

# Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 17 OF 52

## UNITED FOR LIFE

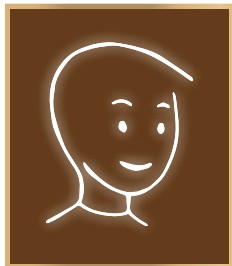
**LESSON AIM:** To understand how in marriage two people become one for life.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **MATTHEW 19:5-6** When a man and woman come together, they become \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **MARK 10:7-9** Marriage is a life-long union. What God has \_\_\_\_\_ man must not \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **PROVERBS 5:18, 20** This scripture tells you to be happy with \_\_\_\_\_ and not to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. **MALACHI 2:15-16** God hates \_\_\_\_\_.

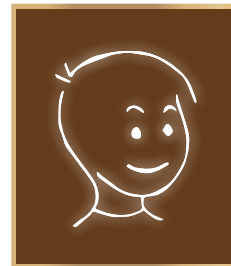
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



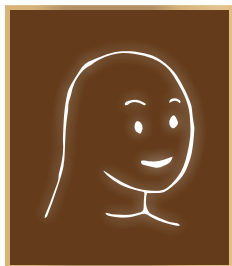
### By Yourself

In prayer before God, renew your commitment to your wife.



### With Your Children

Ask your children to help you plan a special "night out" for you and your wife. Report back to them how it went.



### With Your Wife

Request the booklet *God's Idea of Marriage* from NYM Ministries [www.nym.ca](http://www.nym.ca). Read through it with your wife and discuss it together.

The Bible says three times that a man will “be joined to his wife”. What does this mean?

To make furniture, you can fasten different kinds of wood together with glue. You spread the glue on both pieces of wood, then press them tightly together. When the glue dries, the pieces of wood cannot be separated without doing great damage to them.

That is how God wants a marriage to be—husband and wife so close together that nothing can separate them. The way to have a marriage like this is found in one word, commitment.

### COMMITMENT IS:

- A solemn promise made before God and human witnesses
- Daily prayer for your wife
- An agreement with your eyes not to look with desire at another woman
- A gift, a hug, an “I love you” at least once a day
- Helping her with her work even when you are tired
- Finding times to laugh and play together
- Spending extra time together during sickness or suffering
- Heart-to-heart talks late at night when you would like to sleep
- Calling home at least once a day when you must be away

### COMMITMENT IS NOT:

- A “trial marriage” that can be stopped if it doesn’t work out
- Believing in divorce as a way out of marriage problems
- Putting work, sports, children, or other women ahead of your wife
- An agreement where you can both flirt with someone else occasionally
- A 50-50 relationship, where each comes only half-way to agree with the other.

A husband and wife who are truly committed to each other will be united for life in body, mind, heart and spirit.

**GENESIS 2:24, JOB 31:1, GENESIS 26:8-9, ROMANS 7:2-3**

**...FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND WILL LIVE WITH HIS WIFE. THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE.  
(MATTHEW 19:5)**

**Commitment holds a marriage together.**

**Commitment... lots of time and attention, “for better or for worse”.**

**Commitment is not...leaving the back door open to escape from marriage.**

**Do your decisions and actions draw you together or tear you apart?**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

When Johnny got married, one of his most important goals was to have a home of his own. He got his father’s permission to use an old shed near his father’s house. He worked at fixing up the shed and made a nice little house for himself and his new wife.

They wanted to stick together and not let anything pull them apart. After a couple of years, Johnny was able to get a new house. This made a very comfortable home for his wife and children.

They were a happy family, working, laughing, praying, and sharing together. Their marriage is solid because it is built on commitment.

