



God created the world and everything in it as we see in the first two chapters of Genesis. As He created, He put everything into order and part of that order was the creation of man, woman, and the institution of marriage. He said in Genesis 2:24 that a man would leave his father and mother and *cleave* to his wife. It is just what marriage is; a man and woman joining - adhering to each other for life. At one point in my life, I thought people married and they remained that way for life. The cleaving was that they just remained together. I didn't understand that there was more to marriage than saying 'I do' and then going on with life. Coming to Christ and learning about God's plan for marriage revealed that there is so much more than just *being married*.

Joining - adhering closely to another person requires so much more than just being married. Verse 24 goes on to say that they become one flesh - husband and wife are to become *one*; physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. To truly become one, we must *cleave* to our spouse. That adherence is more than just superglue; it is adhering so closely that we don't even think of one without the other. Yes, we still are very different people and sometimes, we will do things without each other. But when a husband and wife cleave to each other, they make their marriage *the* primary relationship in their world. They seek to forge an intimate relationship where they are *fully known* by each other.

Developing that kind of relationship requires investment; it requires spending time, energy, and money to grow into that kind of intimacy. Yes, there is work and kids and the stuff of life, but you must make the decision to *cleave* to your spouse - to consciously seek to grow in every area of intimacy. It requires honesty, openness and connecting with your spouse every day; even if it is just for a few minutes to take a breath, pray together, or catch up with where you each are at. It is only impossible, if you don't try...

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow closer together.

Article to check out:

What Leave and Cleave in Marriage Means & How It Works by Owen Kessler - www.Marriage.com