

INLAWS

Session 2B

*“Therefore shall a man **leave** his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* — Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6, Mark 10:7-8, Ephesians 5:31

The process of *leaving and cleaving* began with God, not man. God created marriage, then left fundamental steps for men and women to follow in order to have thriving, successful marriages.

1. Man and woman must **leave**.
2. They must **cleave** to one another.
3. This is the **only** way to becoming one flesh.

_____ : forsake, leave behind, depart from

How does that play out?

1. The husband-wife relationship is now the _____ relationship.
2. It means that you are more concerned about your spouse's _____, _____, and _____ than you are about your parent's.
3. It means that you must not try to _____ your mate simply because your parents do not like something about him or her.
4. It means that you are not primarily _____ on your parents for finances, affection, approval, council, etc.
5. All other relationships are _____.
6. Your _____ comes before your parents.
7. Sometimes we must make _____ that are unpopular.
8. Keep _____ issues personal (between you and your spouse)!

_____ : cling to, stay close to, join to

Biblical principles:

1. A husband and wife must _____.

“In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” — Ephesians 5:28

“Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.” — Luke 11:17

2. You're a _____.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." — Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

3. Appreciate your spouse for _____ they are, not what you _____ them to _____.

"For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." — Psalm 139:13-14

4. Each person must _____ to themselves.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." — Philippians 2:3-4

5. Keep the _____ burning.

"My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies." — Song of Solomon 2:16

"May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer — may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love." — Proverbs 5:18-19

Seven steps to cleaving:

1. Leave everyone else _____.
2. Remain sexually _____.
3. Love for the _____ term.
4. Live at (or below) your _____ of _____.
5. _____ at marital happiness.
6. _____ each other seventy times seven.
7. Keep God at the _____ of your marriage.

Lessons from Moses and Jethro (excerpted from *A Biblical Portrait of Marriage* — Bruce Wilkinson):

1. Moses _____ the parents. (Exodus 2:16-22)
2. _____ once you cleave. (Exodus 4:18-20)
3. _____ your father and mother. (Exodus 18:5-9)
4. _____ wise counsel. (Exodus 18:13-19,24; Proverbs 12:15)
5. _____ your own course. (Exodus 18:27)

PRACTICAL TIPS:

In every marriage there can be tension as two people are united, along with their two different families. It is important to maintain the proper perspective with inlaws, as this will be one of the places where your Christianity is most clearly reflected. The following are some brief thoughts on positively relating to your inlaws:

- I. Get to _____ them! This requires prioritized effort, especially if they are some distance away.
 - a. Provides insight into your spouse's attitudes.
 - b. Provides insight into your spouse's behavior.
- II. Don't expect your inlaws to _____ or _____ like your family.
 - a. Remember: Different families are exactly that — DIFFERENT!
 - b. Consciously start with a clean slate in trying to understand them.
 - c. Learn to love and appreciate the differences.
- III. _____ and _____ your inlaws . . .
 - a. as much as possible.
 - b. without expectation of anything in return.
 - c. when they visit you AND when you visit them.
 - d. Be extra forbearing and forgiving when difficulties arise.
- IV. Be _____ in the time you spend with both families — within reason — because parents may be sensitive to this.
- V. There is a blessing in honoring _____ sets of parents. There is no time limit on the promise in Ephesians 6:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' — which is the first commandment with a promise — that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." — Ephesians 6:1-3
- VI. You need to leave your parents and be _____ with your spouse. Loyalty within the marriage relationship comes first over loyalty to your parents.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." — Ephesians 5:31

**COUPLE'S PROJECT
SESSION 2B
Leaving and Cleaving**

Record how you view yourself on a scale of 1 to 5, one being a definite **NO** and five being a definite **YES**. Each of you should complete this separately and then review your answers together. Share with each other the reasons why you answered in a particular way and discuss your perspectives.

	<u>NO</u>			<u>YES</u>	
Financial independence	1	2	3	4	5
Established own residence	1	2	3	4	5
Desire to marry someone like your Father/mother	1	2	3	4	5
Parents tend to offer frequent advice	1	2	3	4	5
Feel the need to give up friendships	1	2	3	4	5

Discussion questions:

What kind of activities or communication is appropriate between a new couple and their parents? When can those activities be detrimental?

What do you consider appropriate interaction between members of the opposite sex (ex: would lunch be ok between a female/male friend)? Where would you draw the line?

How do you anticipate you and your future spouse spending holidays?