FACING THE FEAR THAT BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS

Edmound Teo

"Fear is the path to the Dark Side. Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering."

-YODA

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." __solomon

MARRIAGE AS GOD'S IMAGE

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

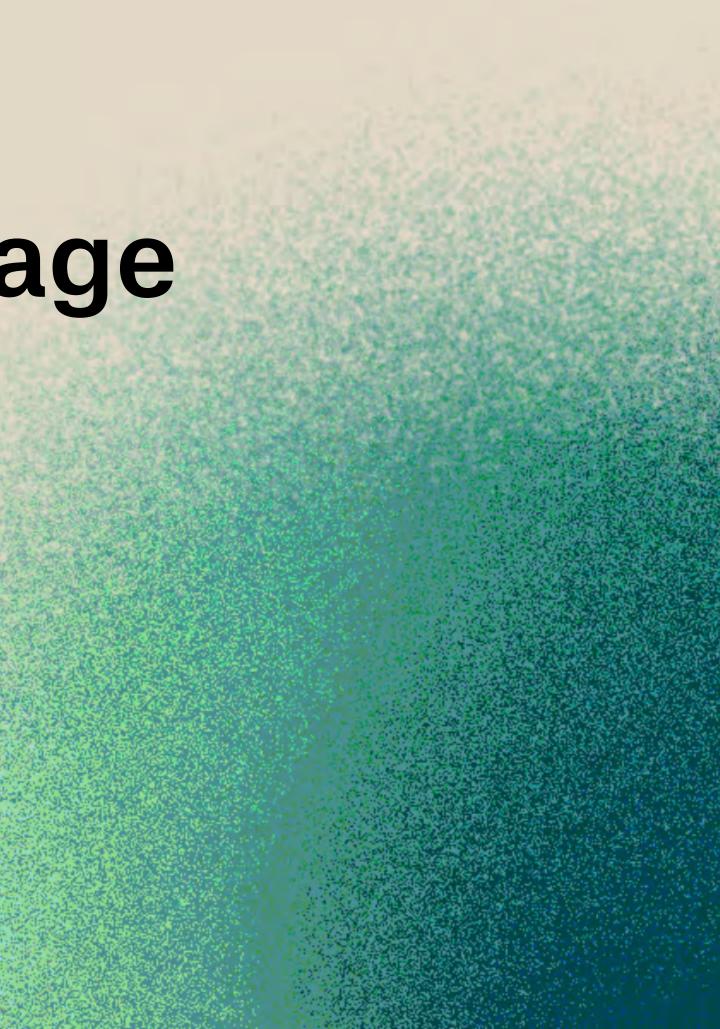
GENESIS 1:27 (ESV)

The invisible is made visible by the physical



MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INVENTION

A **wedding** is man's invitation but a **marriage** is God's invention.



MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INVENTION

Designed to leave



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother ...

EPHESIANS 5:31A (ESV)

Parents play an important role in your spouse selection. They have more life experience and have a deeper understanding of marriage and life.

It is important to consult them when choosing a life partner.

Parents, if you have a married child, it's your responsibility to let them go.

Married children, your spouse is your priority, your parents are your responsibility.

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God... But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 TIMOTHY 5:4,8 (ESV)

Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INVENTION

Designed to leave

Designed to *cleave*

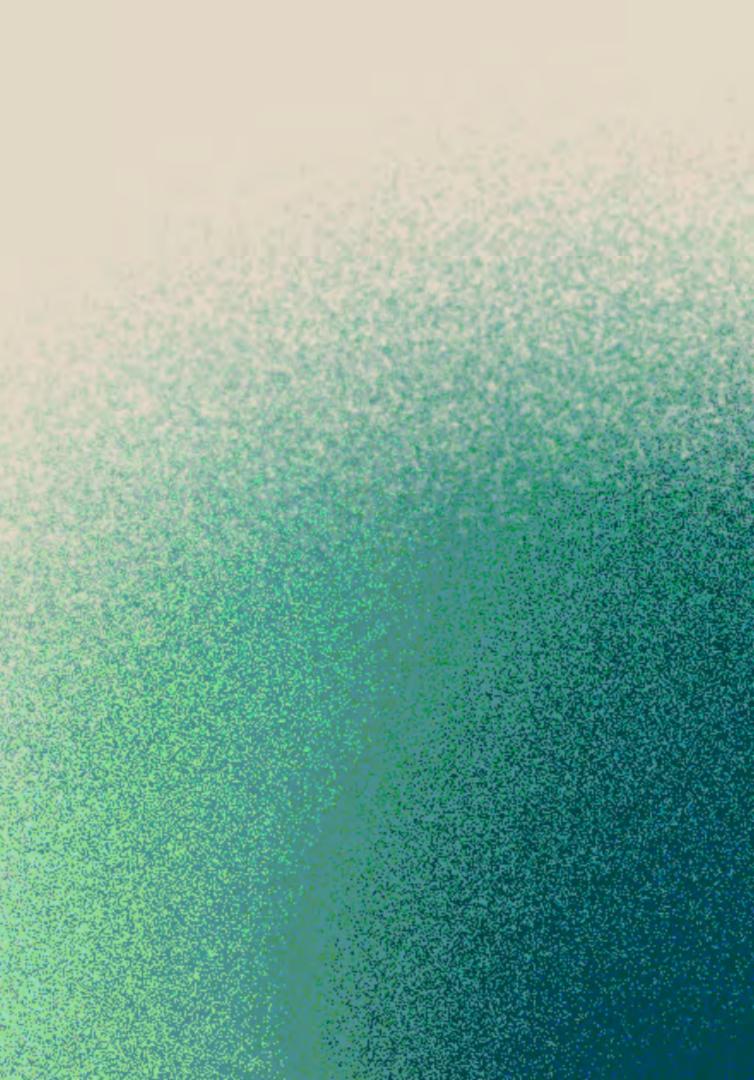


...and hold fast to his wife...

EPHESIANS 5:31B (ESV)



A marriage can survive without first or the last but not without this one.



This glue is not just love or the law but the Lord Jesus. It is not just chemistry, compatibility and contract but covenant.

It is a permanent bond only broken by death.

MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INVENTION

Designed to leave

Designed to *cleave*

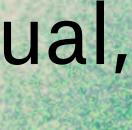
Designed to **become one**

...and the two shall become one flesh.

EPHESIANS 5:31C (ESV)

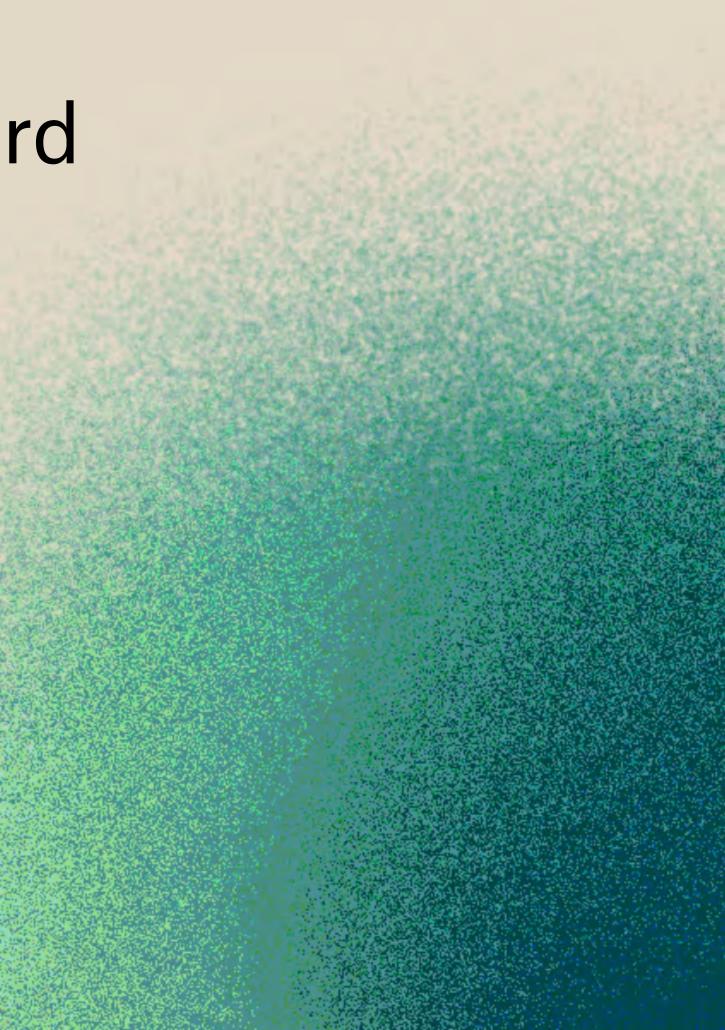
It is important, only if it rests on the first two pillars of marriage.

If cleaving refers to the spiritual, becoming "one flesh" refers to the physical joining.



Without the first two, this third aspect is empty of meaning.

It is damaging to self and all future relationships.



MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INSTRUCTION

MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INSTRUCTION

Husbands, love your wives as yourselves.

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself...



#Love your wife in the same way **YOU LOVE YOURSELF**.

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

MATTHEW 22:37-40 (ESV)

#Love your wife in the same way GOD LOVES YOU.

We love because He first loved us.

1 JOHN 4:19 (ESV)

#Love your wife in the same way **YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**.

If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them ... But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

LUKE 6:32,35 (ESV)

Every successful relationship must have the 4 Cs:



Commitment Compromise

We have overemphasised compatibility and chemistry!

Communication

Compromise because it is better to **BEND** a little than to **BREAK** a relationship.

MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INSTRUCTION

Husbands, love your wives as yourselves. Wives, respect your husbands in the fear of God.

...submitting to one another out of reverence (phobos) for Christ ... and let the wife see that she respects (phobeomai) her husband.

EPHESIANS 5:21, 33B (ESV)

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

EPHESIANS 5:21 (KJV)



and subject yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:21 (NASB)



Yet, let every one of you do the same. Let everyone love his wife, even as himself. And let the wife see that she fears her husband.

EPHESIANS 5:33 (REVISED GENEVA TRANSLATION)

Iet the wife see that she fear her husband. EPHESIANS 5:33B (ASV)

but as to the wife [I speak] that she may fear the husband.

EPHESIANS 5:33B (DARBY TRANSLATION)

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God... However, let each one of you love his wife as himself (in the fear of God), and let the wife see that she respects her husband (in the fear of God). EPHESIANS 5:21,33 (ED TEO)

THERE ARE TWO ELEMENTS:

- Faith
- Obedience



Obedience makes visible your faith.

Obedience is the visible expression of the invisible faith.

Faith **COMES** through hearing the Word but is **CULTIVATED** and **COMPLETED** through obedience.

Faith in God produces the fear of God and the love for God.



When faith is absent, negative fear is present.

We fear the unknown. When faith is broken, love is shaken.



Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always ... PROVERBS 28:14A (ESV)



Husbands, love your wives in the fear of God.

Wives, respect your husbands in the fear of God.

Just as Christ's headship was shown not through the use of force, but through the sacrifice of Himself for her. Likewise the husband's headship is shown not by forcing but by sacrificing.



Grow in the fear of God as you make a new start from today.



HUSBAND AND WIFE: From this day forward, we invite Jesus to be at the centre of our marriage and to make us one. We want our marriage to reflect the image of God's relationship with humanity.

HUSBAND:

I belong to you. I am not afraid of you. I am committed to love you just as I love myself and as Christ love the Church. I ask for your forgiveness for my failure to love you like Christ loves you.

WIFE:

I belong to you. I am not afraid of you. I am committed to respect you in the fear of God. I ask for your forgiveness for my failure to respect you in the fear of God. Amen.