

Unity:

Being united;
oneness of mind or feeling



God's design for marriage is "oneness" - being *completely* united as husband and wife. Unity is a practical application of that oneness. You may not agree with thoughts, feelings, or behaviors of your spouse, but is there a unity? Or is there division? God desires unity, Satan seeks to divide. Which direction is *your* marriage going? Unity? Or division?

Unity does not happen naturally and, in fact, will tend to naturally break down. People tend to be selfish, self-centered, and individualistic. We don't naturally think about our spouse or put them first; in our thoughts or our actions. The Bible teaches that we are to put others first, that we are to consider what others think and feel. When we marry, we give up certain "rights" we had as a single person. But we tend to want it all - the benefits of marriage without the responsibility and change that the unity of God's design for marriage requires.

Say your spouse does something hurtful; is your first reaction one of "unity?" Or is it one of division? I'll bet, that like most of us, it is thinking of yourself first - 'They hurt me, I'm angry.' The thoughts are usually about ourselves; the hurt, disappointment, anger, resentment, or frustration we tend to feel when our spouse does something wrong.

Brothers and sisters, this should not be so. According to God's plan, we are to address the wrong in a way that will build our spouse up, to help him or her draw closer to the Lord, not separate them from God through our criticism and condemnation. Unity in the Christian marriage means that we are on the same page, seeking to grow in the Lord and helping each other in that direction. We stand together against the divisiveness so prevalent in our world today. Our challenge is to think about the *we* before we think about the *me*.

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Articles to check out: *Unity in Marriage* by Tim Savage - www.todayschristianwoman.com

Four Keys in the Fight for Unity in Marriage by Brad Mitchell - www.buildyourmarriage.org

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