

The Christian Marriage



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CLEAVE, DON'T LEAVE

There are times in life when we just feel overwhelmed. Pressures coming from all sides like a tsunami, and the most natural defense is to run.

When we feel like we're losing the marriage ground, a rising urge comes for flight! But what will 'flight' accomplish? Separation from the one I love. Do I really want that result? Possibly Divorce, arising as the result of absence and feelings of rejection on the part of my spouse? Flight really just puts a wedge in the Marriage that is already in danger.

No Marriage is not about leaving, but **it's about cleaving!**

When we feel trapped, instead of walking out on the one we love, why don't we turn toward



him or her and **just cleave**. The love and compassion within, will be stirred up again. The mountain will melt, and **we'll climb the hill together**, the way it should be, You and Me together.

Let's go back to the Maker's instructions to the very first Couple:

Genesis 2:21 **GOD** put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept **He removed** one of his **ribs** and replaced it with flesh. ²²**GOD** then used **the rib** that **He had taken** from the Man to **make Woman and presented her to the Man**.

²³The Man said, "Finally! Bone of my bone,

flesh of my flesh!

Name her **Woman**

for she was made from Man."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and mother **and embraces his wife**. They become one flesh.

²⁵The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame." -(TMB). (There was no hiding themselves from each other, and there was nothing they felt they needed to be hidden from the other. Though two **They were One**).

So, remember, you are connected **by rib, cleave**, and do not leave the Marriage, over anything.

Cleave is to be joined to your **Wife in Marriage, by GOD**.

To "**cleave**" is to adhere to—and is the opposite of walking away from, or leaving!

Cleave also means to strengthen the Other, not to weaken them.

Cleave is to hold fast to, not to pull away from.

Cleave is to stick onto the other, not to disconnect from.

Cleave also means to remain towards, focused on, and not distracted from, by life's problems.

Cleave indicates being firmly joined together by love.

The wife can **be cleft**, like a **rib**, to the husband's heart. There she finds protection from Emotional Storms. A single or separated woman must seek covering where she can find it, and many seek it in the Church. Yet, Marriage is GOD'S first Institution of Love and Safety.

And lastly, an exhortation to the Married **Men**: **Do not allow vain imaginations to rise up in your mind** about the wonderful freedom you would have if you could just get free and be single again. Do not imagine that You could find a better Mate than the One God has matched you with. God knows more about You than you know about yourself.

Be content with the Wife of your youth. Count Your Blessings in your Mate.

Cleave, don't Leave!