

Creating Unity in the Home

INTRO:

Genesis 1, 2 - The Garden of Eden - God has finished creating the physical universe

- He is just about done
- "It was good" is stated at the end of every "day" of creation
- But God comes to a point where he sees there is one more step to take
- [Gen. 2:18](#) "it is not good." -- What is NOT GOOD?
- "For the man to be alone" read [Gen 2:21-24](#)
- Leave your father and mother...find a wife find a husband...ONE FLESH
- NO ONE ELSE LIKE THIS EVER WILL EXIST IN YOUR LIFE.
- An utterly unique relationship - one flesh, for all of your life. Children come, and children go...friends come, and friends go, houses, jobs, cars, possessions, places we decide to live, come and go...but **we** are ONE FLESH for life

Is this still in effect today?

- Jesus reaffirms it...[Matt. 19:1-9](#)
- Who makes it this way? GOD joins you together. HE makes you one flesh.
- Marriage is a spiritual, physical, emotional, mental union unlike any other.

What was the last part of the long prayer Jesus prayed as he prepared to go the cross? For UNITY among his people - [Jn. 17:20-23](#)

Unity with God is the starting point...[17:1-5](#)

But Jesus prays for the finishing point: *unity among his followers* [vs. 20-23](#)

Unity is hugely important to God and to Jesus

Unity in marriage is Key to your life in Christ, and to you and your children's happiness

God makes it available, but it takes conviction and work to bring it into your real life

[Eph. 4:1-1-6](#)

- Jesus is Lord
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Make every effort

[Eph. 5: 22-33](#) God's Plan for our ROLES as husband & wife - Follow it! A mystery!

- Husband: *Love and Lead* your wife–
 - The husband leads, but he is not overbearing; he leads with LOVE.
 - Some men don't step up and lead, they hold back and leave a vacuum
 - What does a follower need from a leader? *LOVE*
- Wife: *Respect* your husband, follow his leadership; adapt to him
 - What does a leader need from a follower? *RESPECT*

Practical Areas: (Sam and Geri give personal examples)

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- Priorities; setting up of daily and weekly schedule
- Kids – discipline, etc. **We chose to not argue and disagree in front of our kids**

- Money & finances (budget, housing, cars, motorcycle, etc. are joint decisions)
- Jobs (further education, etc.)
- Friends (find other couples whom you can *both* be friends with)
- Fun, relaxation, vacations, etc.
- Food and meals
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- Sex life

How do we build marriage unity in real life?

1. Prayer and bible study – Pray together daily, seek God’s wisdom and guidance

2. Open communication and discussion

- Open, not holding in our thoughts with fear or resentment
- Open, but not forceful and rigid in our opinions – patience and humility
- Not argumentative or insistent in areas of judgment and opinion
 - Prov. 15:18 A quick-tempered person stirs up dissension, but one who is slow to anger calms a quarrel.
 - Prov. 17:14 Starting a quarrel is like letting out water; stop it before strife breaks out!
 - Prov. 17:19 The one who loves a quarrel loves transgression; whoever builds his gate high seeks destruction.
 - Prov. 20:3 It is an honor for a person to cease from strife, but every fool quarrels.

*Whenever we have a disagreement, we will no longer argue and quarrel, but instead we will **immediately** seek advice from our counselors and advisors. We will allow them to mediate our final decision and accept their guidance rather than argue and quarrel with one another.*

3. Mentoring and Wise counsel – Euodia and Syntyche- (Phil. 4:2-3 - when you disagree and cannot resolve it, get help from godly, wise people)

- 1Cor. 1:10 - I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.
- Phil. 4:2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.
- Prov. 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.
- Prov. 27:9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one’s friend springs from his earnest counsel.

*We will openly share our family **finances and our budget** with our counselors and advisors. We will allow them to help us come to a budgetary plan we both agree upon, and to monitor our faithfulness to it as we move forward. We will accept their guidance rather than argue and quarrel with one another*

