work with his own hands, so(**[**BO**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29284BO)**) that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29(**[**BP**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29285BP)**) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give(**[**BQ**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29285BQ)**) grace to those who hear. 30And(**[**BR**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29286BR)**) do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,(**[**BS**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29286BS)**) by whom you were sealed for the day of(**[**BT**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29286BT)**) redemption. 31(**[**BU**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29287BU)**) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32(**[**BV**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29288BV)**) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,(**[**BW**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ephesians%204&version=ESV#cen-ESV-29288BW)**) forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

IV. Christ is the key to building excellence.

Marriage is ordained by God. The key to marriage is found within the title…Building excellence! It takes time, effort and commitment for as long as you are here in the married state.

By nature we are proud, stubborn, and selfish.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like [sheep](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=h&t=kjv&sn=06629) have gone [astray](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=h&t=kjv&sn=08582) ; we have [turned](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=h&t=kjv&sn=06437) everyone to his own way**;** and the [LORD](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=h&t=kjv&sn=03068) hath [laid](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=h&t=kjv&sn=06293) on him the [iniquity](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs.ashx?ll=h&t=kjv&sn=05771) of us all. Without Christ as our guide we fight an endless battle giving Satan the “place” to overcome us.

**Eph. 5:25, 26** Husbands**, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of the water with the word.**

The measure of love that husbands are commanded to give their wives is that of Christ's love of the church. A love that would die for the beloved! Any submission or subjection that a devoted wife might give to her husband would be more than rewarded and justified by such a love as that.