

- ↪ **Using Malachi 2:11-16** as a jumping off place, **Ephesians 5:21-32**. Need to make a comment here on the type of divorce that God is speaking to here. This is aggressive divorce; men in a patriarchal society just dumping their wives for exotic women. When God says He hates divorce, He says it with regards to all divorce (you wouldn't expect Him to say He loves divorce would you?), but specifically He says He hates this total disregard of vows and the breaking of love and commitment for the sake of a fling.
 - ↪ There are always two people in divorce; God's language is against the perpetrator; it always is! Divorce happens for the same reason every time, sin! Sin is the cause of every divorce; sometimes the blame is on both parties and equally shared, and sometimes it is lop-sided (as in this case). Sometimes, no matter what we do to preserve a marriage, it takes two to tango, and without a partner willing to work or who is just getting out no matter what we do, divorce is inevitable.
 - ↪ In this passage in Malachi, God is accusing some divorcees and He's defending others. Some are the cause of divorce and others are the victims of it.
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- ☑ **Returning to where we left off: Marriage is accomplished by leaving, receiving, cleaving and weaving, Genesis 2:24-25.**
 - 1) Leaving:** Your loyalty now belongs to your spouse. Your spouse should never have to compete with your parents (or friends).
 - 2) Receiving:** They receive each other strictly on the basis that God has brought them together; no performance, no looks, no income, no warm fuzzies.
 - ✓ It is a fallacy to think that it is our job to find our mate; it is a mistake to accept them based on anything less than "God brought them to me." When you make a marriage on the changeableness of human character, attitude, and action, you're headed for trouble. When we make our marriage based on the changelessness of God, then and only then, will it work.
 - 3) Cleave: The word literally means to be glued.**
 - ✓ It's back to leaving; you have to leave, to cleave; leaving other relationships, leaving even yourself; the day for you to do your own thing your own way has to be over. "I just want to do my own thing my own way"; then don't get married! Marriage is not a sideshow, it's the main event. If you are too self-absorbed for that reality, don't get married!
 - ✓ Cleave is the same word used elsewhere to refer to an alloy. What is marriage? It's the dissolving of two into one. Part of our problem with God's math is that it is not math! $1+1=1$? It's not math; it's chemistry!! Melt two together and the two become one.
Matthew 19:16.
 - 4) Weaving:** "The two shall become one flesh". A lifetime process; an intimacy on every level.
 - ✓ Created in God's image; God is one; yet He is three. That same unity of mind, body, and spirit is what God has in mind for us. Marriage is not a contract, it's a covenant. In a covenant, the two become one and the same. Finally, all of this is accomplished through dependence, not independence from the One who created marriage in the beginning.

When we distance ourselves from Him, we distance ourselves from what really makes marriage work.
