

2/23/20

**The Two Shall Be One Flesh**  
**Eph. 5:31, #8**

The following add occurred in a London newspaper:  
“Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages,  
bitter cold, long months of complete darkness,  
constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and  
recognition in case of success.”

\* The add was signed by Sir Ernest Shackleton,  
Antarctic explorer.” Thousands responded instantly to  
the call. They were ready to sacrifice all for the  
elation of adventure and uncertain honor, should we  
do any less for our marriages? #5646

We want to focus on a very practical issue, the  
boundaries that are too often ignored by married  
couples regarding their friends and relatives.

\* Think of three concentric circles on a target.

1. The outer one is your circle of friends.
2. The middle one is your circle of relatives.
3. The inner one is your circle of husband and  
wife, the bulls-eye.

Take note that none of these concentric circles ever  
cross-over or overlap into the others, so must be the  
case with friends and relatives, so as not to violate or  
upset the harmony of the family home. Eph. 5:31

\* “For this reason a man shall leave his father and  
mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall  
become one flesh.”

Our text reveals that both husband and wife take up  
the closest union that will ever exist between two  
people, so all other relationships are secondary and  
subordinate to the marriage relationship.

1. Both individuals leaves father and mother.
2. Both individuals are joined to each other.
3. Both individuals become one flesh.

\* Not a temporary or trial union, but a life-long  
commitment till death’.

The relation of two becoming one flesh is protected  
by establishing three concentric circles. Eph. 5:31

- I. The circle of friends.
- II. The circle of relatives.
- III. The circle of husband and wife.

**I. The circle of friends.**

A. This is the outer concentric circle.

1. When a man or a woman agree to marry,  
they have to recognize past and present  
friends, as well as any acquaintances are last  
in their priority list, in view of their family.
  - a. All other relationships are subordinate to  
one’s husband or wife.
  - b. Particularly past boy and girl-friends.
  - c. This is not being control freaks, but the  
exercise of good common sense.

2. Often marriages are hurt and even broken up because the place given to friends is on a higher priority than their mate.
    - a. They continue to live as single, while being married, thinking they are not accountable to their mate.
    - b. They come and go as they please and can not understand why their mate is having a difficult time with it.
    - c. They spend more time with their friends than their mates.
- B.** The man's typical failures.
1. His friends may always be over to watch sporting events or just to visit, etc
    - a. His wife seems to have no time of relief from them.
    - b. His wife seems to always end up being their maid.
  2. He sets the example of disrespect for his wife by how he speaks to her.
    - a. Allows his friends to overstep their place, to poke fun at her, causing her to feel humiliated, dishonored and unloved.
    - b. I am not talking about not being able to joke with one another and enjoy a good sense of humor!
  3. He has the need to have other people with them all the time, invading their privacy.
    - a. There is always someone else included, as the third wheel or more.

- b. He can not seem satisfied being just with his wife alone.
  - c. The woman therefore becomes resentful through time, against her husband and the individuals.
4. He will do anything for his friends, but not his wife, others come first.
  - a. He is "good neighbor Sam" and helps everyone and anyone.
  - b. But when his wife asks him to fix the leaky faucet, he responds, "What do you want" Can't you see I just helped John cut down his tree!"
  - c. His friends and other are placed on a higher priority than his wife.
  - d. Now, anytime that friends disrupt or overstep their boundaries into the relative or immediate family circle, she needs to remind him as the head of the house to set the boundaries.
  - e. The greater tragedy is when this is the case with ministers and elders of the church, for their qualifications are to be their home, not simply that he helps others. 1Tim. 3; Tit. 1  
\* Jesus said, "They strain at a gnat and swallow a camel". Matt. 23:24
5. He is negligent in the duties of the house.
  - a. She has to do everything around the house or have someone else do the it.

- b. She mows the lawn, cleans up after the dog and paints the house.
  - 6. He confides his personal problems with friends.
    - a. And when his wife finds out, she is humiliated.
    - b. He is betraying the trust of his mate and hurts his marriage.
    - c. Privacy is not to be broken between husband and wife, unless they both agree to confide in someone together!
  - 7. He controls all the finances and business.
    - a. His wife is ignorant about their bills.
    - b. His wife knows nothing about the taxes, insurances or retirement plans.
    - c. His wife is absolutely clueless on what to do or how to do it if he died.
- C. The woman's typical failures.
- 1. Her friends are always over showing up early, as he is going off to work.
  - 2. She allows their privacy to be invaded constantly.
  - 3. Now, anytime friends disrupt or overstep their boundaries into the relative or immediate family circle, I as the head of the house need to set the boundaries.
  - 4. She may even boast that she is not out working in the secular world and stays home, but it would be more correct to say she stays in other people's home.

- 5. At times a woman working out of need, is a more faithful home-keeper than one who stays home, living out of priorities.
- 6. She also can allow ungodly friends to influence her thinking contrary to the Scriptures, bringing marriage problems.
  - \* Evil company corrupts good morals. 1Cor. 15:33
  - a. She becomes lax in her responsibilities, house, children etc.
  - b. Now no one needs to live in a museum, but no one should live in a zoo either!
  - c. The children need to be cared for and supervised, as to where they go, who they are with and what they're doing?

### **Illustration**

People go out of their way to set up fences around their property to keep strangers out and avoid problems with their neighbor, only those allowed to come within those boundaries go in, should we be any less discrete with our boundaries in our marriages for friends?

\* Respectable and common-sense boundaries between friends and married couples enhance and enrich the relationship of friends!

### **Application**

- 1. Too often pressure and fear of offending people keep couples from setting the boundaries.

- \* “Whoever has no rule over his own Spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.” Prov. 25:28
  - a. A failure to do so, will only undermine the marriage in oneness and friendships,
  - b. A failure to protect one’s wife from abusive friends destroys oneness and intimacy,
- 2. The level at which friends will be allowed in will differ
- \* “The righteous<sup>s</sup> should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” Prov. 12:26
  - a. Some will be mere acquaintances.
  - b. While others will be very close friends, at times closer than family members.
  - c. But all this takes place by one’s own permission, through time tracking together.
- 3. Ladies and Gentlemen some of you never had the proper example by your own parents.
  - a. God by His grace gives you instruction in the Bible, especially the Proverbs, Timothy and Titus.
  - b. God by His mercy provides godly women and men in the church fellowship, as examples to help and teach others. 1Tim. 5:1-2; Tit. 2:4-8
- 4. Friends are important, but once you are married you guard and protect your married relationship.
  - a. There are times when both of you will need time to do some things apart and there is nothing wrong with that, but if that is the rule, this is not good.

- b. The absence will cause you to appreciate each other and realize how we can easily take each other for granted.
- c. You need to be creative in the things you do with each other or fall into boredom and a stagnant life, but don’t try to copy anyone.
  - \* “My **beloved** spoke, and said to me: “Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away.” Song Sol. 2:10

***The circle of friends is a boundary that must be set for a healthy oneness in marriage!***

## **II. The circle of relatives.**

- A. This circle is the middle concentric circle.
  - 1. Included are in-laws, alias outlaws.
    - a. This is a very difficult boundary to establish, especially if you have become a Christian and your parents are not Christians.
    - b. You have to ask God for wisdom, courage and tactfulness.
  - 2. The brothers and sisters on both sides.
    - a. No member of the family has the right or business to upset your home.
    - b. At times relatives make themselves part of the home and that is no good.
    - c. There was a mother who wanted the key to her sons home, but the wife was not in agreement and felt invaded.

- d. Since the Son was so used to being overruled by his mother, he did not step in to set the boundaries, making his wife feel insecure with him.
  - e. The mother was so domineering over her son that it caused great friction between he and his new bride.
  - f. Do you know how they bury mother-in-laws in Mexico? Head-first, in case they try to dig their way out!
3. Families are different and have different upbringing, like cultural differences that can clash with Christian standards.
    - a. Particularly Mexican, Italian, Filipinos and black families that tend to be close and often controlled by the mother, it is wrong!
    - b. Family politics that attempt to rule by majority to apply pressure to force a marriage to conform, again is wrong.
  4. Remember a man leaves father and mother behind and joins, to glue upon, to his wife and they become one flesh.
    - a. No one gets between the two of you.
    - b. No one is placed on a higher level, not even your own children!
    - c. No one sets up policies and boundaries but the two of you, according to the Scriptures.

**B. The problems by the man's family.**

1. Many men never leave mommy and daddy, allowing them to run their lives.
  - a. Family gatherings.
  - b. Christmas, etc.
2. Their parents influence their behavior towards their wives.
  - a. Dropping little hints to instigate trouble, seeking to still be in control.
  - b. Gentlemen if you partake, then on the drive home you end in a fight, due to the betrayal felt by your wife, as you took your mother's or father's side.
3. They find her faults and use them against her.
  - a. If your parents talk against your wife, you be the first to confront them with your disapproval.
  - b. Tell them she is your wife and if there is something they dislike about her they need to talk to her and not try to divide you, understanding your loyalty to her.
4. They may attempt to interfere with the discipline of your children.
  - a. Grandparent have often said, "You will never spank my grandson in my house".
  - b. You need to inform them that the child is your responsibility, not theirs and you will not tolerate interference by them, to undermined your authority in front of your child.

5. They always want to lend and help them out financially.
  - a. If you can do without any help from your parents or hers, do it.
  - b. A constant dependency on your parents financially at times leads to their thinking they have more right to authority over you and it becomes harder for you to say no, when they want to take the lead.
  - c. At other times it leads to irresponsibility on the man's part to provide for his bride becoming lazy and indifferent, making his wife feel she can not count on him.
  - d. A healthy relation between a marriage and in-laws will appreciate what is given out of love by in-laws, without intruding or obligating them to anything.
  - e. But if you can not provide for your bride, a home and necessary things to live, you have no right to ask her to marry you!  
\* You do not plan on getting married to move in with your parents!
  - e. No young lady is good enough for their little boy.
  - f. Mommies have such a hard time letting go of their sons.

C. The problems by the woman's family.

- \* On the other hand there is the dad of the young lady, who saw her as his little

- princess, until this big baboon came and dragged her away.
1. Her father is always trying to advice his son-in-law, what to do and how to do it.
    - a. You ladies need to step in when you are alone with your father, and let him know that he needs to back off.
    - b. If he was unaware of it, it will help the relationship and value the council.
    - c. If he doesn't like it, he will know that your loyalty is to your husband, your new authority.
  2. Her father still feels he has authority over his daughter, usurping the place of her husband.
    - a. He might tell her, "We are all going to have Christmas at our house this year, so tell Jim to be there at three.
    - b. You need to tell your Dad right away, "Dad I don't know if Jim has other plans, I'll have to check with him".
    - c. You are communicating your responsible accountability to your husband, who is your head.
  3. He might use his daughter's love to manipulate her.
    - a. This is probably the worst abuse of parental love.
    - b. The parent uses their love to get their way by manipulating their son or

- daughter to do what they want, hurting their marriage, it is wrong.
- c. In Mexican, Latin and Philippino families this is common!
4. Her father will center on the husband's faults and use them, perhaps not being as talented as he.
    - a. "Who built the fence?" Jim did, and he says, "Yep, it looks like it".
    - b. There is always comparisons going on!
  5. Her father meddles between them in defense of his little princess.
    - a. Saying, "You do not talk to my daughter that way".
    - b. Ladies you need to tell your Dad to back off, it is not his place.
  6. No one is good enough for his princess, Daddies have such a hard time letting go of their daughters.
    - a. All of these things are more prone in non-believing parents, but Christian families are not excluded.
    - b. When first saved, I had to tell my Dad that he couldn't drink in my home.
  7. Now, in no way am I saying that once married parents are to be disrespected, completely neglected or abandoned.
    - a. But what I am saying is that the Bible says they have their place and it is never in your marriage, over your mate or family

- b. They come in to your inner circle only by permission and in the degree that you both agree and allow.
  - c. But also the greatest benefit is to your children, who grow up in a home with Biblical boundaries by seeing it, hearing it and holding to them.
- D. The warnings for husband and wife.**
1. Don't join in with your parents in the putting down of your mate, but be part of resolving problems that occur.
  2. Don't go to your parents to share your problems about your mate, they will favor you over your mate and a root of bitterness can develop after you both have made up.
    - a. Go to God for your problems.
    - b. Go to a Biblical councilor who you can have confidence in.
  3. Men don't compare your wives to your mother, you didn't marry your mother.
  4. Women don't compare your husband to your dad, you didn't marry your dad.

### **Illustration**

One man asked another, "What did Adam not have that made him the luckiest man in the world? In— laws!"

\* A Man, his wife, and mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there the mother-in-law passed away. The undertaker told them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or

you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.00. The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, “Why?” Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to spend only \$150.00?” The man said, “A man died here 2000 years ago, he was buried here and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can’t take that chance.”

\* Setting boundaries will keep you from this attitude!

### **Application**

1. How many divorces have taken place because of in-laws meddling with their children’s lives?

\* To their own selfish insensitivity!

2. I wonder how many young ladies and young men have allowed their parents to be in authority and influence, being placed on a higher loyalty level than their mates?

\* To their own foolishness and regret!

3. If you are Christians live your marriage by Biblical principles, as your parents affirm the Scriptures, pray for you and point you to Christ!

\* God will bless and honor your obedience to Him.

4. Remember you are to protect your marriage at all cost, being loyal to Christ and your mate.

\* Being one flesh!

***The circle of relatives is a boundary that must be recognized and respected to insure harmony in marriage!***

### **III. The circle of husband and wife.**

- A. This circle is the inner circle, the bulls-eye if you will.
1. The people in this circle are the husband, wife and children.
  2. The father is the head of the family.  
\* Not as a despot but a type of Christ.
  3. The mother is the complement of the father with fully delegated authority from the him, in his absence.  
\* Not allow the children to manipulate or talk her into not snitching on them!
  4. The children are under the authority of both parents.  
\* The sooner children understand there are consequences to disobedience the better of the harmony of the home will be and they also.
  5. The inner circle is protected at all times and no one gets into this circle without the permission of the head.
    - a. Both husband and wife pray and decide who is allowed into the circle.
    - b. Both should be looking for the people who will enhance the things of Christ.
  6. The children are not allowed by either parent to enter the inner circle of husband and wife to disrupt their oneness.
    - a. I am not talking about not meeting their needs help they need, these are a given.

- b. I am talking about the mother or father allowing the children to pit them against one another.
  - c. To take their side by accusing or disrespecting the other parent.
    - 1) If children know they can divide you, both of you are dead and resentment and bitterness will build up between you.
    - 2) Discuss the matter together, then come as one in your decision, but the ultimate decision is the man's.
- B.** The setting up and protecting of these three circles will enhance and blossom your sexual relationship.
1. If you don't set these boundaries it will sooner or later affect your intimacy.
    - \* Snapping at each other and pointing finger accusing and excusing one another will be the pattern!
  2. The sexual oneness is the result of being loyal, truthful, secure and protective of each other, honoring one another.
  3. The sexual oneness is approved by God in marriage, it is a privilege and gift.
    - a. God blessed it to be fruitful and to multiply through children. Gen. 1:28
    - b. Paul told the Corinthians that each man was to have his own wife that there be no sexual immorality. 1Cor. 7

- \* The submission is mutual in the sexual relationship, yet Paul focused on the man's submission.
  - c. The author to the Hebrew says that the marriage is honorable and the bed is undefiled. Heb. 13:4
4. Don't go share with anyone about your sexual intimacy or joke about it.
    - a. Sharing these things humiliates, dishonors and will anger one's mate.
    - b. Do you begin the day with a loving attitude and loving disposition?
    - c. Do you call her during the day?
    - d. Do you help her when you get home?
    - g. We think we are Don Juan, but she wants nothing to do with us?
      - 1) We have the mind of the Lord, the Song of Solomon, a romance manual. Phil. 2:5
      - 2) The Israelites would not allow anyone under 30 to read it, for it speaks of the honey-moon night.
        - \* Today young people are being taught that they are the mere extensions of the animal kingdom!
  5. The sexual relation is not one sided, but for mutually pleasure and satisfaction.
    - a. Too often the burden is placed on the woman.
    - b. Too often the woman is not taken into consideration.

- c. Submission is mutual in the sexual relationship. 1Cor. 7:1-3
- 1) Sex should not be used as a tool to manipulate or punish one's mate. Paul said they were **not to defraud** one another, except by consent for a time and then return so as to not be tempted by the Devil.
  - 2) Whenever you deny each other for long periods of time it is not healthy and you tempt each other.
  - 3) Sex involves a spiritual union, not just a physical one. 1Cor. 6:16-18
    - a) The union is a spiritual one, a very deep and bonding experience.
    - b) The physical is the vehicle.

C. The reminders for woman.

1. Remember you are moved by what you feel, but your husband by what he sees.
2. Do you keep yourself up physically or do you not even try?
  - a. No one is young forever, so we need to adjust to gravity and aging.
  - b. No one has the right to not try and do their part.
3. Do you go to bed with a flannels, night-gown or something appealing to him?
  - a. Here I come honey!
  - b. Or here you come with sweats on!

4. Do you communicate with your husband your feelings?
    - a. Your husband needs to know what you feel.
    - b. I am not talking about using your emotions and feelings to manipulate your husband!
  5. Do you try to please him in your dress?
    - a. I am not talking about being seductive, perverted or permissive.
    - b. I am talking about attempting to please your husband.
    - c. Remember how you fixed yourself up when you dated him.
- D. The reminder for men.
1. Remember you are moved by what you see, but your wife by what she feels.
    - a. Do you realize her need for affection apart or without sex?
    - b. Do you realize she needs your presence for strength and stability?
  2. Are you affectionate to her when it isn't bed time or only at bed time?
    - a. Sometimes all she wants is a good hug or to hear "I love you honey".
    - b. Your children need to see you be affectionate with your wife.
  3. Do you communicate to her your love and appreciation?

- a. I told her I loved her! When, when I married her, twenty years ago!
- b. Write her a card, call her and tell her.
- 4. Do you shave and brush your teeth before bed? Practices good hygiene!
  - a. Don't be insensitive to your mate.
  - b. If you are, you are headed for trouble.
  - c. By the way you are teaching your kids what it is to be a husband or wife.
- 5. Don't let the romance go out.
  - \* "Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats, Going down from Mount Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep Which have come up from the washing, Every one of which bears twins, And none is barren among them. Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, And your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil Are like a piece of pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower of David, Built for an armory, On which hang a thousand bucklers, All shields of mighty men. Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle, Which feed among the lilies. Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense. You are

- all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you." Song of Sol. 4:1-7
- 6. God approves and blesses sex in marriage.
    - \* "Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times: And always be enraptured with her love." Prov. 5:15-19

### **Illustration**

The orchestra is in full swing. The conductor is whipping himself into a frenzy of zeal and enthusiasm. But who is that approaching him? It is a member of his orchestra, the one who plays the triangle. He is speaking to the conductor, "Do you mind if I go home now--I've come to the end of my part of the score." #1680

\* What a perfect picture of a mate interested in the marriage relation and intimacy only for themselves and not their mate!

### **Application**

1. Sexual intimacy is the result of being Christ-like from the morning and throughout the day not just when it is time to go to bed.

- a. The blessing of God is between a man and a woman in the institution of marriage.
  - b. The proposed alternate life-styles of homosexuality is not what God intended, He condemns them throughout the Bible.
  - c. The solution to our immorality is not to continue to pass out condemns to students, but to tell them of the destruction that sex before brings and to abstain till marriage.
2. Sexual intimacy is an entrusting of oneself complete to the other being confident that love is their motive committed for life.
- a. The result being oneness of having children after the image and likeness of their parents.
  - b. The reason being that God desires to have a godly seed or offspring. Mal. 2:15
3. Sexual intimacy will be hindered whenever your accounts are not kept up to date.
- a. Unresolved issues of the past hinder both.
  - b. Resentment and bitterness results in anger, a desire to hurt the other and vengeance.
  - c. Be truthful about the issues that need to be resolved, do not lie or tell half truths or different versions, otherwise your mate will feel their trust is being betrayed and find it hard to believe anything you say, to be true.
  - d. Do not resort to bringing up the past if it has been resolved, but if it has not been resolved in both of your hearts and minds, it will come up again!

4. Sexual intimacy is cultivated indirectly by a passionate relation with Jesus.
- a. Passion for my Lord will keep me in love with Him.
  - b. Passion for my Lord will be a carry-over to my passion for my bride or her husband.
  - c. Passion for my bride will keep me pleasing my Lord, loving her as Christ the church and she responding to me.

***The inner circle of husband and wife boundary must exit to flourish and mature the oneness and intimacy in marriage!***

### **Conclusion**

The relation of two becoming one flesh is protected by establishing these three important concentric circles to insure harmony to grow in oneness in your marriage and home, the lack thereof will insure destruction!

- I.** The circle of friends is a boundary that must be set for a healthy oneness in marriage!
- II.** The circle of relatives is a boundary must be recognized and respected to insure harmony in marriage!
- III.** The inner circle of husband and wife boundary must exist to flourish and mature the oneness and intimacy in marriage!