TALK IT OVER
Daily Devotions
Individually, friends, family, small groups.
The Covenant Life
Two Becoming One
September 10-11, 2016

MONDAY ~ The greatest path upon which any marriage can travel is the one which leads to husband and wife becoming "one flesh."

Read *Genesis 2:24 (AMPC) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Read *Ephesians 5:31, 33 (AMPC) For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly].*

A prominent German scholar once said concerning marriage – *"Here is to matrimony – the high sea adventure for which no compass has yet been invented."*

Punch's Almanac says this about marriage – *"It is like a midnight phone call – you get a ring and then you wake up."*

God created, instituted marriage to be divine, blissful, joyous, fulfilling and **completing**. The key words and phrases in the first marriage reveal a divine **pattern** in which a man and a woman experience the beauty, the power, and the blessing of a covenant marriage founded upon Biblical oneness.

The greatest path upon which any marriage can travel is the one which leads to husband and wife becoming "one flesh." A "oneness marriage" is like a pair of scissors – two components joined, never to be separated. The blades frequently go in different directions, but they are most powerful when coming together.

Prayer Starter…*God, I pray for biblical oneness in my marriage.*

Walk It Out: Marriage as divine, blissful, joyous, fulfilling and completing.

TUESDAY ~ The sustenance of human life begins with the Tree of Life in the Garden.

In Genesis 2:7, God "**formed**" the man out of the dust of the ground.
In Genesis 2:22, God "**made**" the woman from a rib taken from Adam's side.

These two separate yet distinct acts of God in creating man and woman speak volumes concerning why it is necessary for them to be alike, yet different.

"Formed" means "to **fashion** as a potter." A pot is simple and straightforward and usually filled with one thing at a time. Man is a "purpose fulfiller." When he is pursuing the purpose, he is consumed with it.

"Made" refers to making palaces, a temple, or forms of **art.** A woman, as "built" by God, was meant not only to be a companion, but having the capacity to sustain her own beauty. It refers to emotional beauty and sensitiveness.

The woman and the man are to be an interdependent team. The man would be focused on tasks, purposes, while the women would be focused on relationships. She would be an aesthetic work of art and he would be useful and practical, industrious.

Prayer Starter…*God, I pray that You form and fashion my marriage in Your image.*

Walk It Out: Being alike, yet different.

WEDNESDAY ~ Together – one flesh – under the grand purposes of God, they were to govern the earth.

Emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, financially, sexually, they are to become one. Each is to cultivate a desire to **benefit** the other.

The way our body works is a prime example of this oneness. The mouth receives and chews up food which is then passed to the stomach. The stomach passes the food to the intestines and thus the process of one body with many parts all working together for the good of the whole.

Adam came from God, and Eve came from Adam.

God literally "**built**" Eve, fashioning her as a sculptor, carefully, and deliberately shaping her into a creature who would complete Adam.

Man is not complete without woman, and woman is not complete without man.

Prayer Starter...*God, help me to complete my marriage partner.*

Walk It Out: Together - one flesh.

THURSDAY ~ For this "oneness" to occur, there must be the process of "leaving" and "cleaving."

To "**leave**" means to place every other relationship at a lower priority than the marriage relationship. It has the connotation of "to loose," "to forsake." This involves spirit, soul and body.

To **"cleave"** means to "adhere to, to stick to, to be bound together by a strong bond" – a covenant. In the New Testament, it means "to stick like glue, to be welded together so that the two cannot be separated without serious damage to both."

This "leaving and cleaving" is necessary for intimacy.

Prayer Starter...*God, I place all other relationships lower and pray for a strong bond with my mate.*

Walk It Out: Covenant in marriage - spirit, soul, and body.

FRIDAY ~ We have "leaving, cleaving, and weaving (one flesh)."

Intimacy = In-to-me-see

This process produces a "oneness" which creates security, confidence and vulnerableness in the husband and wife.

A husband is to **become** "one" with God and then become "one" with his wife. He is to "guide, guard, and protect" her. He is to "love, nurture, and cherish" her.

What is his reward?

She will be his "**helpmate**" – like him (yet different), corresponding to him as agreeing to him. She becomes compatible with him spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. She is his complement, providing what he lacks and fulfilling his **potential.**

And that is **Biblical oneness!**

Prayer Starter...*God, I pray for oneness which brings my marriage together in a secure, confident and loving marriage.*

Walk It Out: Together, fulfilling your God-given purpose on earth.

Homework:
Oneness Exercises

Make your marriage an adventure, not a task.

-Openly discuss with your spouse your life dream.

-Share alone time where you focus on your deep, intimate feelings and desires.

-Take a walk, hike, bike ride, and laugh, have fun together.

-Make love often!

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