

- ✎ How can marriage survive in the moral climate that we live in today? Not just survive but thrive? The One who created us and created marriage is the only one who has the blueprints that can make that a reality. We started a three-part look at the blueprints for a happy home. God's blueprints for marriage can be summed up in three words: leave, receive and cleave.
- 1) Leave, leave your father and mother and all other relationships because you can't be who you were to them anymore, the two become one flesh.
 - 2) Receive, Adam and Eve did not know the hand that they were holding that day, but they did know the hand that was bringing them together, that is all we really need to know!
 - ✓ It is God who brings us our spouse; what makes us think we have any say in such a crucial decision? Adam had to trust God, Adam and Eve received each other as husband and wife because they knew God not because they knew each other. The first marriage; the original blueprints was not based on looks, performance or knowledge of anything other than they knew that God wanted them together.
 - 3) Cleave, "And a man shall cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh."
 - ✓ Cleave is a word of permanence; a lifetime word; it is an act of God not of two people, "What God had joined together, let no man separate." Unity of persons on every level. Unity of flesh, this is why God reserves sex only for marriage. Emotional unity, no relationship that is higher. Unity of spiritual things, thus the couple must pursue together, the One who united them. Cleave is word that refers to an alloy, two kinds of metal that are melted and bonded together in such a way that, though they remain separate metals, they will be inseparable. No separate lives anymore, no more doing things your own way without 100% considering another person in all things. No separate problems or separate blessings, it is all cleaved together. Psalm 127:1, don't mess with God's blueprints or you will be striving in vanity in your marriage.
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1. The greatest test of Christianity is not in church but at home.

- ✓ At home is where the real you shines. Our Christianity is no better than it is at home and in our marriages. We've considered God's overall blueprints for marriage in general; now we are going to look at the specific blueprints for each partner. First, we will look at husbands. Guys, for our page of the blueprint we will need to turn to the book of Ephesians 5:23-25. In the marriage relationship, the husband has the hardest job, he plays the role of Christ, as Christ relates to the church, so husbands are to relate to their wives.

2. What does loving your wife as Christ does the Church look like?

- ✓ The first role of a husband is that of savior (I told you his role is tough!) Husbands, we lead our homes as saviors, not as dictators or abdicators. We lead as Christ lead, with no thought for ourselves, how are you doing with that? John 13:3-5, 13-14, the definition of leadership and the effect of leadership. Thus, the husband is the servant-leader in the sense that he represents Christ in the relationship. The husband sets the tone according to the blueprints of God, he sets the pace, the example and the course of the home and marriage. Jesus is the Savior; He sets the example and the tone of our lives. In marriage the husband is the savior and servant of the home who sets the tone of the marriage. Let me paraphrase John 13:13-14 and change the words to focus on our role in the home in order to help us hear what our responsibility is as husbands. "You call me husband, head and father, rightly so for that is what I am, now as you have seen me do, so you do."
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