

Your Response to this Lesson

1. If you've never studied these passages, take time to do that in order to grasp a firmer understanding of what God did in creation.
2. What is your "garden" in which you must exert dominion? How are you doing in helping it to flourish and grow? Are you being a good steward of the small plot of land God has given you charge over?
3. If you married and still struggling with "leaving and cleaving," talk to someone about it. Maybe you are not prioritizing your spouse over other things? Find a friend or a pastor who can help think through the problem.
4. Husbands: Take some time this week to encourage your wife about how she is a wonderful helpmate. Write a note; tell her in person. That type of regular encouragement can go a long way in the marriage. Help her to understand how she is especially suited to be a complement to you.
5. Wives: What parts of being a helpmate do you dislike? Starting praying to God that he will help you heart attitudes towards these things.
6. Are there things that are getting in the way of you and your spouse becoming "one flesh?" What stops you from having unity in your marriage? What can you do to get rid of these obstacles to unity?

Core Seminars—Marriage (Week 2)

A Biblical Theology of Marriage

Creation (Gen 1 & 2)

Review

Week 1: Is God at the center of our marriage?

Marriage and Creation

Genesis 1:26-28

- Image-bearers
- Dominion
- Procreation

Genesis 2:15-25

- Gen 2:15 – "work it and take of it."
- Gen 2:18
 - Companionship
 - Complementarity
 - Suitable Helper

Next Week: A Biblical Theology of Marriage Part 3—Redemption.

Implication 1: In Gen 2, we see the first indicators of God's desire to give men the authority to lead in marriage.

Implication 2: The Bible does not prohibit a woman to work outside of the home.

Implication3: A wife is choosing to put herself under the leadership of a fallen man.

Implication4: The husband is called to servant leadership.

Implication5: The marital relationship has a structure to it.

Implication6: The husband's leading and the wife's helping is *the shape* of the marriage relationship and *not just one aspect* of it.

Implication7: The shape of the relationships is not some idea that the pastor came up with. This is God's design.

Genesis 2:21-25

- Gen 2:23 - "Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh"

- Gen 2:24
 - Leaving
 - Be united/Hold fast/Cleave
 - One Flesh

- Gen 2:25

Implication1: In marriage, your spouse now has greater priority than your family of origin.

Implication 2: Carefully examine your relationship with your parents to make sure you're letting go.

Implication3: In marriage, there is re-orientation of priorities to make the spouse primary.

Implication4: Marriage is good for all men and women, not just Christians.

Implication5: Monogamy.

Implication6: Fidelity.

Implication7: God's ideal parameters for marriage are established in creation **before** the entrance of sin into the world.

Implication8: If God is at the center of this story, he also stands at the center of your marriage.