

“Three Foundation Stones of Marriage”

Fred A. Hartley III

“For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24 NIV 84’

(Also Matthew 19:5 and Ephesians 5:31)

The first human relationship God established was marriage. A healthy marriage benefits everyone.

We live in a day where marriages and families are under attack. We have all seen bad examples of marriage. God gives us guidelines to build a healthy marriage.

There are three foundational stones to marriage— leave, be united, and become one flesh. These three stones are the most life-giving guidelines for healthy marriage.

These three guidelines are rock solid. They were first written by Moses (Genesis 2:24), repeated by Jesus (Matthew 19:5), and repeated again by the Apostle Paul (Ephesians 5:31).

“Leave”

Prior to marriage, both the man and woman are under their parent’s authority. When a bride and groom get married, however, a significant transition takes place. The marriage partners are now primarily responsible to each other. Allegiance to your spouse in marriage takes precedence over allegiance to your parents, and over any other human relationship.

“Be United”

God wants you to be united with your spouse on every level. No secrets. No hiding. No withholding. Mentally, emotionally, socially, financially, physically, and spiritually, marriage provides the perfect environment for intimacy. Intimacy with each other is part of intimacy with Christ.

“Become One Flesh”

The enjoyment of sexual intimacy is part of God’s design for marriage, and only for marriage. Satisfying each other’s sexual desires is part of a healthy marriage. Sexual intimacy and spiritual intimacy go hand in hand. (See 1 Corinthians 7:35)

“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband” Ephesians 5:33

If you violate these three foundation stones of marriage, you will have problems. The source of virtually every marriage problem comes in relationship to these three guidelines.

