

MORE 2 LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.
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JOHN HAD PREACHED A MESSAGE ABOUT THE MAN WHO HAD LAID BY THE POOL FOR 38 YEARS WAITING TO BE HEALED. AND THE QUESTION THAT JOHN ASKED OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO PEOPLE LAST NIGHT IS, DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED? IT'S THE SAME QUESTION THAT JESUS ASKED THE GENTLEMAN BY THE POOL. DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED? THE THING THAT GRIPPED ME LAST NIGHT IS CHRIS CAME AND WEPT HIS WAY TO JESUS. HE NEVER CAME AND ASKED GOD TO HEAL HIS HEARING OR GIVE HIM SPEECH. CAN GOD DO THAT? ABSOLUTELY HE CAN. WITHOUT A DOUBT. UNEQUIVOCALLY, YES. HE CAN. HE STILL DOES. BUT HE NEVER CAME ASKING FOR THAT. HE CAME ASKING GOD TO HEAL HIS HEART. AND HE DID. AND THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE HERE WERE TESTIMONY TO THAT AND IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO WATCH HIM SIGN WITH SUCH FERVOR THAT -- IF YOU WERE UP HERE ANYWHERE CLOSE TO HIM, YOU COULD HEAR HIS HANDS SLAPPING TOGETHER AND BEATING ON HIS CHEST BECAUSE HE WAS SO EXCITED. HE WAS SO EXCITED HE HAD JESUS IN HIS HEART. THIS IS A YOUNG MAN WHO HAS BEEN IN CHURCH ALL HIS LIFE. IF YOU HEARD HIS STORY THAT THE INTERPRETER WAS SIGNING, HE SAID I'VE HEARD IT; I'VE BEEN THERE. I KNOW IT. AND SO MANY TIMES I'VE LISTENED TO IT BUT I NEVER REALLY GRASPED IT; NEVER REALLY BELIEVED IT; NEVER REALLY GRABBED HOLD OF IT UNTIL NOW AND HE JUST KEPT SAYING THANK YOU JESUS, THANK YOU JESUS, THANK YOU JESUS, OVER AND

OVER. AND HE GRABBED HOLD OF GOD. HAVE YOU GRABBED HOLD OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST LIKE THAT?

WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE FOUR WEEKS, FIVE WEEKS, AND I ACTUALLY ONLY PLANNED ON IT BEING A THREE-WEEK SERIES AND I WAS DONE AFTER LAST WEEK AND THAT WAS GOING TO BE IT -- ON FORGIVENESS AND AS I WAS PRAYING TO THE LORD ABOUT WHAT TO PREACH THIS WEEK AND GOING THROUGH, HE BROUGHT ME TO ANOTHER THING HERE ON MARRIAGE. AND LIKE I'M DONE WITH MARRIAGE, AND HE SAID NO I WANT YOU TO DO THIS TOO. THE ACTUAL TITLE OF THE MESSAGE IS GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MARRIAGE. AND YOU THINK THAT WOULD'VE COME FIRST, AND IT COULD HAVE, JUST LIKE THE FORGIVENESS BUT WHAT GOD BEGAN TO SHOW ME AS I WAS PUTTING IT TOGETHER TO WAS WE LEARNED ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS HUSBAND AND WIFE; WE LEARNED ABOUT RESPECT FOR OUR SPOUSE. WE LEARNED ABOUT FORGIVING THEM IF THEY HAD BROKEN DOWN ON THE FIRST TWO THINGS. NOW ARE GOING TO GO BACK AND LOOK AT GOD'S ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT. AND AS WE GO THROUGH THIS I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO BEGIN WITH, MY SON, WHENEVER I GRAB MY WIFE AROUND THE HOUSE AND KISS HER, KISS HER AND HOLD ON TO HER, OCCASIONALLY BRANDON WILL GO PG-13, PG-13,; HE'LL COVER HIS EYES UP AND GO TO SCREAMING. THERE MAY BE PARTS OF TODAY'S WORD THAT ARE PG-13. I'LL JUST TELL YOU UP FRONT BUT IT'S GOD'S WORDS. ONE DAY WE'RE GOING TO DO A STUDY ON THE SONG OF SOLOMON. IT'S RATED R. I WANT TO TELL YOU. IF YOU'VE NEVER READ IT, READ IT. SONG OF SOLOMON. WE FIND OUT THAT OUR GOD IS NOT ONLY HOLY AND NOT ONLY JUST, RIGHTEOUS, HE IS A

PASSIONATE GOD. HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT YOU. HE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS PEOPLE AND HE LOVES THEM DEARLY. HE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT THE BRIDE OF CHRIST AND THAT'S YOU CHRISTIANS, THAT'S US. HE WANTS US TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER, HUSBAND AND WIFE.

SEE, BACK IN THE 50S AND 60S WHEN OZZIE AND HARRIET WERE ON, THAT KIND OF THING, THAT WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FAMILY UNIT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. IT WAS WELL PORTRAYED IN MANY WAYS MORE THAN WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BUT IT BEGAN IN GENESIS CHAPTER 2. GOD ORDAINED IT. GOD LAID IT OUT THAT WAY. AND THE KEY VERSE IS ACTUALLY GOING TO BE IN VERSE 24 BUT BEFORE WE GET THERE IN JUST A LITTLE WHILE, WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH GENESIS 2 VERSE 7. GOD HAD ALREADY WENT THROUGH AND HE HAD DONE HIS CREATING. HE IS CREATING LEFT AND RIGHT AND BRINGING THINGS INTO BEING AND IN VERSE NUMBER 7, IT SAYS, THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND AND HE BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH OF LIFE. AND THE MAN BECAME A LIVING BEING. THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE, ISN'T IT? GOD BREATHING LIFE. HE STILL DOES THAT. HE WANTS TO BREATHE LIFE INTO YOU EVEN NOW. SOMETIMES WE WALK AROUND AND WE NEED SOME RESUSCITATING, REALLY. WE NEED SOME MOUTH-TO-MOUTH FROM GOD. WE NEED HIM TO BREATHE FRESH LIFE INTO US BECAUSE WE GET THE CARES OF THE WORLD ALL OVER US HAVING THE DRUDGERIES AND DRAGGING THEM AROUND. IT'S NOT A PRETTY PICTURE.

OVER IN VERSE 18 FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER ALL THAT THROUGH CHAPTER 1, EVERYTHING THAT HE CREATED AND GOD LOOKED AND SAW THAT

IT WAS GOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME HE LOOKED AND SAW THAT IT WAS NOT GOOD. IT WAS NOT GOOD. THIS WAS NOT -- LOOK HERE. IN VERSE 18, THE LORD GOD SAID IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE MAN TO BE ALONE. I WILL MAKE A SUITABLE HELPER FOR HIM. NOW SUITABLE IN SOME TRANSLATIONS THAT YOU HAVE, YOU MIGHT SEE COMPARABLE, A COMPARABLE HELPER. NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT HELPER FOR JUST A SECOND, A COMPARABLE HELPER. TO BEGIN WITH, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER BACK WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THE WHOLE SUBMISSION THING. YOU REMEMBER, WE TOOK THE WORD SUBMISSION AND WE BROKE IT UP -- THE SUB AND THE LITTLE HYPHEN AND THEN MISSION BECAUSE WE ARE ON MISSION TOGETHER IS REALLY WHAT IT IS. ANY REVISITING THAT -- IF YOU MISSED IT -- I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET THE CD AND LISTEN TO IT BECAUSE YOU REALLY BEGIN TO GRASP THE GODLY TERM OF SUBMISSION. IN SHORT, IT'S THIS; AS THE MAN LOOKS AND SAYS, YOU MUST SUBMIT TO ME, THE WORLD WOULD SAY SUBMISSION IS YOU MUST SUBMIT TO ME SO YOU HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING I SAY; YOU HAVE TO COME UNDERNEATH MY HOLD ON YOU; MY GRIP ON YOU. I CONTROL YOU. BUT GODLY SUBMISSION IS THIS: YOU MUST SUBMIT TO ME, THEREFORE I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU; I AM ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOU. I HAVE TO COME UP UNDERNEATH YOU AND LIFT YOU UP. I HAVE TO CARE FOR YOU, PROTECT YOU, PROVIDE FOR YOU. I AM RESPONSIBLE, ALL OF THOSE THINGS. YOU ARE ON MISSION WITH ME OUR MISSION TOGETHER IS THIS. THAT WE LIVE A LIFE TOGETHER AS ONE, ONENESS, A UNITY THAT WOULD GLORIFY THE LORD GOD. OUR LIVES TOGETHER ARE SUPPOSED TO GLORIFY HIM. THAT'S THE MISSION THAT WE ARE ON TOGETHER. SHE'S A SUITABLE HELPER IN THIS WALK THAT

YOU HAVE, IN THIS LIFE THAT YOU HAVE, DAY BY DAY, GOD CHOSE YOUR SPOUSE TO BE JUST THAT. TO COME ALONG BESIDE YOU, TO COMPLEMENT YOU; TO BE YOUR HELPER. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU CAN'T EVER HELP HER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S THE SIDEKICK ALWAYS AND YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO HELP HER. NO, FAR FROM THAT. IT'S YOUR SUITABLE, PERFECT HELPER ON THIS MISSION THAT YOU HAVE. IS THE MAN THE HEAD? YES, GOD'S WORD SAYS SO. WE SPENT EXTENSIVE TIME STUDYING EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5. HEADSHIP. AND AGAIN, WHAT THAT BIBLICAL HEADSHIP MEANS IT IS. I AM THE HEAD; THEREFORE, I MUST SERVE YOU, I MUST. IT'S REAL EASY TO COME UNDER THAT, LADIES. IT SHOULD BE REAL EASY. BECAUSE WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT THAT LOVE WAS AND WHAT IT MEANT. THAT AGAPE LOVE.

MOVE ON OVER TO VERSE 20, THE SECOND HALF OF IT. IT SAYS BUT FOR ADAM NO SUITABLE HELPER WAS FOUND. NOW BEFORE THIS, GOD HAD BEEN BRINGING THE ANIMALS TO HIM AND HAD ADAM NAME THEM. ONE BY ONE HE BROUGHT THEM THROUGH. HE WAS GIVING THEM NAMES. GOD HAD ALREADY DECIDED IT WASN'T GOOD FOR HIM TO BE ALONE AND HE WAS GOING TO CREATE A SUITABLE HELPER. IT SAYS BUT FOR ADAM NO SUITABLE HELPER WAS FOUND SO THE LORD GOD CALLED THE MAN TO FALL INTO A DEEP SLEEP. AND WHILE THE MAN WAS SLEEPING, HE TOOK ONE OF THE MAN'S RIBS AND HE CLOSED UP THE PLACE, THE FLESH. THEN THE LORD GOD MADE A WOMAN FROM THE RIB THAT WAS TAKEN FROM THE MAN AND HE BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN. NOW HE HAD JUST TAKEN FROM THE DIRT, -- MEN, WE'RE DUST, YOU KNOW THAT, WE'RE DIRT. THAT'S WHERE IT STARTED OFF WITH. HE HAD

TAKEN THE DIRT FROM THE GROUND AND FORMED MAN AND BREATHED LIFE INTO IT. BUT TO MAKE WOMAN -- HE COULD HAVE TAKEN DIRT AGAIN AND BREATHED LIFE INTO HER, AM I RIGHT? HE'S GOD. HE COULD HAVE DONE THAT. BUT INSTEAD HE CHOSE TO PERFORM SURGERY ON THE MAN. HE TOOK THE MAN AND HE TOOK A RIB FROM HIM AND OUT OF MAN HE MADE WOMAN. THE SUITABLE HELPER THAT WAS PERFECT. AND I LOVE THIS PART. IT SAYS -- AND IF YOU READ THERE AT THE VERY END -- IT SAYS AND THE LORD BROUGHT HER TO HIM. NOW RIGHT BEFORE THAT IF YOU GO BACK AND READ THE LORD BROUGHT ALL THE ANIMALS BEFORE HIM. HERE'S THE HORSE; HERE'S THE RHINO; HERE'S THE GIRAFFE; HERE'S THE WOMAN. CHECK THIS OUT. NO SUITABLE HELPER WAS FOUND. MEN, DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER SAW YOUR WIFE? THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER SAW HER AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, MAYBE THE VERY FIRST TIME YOU EVER SAW HER? SOME OF YOU DO; SOME OF YOU LAUGH AT THAT AND SNICKER. DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR WEDDING DAY? I TELL YOU MAN, THIS OLD BOY -- I HAD THIS BIG OLD CHESHIRE CAT GRIN. I LOOKED STUPID IN THE VIDEO OF OUR WEDDING BECAUSE I HAD THIS GRIN THAT WENT FROM EAR TO EAR AND I AM JUST GRINNING THE WHOLE TIME BECAUSE SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL. WHEN I LOOKED DOWN THAT AISLE AND SAW HER DADDY BRING HER DOWN, MY HEART WAS POUNDING OUT OF MY CHEST. THAT'S GOING TO BE MY BRIDE. THAT'S MY WIFE. THAT'S WHO GOD CHOSE FOR ME. I KNEW GOD CHOSE HER FOR ME. I KNEW THAT. AND MY HEART WAS LEAPING. GOD SAID HEY ADAM, HERE SHE IS. AND HE BROUGHT HER TO HIM AND ADAM SAID SOME PROFOUND THINGS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT. HE SAID, THIS IS NOW BONE OF MY BONE;

FLESH OF MY FLESH; SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN FOR SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE MAN. NOW TO LOOK AT EPHESIANS 2, I WANT YOU TO TURN BACK -- TURN BACK OVER TO EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5 VERSE 28. WE'RE GOING TO GET TO THE MAIN PART IN JUST A SECOND. WE HAVEN'T GOT THERE YET.

IN VERSE 28, IN THE SAME WAY HUSBANDS OUGHT TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEIR OWN BODY. HE WHO LOVES HIS WIFE LOVES HIMSELF. AFTER ALL NO ONE EVER HATED HIS OWN BODY BUT HE SEES AND CARES FOR IT JUST AS CHRIST DOES THE CHURCH FOR WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY. WHEN WE WENT THROUGH THAT SECTION IN EPHESIANS, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS. WE TALKED ABOUT ONENESS. WE TALKED ABOUT HOW IN MARRIAGE HOW LOTS OF TIMES YOU HAVE THIS. YOU HAVE TWO PEOPLE IN A MARRIAGE BUT GOD DESIRES OR ONENESS; HE DESIRES UNITY. HE DESIRES A MAN TO LOVE HIS WIFE AS HE LOVES HIMSELF. ADAM LOOKED AT EVE AND HE SAID HEY YOU ARE PART OF ME. LITERALLY YOU ARE PART OF ME. THAT'S THE WAY GOD CREATED IT TO BE. I SEE US AS THIS. YOU ARE A BONE OF MY BONES AND FLESH OF MY FLESH. YOU SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN.

WE GET FINALLY TO THE BLUEPRINT. THAT WAS JUST THE INTRODUCTION STUFF. IN VERSE 24 HE SAYS FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE UNITED TO HIS WIFE AND THEY SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. NOW IN SOME TRANSLATIONS HE USES THE WORD CLEAVE. I LIKE THAT, CLEAVE.

HERE IS THE BLUEPRINT FOR MARRIAGE. HERE IS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO GO THROUGH TODAY. **LEAVE AND CLEAVE AND BECOME ONE FLESH.** NOW, THE LEAVE PART, MANY PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN THAT MESSED UP. MANY

PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH THAT. LEAVE MEANS TO LEAVE YOUR PARENTS. IT MEANS TO BECOME INDEPENDENT WE ALL LEAVE OUR PARENTS. NO WE DON'T. SOME OF YOU NEVER HAVE AND IT'S AFFECTING YOUR MARRIAGE TO THIS DAY. I'M GOING TO BE PRETTY STRAIGHT WITH YOU. SOME OF YOU VALUE YOUR PARENTS' OPINION MORE THAN YOU DO YOUR SPOUSE'S. SOME OF YOU CALL YOUR MOM AND DAD WITH EVERY LITTLE THING AND DON'T EVER ASK YOUR SPOUSE. OR ONCE YOU CALL THEM, YOU TAKE THEIR WORD AND FORGET THEM. HEY WE HAVE TO DO WHAT DAD SAYS BECAUSE DAD KNOWS ABOUT THIS STUFF. SOME OF YOU HAVE NEVER LET GO. THE FIRST LITTLE THING THAT GOES WRONG; THE FIRST LITTLE FIGHT THAT YOU HAVE, YOU RUN THERE. YOU JUMP RIGHT OUT OF WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN ONENESS WITH YOUR SPOUSE AND YOU BOLT TO THEIR HOUSE. YOU TAKE OFF AND YOU ARE GONE. LISTEN. GOD'S WORD SAYS YOU ARE TO LEAVE. THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT. WE ARE TO BECOME INDEPENDENT BECAUSE YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CLEAVE, YOU WILL NEVER BECOME UNITED WITH YOUR HUSBAND OR YOUR WIFE UNTIL YOU HAVE LEFT. PARENTS, THE FLIPSIDE OF THAT JUST AS IMPORTANT IS YOU HAVE TO LET THEM GO. SOME OF YOU ARE NOT LETTING THEM GO. LISTEN, ANYBODY THAT HAS DONE COUNSELING HAS DEALT WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE PARENTS THAT HAVE NOT LET THEM GO. AND THE NICEST WAY I CAN SAY IT IS, THEY ARE MANIPULATIVE. THEY ARE MICRO-MANAGING THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES, STILL. AND A MANIPULATIVE MOTHER OR FATHER CAN REAK HAVOC IN A MARRIAGE. IT CAN CAUSE THINGS TO BE VERY TOUGH. I KNOW I'M SPEAKING A TOUGH WORD, FOR SOME OF YOU IT IS HITTING HOME LISTEN, I REALIZE THAT. THIS IS GOD'S WORD. WE HAVE TO

LEAVE. PARENTS YOU HAVE TO LET THEM LEAVE. YOU HAVE TO EMPOWER THEM; YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM WINGS. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LIFT THEM UP, THEY ARE READY TO FLY ON THEIR OWN, READY TO GO. INSTEAD WE CRIPPLE THEM SOMETIMES BY WANTING TO DO EVERYTHING FOR THEM; MAKE EVERY DECISION; NEVER GIVE THEM ANY RESPONSIBILITY. YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM FREEDOM TO FAIL, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? THEY ARE GOING TO FAIL. I DID, YOU DID. THEY ARE GOING TO FAIL. THEY ARE GOING TO DISAPPOINT YOU. YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM FREEDOM TO DO THAT. EVEN ONCE THEY ARE GROWN AND OUT OF YOUR HOUSE. DO YOU SEE THINGS? AS PARENTS, IS THERE WISDOM THAT IS BUILT IN WHERE YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN? HEY, IT'S A NATURAL THING. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO DOWN THIS ROAD BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD. BE VERY CAREFUL HOW WE DO THAT PARENTS. DOES THAT MEAN WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO HELP THEM? NO. DOES THAT MEAN AS CHILDREN YOU SHOULDN'T SEEK YOUR PARENTS ADVICE? NO. YOU SHOULD. BOTH OF THOSE THINGS. BUT THERE HAS TO BE A POINT WHERE YOU BECOME INDEPENDENT FROM YOUR FOLKS BECAUSE GOD'S DESIGN IS NOW FOR YOU TO BECOME INTERLOCKED AND ONE WITH YOUR SPOUSE. THAT SECOND PART IS CLEAVE. CLEAVE IS COMMITMENT. IT'S VERY VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE CAN CLEAVE TO OUR SPOUSE. THAT THERE IS A COMMITMENT THERE. NOW THIS IS AGAIN, COMING FROM LOTS OF COUNSELING WITH FOLKS, THERE IS NO COMMITMENT THERE ANYMORE. THE FIRST TIME THINGS GET JUST A LITTLE TIGHT, A LITTLE TENSE, IT'S EASY TO BAIL. THERE IS NOTHING LOCKING IT IN. THERE'S NEVER BEEN A TRUE COMMITMENT MADE. EVEN IN THE ARGUMENTS THAT HAPPEN IN THE HOUSE.

LISTEN, FOLKS AND I REALIZE SOME OF YOU IN THIS ROOM MIGHT BE DIVORCED. I'LL SAY THIS AGAIN AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES. GOD HATES DIVORCE. HIS WORD SAYS SO. HE DOES NOT HATE DIVORCED PEOPLE. AFTER THE FACT THERE IS STILL RESTORATION; THERE IS STILL RECONCILIATION. GOD CAN STILL BRING BEAUTY FROM ASHES. HE DOES OVER AND OVER AGAIN. BUT YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT GOD'S WORD SAYS THAT SHOULD NOT BE. HIS DESIGN, ONCE HE HAS PLACED YOU TOGETHER, IS FOR YOU TO STICK. WE SAY THE VOWS FOR BETTER AND FOR WORSE. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS WE ARE RIGHT HERE. WE'RE UNITED. AS SOON AS THE ARGUMENT OCCURS AND THE **"D"** WORD COMES RIGHT OUT OF OUR MOUTH IN THE ARGUMENT. THAT WORD SHOULD **NEVER** COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. IF YOU MADE A COMMITMENT BEFORE GOD, THAT WORD SHOULD NEVER COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. THAT SHOULD NEVER BE AN OPTION. DON'T EVEN LET IT BE AN OPTION. YOU JUST MAKE A DECISION BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE THAT HEY, WHEN WE HAVE ARGUMENTS THAT AIN'T GOING. WE TALKED ABOUT THAT IN OUR SMALL GROUP LAST WEEK. YOU NEED TO LAY SOME GROUND RULES FOR YOUR ARGUMENTS. YOU HAVE TO HAVE -- HEY BEFORE THE FIGHT, THE REFEREE GETS IN THERE AND HE GIVES THEM THE LOW DOWN. HE GIVES THEM THE RULES OF FIGHTING. HEY AS CRAZY AS THAT SOUNDS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME FIGHTING RULES IN YOUR HOUSE. THERE IS SOME GOOD ONES GOD GIVES TO US LIKE DON'T LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON YOUR ANGER. TAKE CARE OF IT TONIGHT. DON'T GET IN THAT CAR AND LEAVE FOLKS. IF YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH YOUR SPOUSE, DON'T LEAVE. SETTLE IT RIGHT THEN; STAY RIGHT THERE. THAT'S ONE OF OUR RULES. WHEN WE GET MAD WITH EACH

OTHER, YOU ARE NOT LEAVING. THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. WE'RE GOING TO WORK THAT OUT RIGHT THEN. YOU HAVE TO HAVE THOSE RULES. HERE'S WHAT WE DO WITH COMMITMENT. OUR WHOLE SOCIETY -- IT'S A FOREIGN TERM. JUST TALKING ABOUT STUFF, LET'S LOOK AT STUFF FOR A SECOND. OKAY WE BUY A CAR AND AFTER A LITTLE WHILE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT CAR, YOU UNDERSTAND BUT AFTER A LITTLE WHILE WE DON'T LIKE THAT CAR ANYMORE SO WHAT DO WE DO? WE TRADE THAT CAR AND GET ANOTHER CAR. WE GET IN A JOB -- AND IT'S A GOOD JOB. IT'S PAYING US BUT WE DON'T LIKE THAT JOB SO WE IMMEDIATELY BEGIN TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB. LET'S GET OUT OF THAT JOB; LET'S GO ON. SOME OF YOU EVEN -- THIS HURTS THE HECK OUT OF ME -- BUT EVEN YOUR SPORTS TEAM IS NOT WINNING THIS YEAR. AND OKAY I'LL GET A NEW TEAM. I'LL START PULLING FOR THE TEAM THAT IS WINNING. SEE YOU IN ONE JERSEY THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT ONE ON. THAT REALLY IRKS A SPORTS FAN. I'M A 'BE TRUE-TO-YOUR-SCHOOL' KIND OF GUY. NO MATTER WHAT. BUT LISTEN, WE MAKE IT ALL TOO EASY JUST TO BAIL ON STUFF LIKE THAT, DON'T WE? OUR MARRIAGES, WHEN SOMETHING STARTS TO GO WRONG -- WE GO IN THEM SOMETIMES WITH THE ATTITUDE THAT'S OKAY, IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I'LL TRADE OUT.

PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS. I KNOW THAT'S CRAZY AND I KNOW -- LISTEN. FOLKS SIGN PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT? THEIR STUFF. LISTEN TO HOW CRAZY THIS SOUNDS NOW. FOR A CHRISTIAN, YOU SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR STUFF IN CASE THE COMMITMENT BEFORE GOD DOESN'T WORK OUT. HOW NUTS IS THAT? WHAT

DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THAT COMMITMENT? THERE'S NOT MUCH THERE IS IT? NOT MUCH THERE. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE CLEAVE. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE LATCH ON AND WE MAKE A COMMITMENT THAT STICKS. IT'S WITHIN THE WALLS OF THAT COMMITMENT THAT COMES SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR THAT MARRIAGE. THE WALLS OF COMMITMENT THAT GOD PUTS UP THAT WHEN YOU HAVE THAT ARGUMENT, THAT YOU REALIZE OKAY WERE HAVING AN ARGUMENT, WERE HAVING A DISAGREEMENT BUT IT'S OKAY BECAUSE THOSE WALLS OF COMMITMENT ARE THERE AND WE'RE GOING TO STAY WITHIN THOSE WALLS. THERE'S SAFETY THAT MY HUSBAND IS NOT GOING TO LEAVE, MY WIFE IS NOT GOING TO LEAVE. THAT I CAN SHARE THOSE THINGS THAT ARE ON MY HEART; A SAFETY THAT I'M NOT GOING TO BE HURT OR REJECTED BECAUSE OF IT. THAT'S A WALL OF COMMITMENT. THAT'S PART OF THE BLUEPRINT GOD LAID OUT FOR MARRIAGE TO LEAVE AND THEN TO CLEAVE. TO BECOME ONE. TO COMMIT TO SOMETHING.

THAT THIRD PART SAYS TO BECOME ONE FLESH AND YES THAT'S TALKING ABOUT PHYSICAL INTIMACY. NOT JUST PHYSICAL INTIMACY BUT FAR MORE THAN THAT. IT IS TALKING ABOUT PHYSICAL INTIMACY. NOW LISTEN -- AND THIS IS THE PART -- I KNOW WE HAVE SOME YOUNG KIDS HERE AND I'LL BE VERY CAREFUL. THIS IS THE PART I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND. GOD DESIGNED SEX. IT WAS HIS IDEA. I TALKED TO THIS GUY -- I'M DEAD SERIOUS NOW. I TALKED TO THIS GUY A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT SEX WAS ACTUALLY PART OF THE CURSE THAT FELL ON MAN WHEN THEY SINNED.. HE WAS CONVINCED OF THAT. WELL HE MISSED THIS PART THAT GOD DESIGNED IT BEFORE THE FALL OF MAN. BECAUSE THIS

HAPPENS BEFORE THE FALL. WHEN GOD SAID LEAVE CLEAVE AND BECOME ONE FLESH. NO THAT WAS GOD'S IDEA. SATAN HAS TAKEN IT AND TWISTED IT AND MADE IT SOMETHING THAT IS SHAMEFUL. IT WAS GOD'S IDEA. LISTEN THERE IS A WHOLE REASON FOR THAT ORDER. LEAVE, CLEAVE AND BECOME ONE FLESH. THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT ORDER BECAUSE WHAT'S HAPPENED IS YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR PARENTS AND YOU HAVE CLEAVED TO YOUR MATE AND WITHIN THE CONFINES AND COMMITMENT OF MARRIAGE THAT IS SOLID, THOSE WALLS THAT ARE SAFE, NOW PHYSICAL INTIMACY CAN TAKE PLACE WITHIN THOSE SAFE WALLS WITH NO FEAR OF REJECTION, WITH NO SHAME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THE SAFETY OF THAT, THE CONFINES OF THAT, THE PROTECTION OF THAT, UNDER GOD'S DIRECTION AS HE DESIGNED IT. IT WAS HIS IDEA. I THINK I HAVE THIS SLIDE LATER ON AND YOU CAN PULL IT UP IF YOU WANT TO. IT BEARS BEING SAID RIGHT NOW. WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED AS CHRISTIANS TO TALK ABOUT WHAT GOD WAS NOT ASHAMED TO CREATE.

IN THE HOME, PARENTS I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU FOR A SECOND. IN THE HOME, IF YOU'RE SCARED TO TALK ABOUT PHYSICAL INTIMACY WITH YOUR CHILDREN, SOMEONE ELSE IS DOING IT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? SOMEONE ELSE IS TELLING THEM. YOU OUGHT TO BE THE ONES TELLING THEM. YOU OUGHT TO BE THE ONES LAYING IT OUT HOW GOD DESIGNED IT SO THEY KNOW AND THEY UNDERSTAND TRUTH BEFORE THEY HEAR THE LIE FIRST. BECAUSE YOU SEE, WHEN THEY HEAR THE LIE FIRST, THEY WONDER IF TRUTH IS A LIE. WHAT COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. THEY GO NO WAIT A

MINUTE DAD, THAT'S NOT THE WAY -- NO THAT'S NOT THE WAY I'VE BEEN HEARING IT.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ROOM. IF YOU DON'T HEAR IT SAID ANYWHERE ELSE AND I HOPE YOU ARE HEARING IT AT YOUR HOUSE BUT IF YOU DON'T HEAR IT SAID ANYWHERE ELSE, IT NEEDS TO BE SAID RIGHT HERE. WAIT. WAIT. IN THIS ROOM FULL OF ADULTS, THERE ARE ONLY TWO TYPES OF CHRISTIAN COUPLES. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WAITED AND THOSE WHO WISHED THEY DID. I PROMISE YOU, YOU WILL NEVER FIND A CHRISTIAN COUPLE NOW THAT DIDN'T WAIT; THAT MADE MISTAKES IN THEIR PASTS; THAT SAID OOH I'M GLAD I DID THAT. I'M REALLY GLAD I GAVE AWAY THAT GIFT THAT GOD GAVE ME TO MY SPOUSE FOR SOMEONE ELSE. I'M REALLY GLAD I DID THAT. YOU WILL NEVER FIND THAT. YOU WILL ALSO NEVER FIND THOSE THAT WAITED THAT WILL SAY I WISH I HADN'T WAITED. WAIT. DADS, SPECIFICALLY DADS, TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN. NOT JUST YOUR DAUGHTERS. YES YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOUR DAUGHTERS TO PROTECT THEM. TALK TO YOUR SONS. WAIT. IT'S GOD'S DESIGN.

NOW LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY. IF YOU DIDN'T; IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MESSED UP, I'M STILL TALKING TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE RIGHT NOW. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MESSED UP, THE ENEMY WILL TRY TO SELL YOU ON A LIE THAT SAYS YOU'VE ALREADY MESSED UP, YOU MIGHT AS WELL KEEP ON DOING IT. THE ENEMY WILL SELL YOU ON A LIE THAT SAYS YOU'RE USED GOODS NOW. YOU'VE MESSED UP. GOD DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU. IT'S A LIE. IN JESUS CHRIST THERE IS FORGIVENESS AND THERE ARE FRESH STARTS. ONLY IN HIM. FRED USED TO SAY AND I LOVE THIS QUOTE.

YOU COULD BE LAYING ON A BED OF PROSTITUTION LAST NIGHT AND THROUGH CHRIST JESUS HE CAN MAKE YOU PURE AS DRIVEN SNOW THIS MORNING. YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT TO BE TRUE. ONLY IN HIM. YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONTINUE DOWN THAT ROAD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO. DAD WHEN YOU TALK TO YOUR KIDS, IT MAY CAUSE SOME UNCOMFORTABLE DIALOGUE, YOU KNOW THAT? IT MAY BE FOR SOME ROUGH MOMENTS. PRAISE GOD. THEY MAY ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE TOUGH FOR YOU TO ANSWER. ANSWER THEM TRUTHFULLY. BECAUSE YOU ARE IN ONE OF THOSE TWO CAMPS. EITHER YOU WAITED OR YOU WISH YOU DID. ANSWER THEM TRUTHFULLY. SHARE TRUTH WITH YOUR KIDS WHEN IT COMES TIME TO SHARE TRUTH. GOD WILL HONOR THAT. HE'LL HONOR IT. THAT WAS HIS DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE. LEAVE, AND CLEAVE AND BECOME ONE FLESH IN THE PROTECTION OF THAT.

I TOLD YOU IT WASN'T JUST PHYSICAL INTIMACY TO BECOME ONE FLESH. IT'S FAR DEEPER THAN THAT. HERE'S THE LIE THAT THE WORLD WILL TELL YOU. AGAIN I'M GOING TO SAY THIS VERY CAREFULLY. THE LIE THAT THE WORLD WILL TELL YOU IS THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT THREE LETTER WORD. IT'S ALL ABOUT SEX. IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT BECAUSE WE SEE IT ON TELEVISION; WE HEAR IT ON THE RADIO; WE HEAR IT IN SONGS. THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. IN YOUR MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. IF YOU HAVE THAT QUOTE UP THERE I WANT YOU TO PULL THAT UP. THIS IS IMPORTANT NOW. I STOLE THIS FROM DENNIS RAINEY BUT IT'S A GREAT QUOTE. A SATISFYING SEX LIFE IS THE RESULT OF A SATISFYING MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP NOT THE CAUSE OF ONE. IT IS NOT THE CAUSE OF IT.

IT'S THE RESULT OF IT. IN ALL THOSE THINGS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT OVER THE LAST FOUR WEEKS, WHEN YOU ARE CARRYING OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS HUSBAND AND WIFE; WHEN THERE IS RESPECT WITHIN YOUR MARRIAGE. THERE'S BEEN FORGIVENESS IN AREAS WHERE YOU HAVE FALLEN AND NOW WHEN WE WENT BACK TO GOD'S BLUEPRINT AND BEGAN TO DO THINGS RIGHT WITHIN HIS BLUEPRINT, AND WE BEGIN TO LIVE IN A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP THAT IS SOLID THAT IS BRINGING HONOR TO GOD WHEN WE ARE ON MISSION TOGETHER TO BRING GLORY TO CHRIST, WHEN THAT BEGINS TO HAPPEN, THE RESULT OF THAT WILL BE THE LATTER UP THERE. THAT'S WHERE IT COMES FROM.

COUPLES IN THE ROOM, DON'T BE SCARED TO PRAY ABOUT THAT TOPIC. OH I CAN'T PRAY ABOUT THAT; I CAN'T TALK ABOUT THAT. LISTEN, HE CREATED IT. HE DESIGNED IT TO BE A BEAUTIFUL THING WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF MARRIAGE. HE CREATED IT. PRAY ABOUT IT. GET WITH YOUR SPOUSE AND PRAY ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP TOGETHER. PRAY ABOUT THAT. LIFT THAT UP TO HIM. YOU WON'T BE SORRY YOU DID BECAUSE HIS DESIGN WAS BEAUTIFUL. I'M GOING TO CLOSE WITH THIS GUYS. YOU MIGHT BE SAYING FOR THE FOURTH WEEK IN A ROW, CAREY, YOU HAVE LAID SOMETHING OUT THERE AND GOD'S WORD AND YES I MESSED UP, I MESSED IT ALL UP. I'VE ALREADY BLOWN THAT COMPLETELY OUT OF THE WATER. GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MARRIAGE, I'VE WRECKED IT ALL. LISTEN, THERE IS FORGIVENESS AND THERE ARE FRESH STARTS BUT ONLY IN GOD. YOU'VE GOT THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE AND YOU HAVE MESSED IT UP? WHAT IF YOUR MARRIAGE STARTED OUT WRONG. WHAT IF THAT BECOME ONE FLESH

HAPPENED BEFORE. IT STARTED OUT WRONG. IT'S NOT TOO LATE, EVEN NOW. I DON'T CARE EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED 30 YEARS. GO BACK; HIT YOUR KNEES; SPEND SOME TIME WITH GOD; REPENT TO THE LORD; APOLOGIZE TO GOD AND THEN ACCEPT HIS FORGIVENESS BY FORGIVING YOURSELF. START FRESH AND ANEW. LET GOD SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN GO FROM THERE. HE WILL. I PROMISE YOU HE WILL. MAYBE YOU HAVE NEVER LEFT. MAYBE YOU ARE STILL HANGING ONTO YOUR PARENTS. LISTEN, IF YOU ARE THAT PERSON, I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE, I'M SURE THEY ARE FULL OF WISDOM. BUT IF YOU ARE HANGING ON TO MOM AND DAD MORE THAN YOU ARE YOUR SPOUSE, YOU ARE DAMAGING YOUR MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP. UNDERSTAND THAT. WHEN YOU GO INTO COUNSELING TIME, THIS IS NOT WEIGHING HEAVY TOWARDS THE WOMAN OR THE MAN, I HAVE SEEN IT BOTH WAYS. I'VE SEEN THE MAN THAT WON'T LET GO OF HIS MOMMA. THE CORD IS STILL ATTACHED YOU UNDERSTAND. IT'S STRETCHED, THAT THING IS STRETCHED MAYBE HUNDREDS OF MILES BUT IT'S STILL ATTACHED. AND I'VE SEEN THE WOMAN WHO WON'T LET GO OF HER DAD. OR EVEN HER MOM. THAT TAKES EVERYTHING TO THEM. THEY DISCOUNT EVERYTHING THEIR SPOUSE SAYS UNTIL THEY HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH MOM OR DAD. CUT THE CORD. LEAVE THEM. ASK FORGIVENESS FROM THE LORD AND FROM YOUR SPOUSE AND SEE WHERE GOD TAKES YOU FROM THERE. WHAT IF YOU HAVE NEVER CLEAVED? THAT COMMITMENT HAS BEEN SHAKY ALL THROUGH YOUR MARRIAGE. YOU KNOW IF IT HAS BEEN. YOU KNOW IF THE COMMITMENT IS SHAKY. YOU KNOW IF EVERY TIME THERE IS A FIGHT, IF THERE IS A WORRY THAT MIGHT BE IT; THAT MIGHT BE THE LAST ONE. IT MIGHT BE TIME THEY

MIGHT LEAVE OR YOU MIGHT LEAVE BECAUSE YOU KNOW THERE ARE NO WALLS OF COMMITMENT THAT HAVE BEEN PUT UP. IF YOU HAVEN'T REACHED THAT POINT, IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T LEFT MOM OR DAD. THAT MIGHT BE PART OF IT. COMMIT. GET ALONE WITH GOD; REPENT TO HIM; ASK HIS FORGIVENESS; ASK FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SPOUSE AND SEE WHERE GOD WILL TAKE YOU FROM THERE. IN ALL THREE CASES HE HAS A DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE. THAT CAN AND SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. HE HAS A DESIGN FOR YOURS EVEN IF YOU HAVE ALREADY WRECKED IT. IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

I THINK THERE'S A REASON GOD GAVE ME THE WHOLE BLUEPRINT THING. I READ PART OF IT. I DID NOT KNOW WHERE I WAS GOING. I KNEW THAT GOD STILL WANTED ME IN MARRIAGE AND I WAS STUDYING AND I ALWAYS GET THESE E-MAILS FROM DENNIS RAINEY FROM MOMENTS TOGETHER FOR COUPLES, FROM FAMILY LIFE. I'M READING HIS E-MAIL AND THE LEAVE CLEAVE AND BECOME ONE FLESH IS PART OF MY PRE-MARITAL -- SOME OF YOU HAVE DONE MY PREMARITAL COUNSELING BEFORE YOU GOT MARRIED. I HAVE GOTTEN TO DO THAT WITH YOU. THAT'S PART OF IT BUT WHEN I SAW THAT I WAS LIKE -- THAT'S IT. WE HAVE TO END WITH THIS. BECAUSE IT'S REALLY THE BEGINNING. IT'S A TIME FOR A FRESH BEGINNING. PARENTS THIS IS IMPORTANT, IT'S REAL IMPORTANT. IF YOU HAVEN'T WENT BACK THERE, IF YOU STARTED OUT BAD AND YOU'VE NEVER WENT BACK AND MADE THAT RIGHT WITH GOD AND MADE THAT RIGHT WITH YOUR SPOUSE, YOU NEED TO DO THAT. THAT'S FOUNDATIONAL. GOD CAN GIVE YOU BACK THE YEARS THAT THE LOCUSTS HAVE EATEN AND THE YEARS THAT THE ENEMY HAS STOLEN. HE CAN GIVE THEM BACK TO YOU. ARE THERE

CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUR ACTIONS STILL? YES. THERE ARE STILL CONSEQUENCES. I DIDN'T GET INTO IT EARLIER WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE AS I WAS TALKING ABOUT FALLING AND IF YOU HAVE FALLEN AND THE REASONS FOR WAITING. LISTEN THERE ARE OBVIOUS REASONS FOR WAITING. SOME OF THEM ARE NOT SO OBVIOUS. SOME OF THEM ARE JUST AS DAMAGING. I TELL YOU, YOU MAY GET INTO A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP LATER ON AND NEITHER ONE OF YOU HAVE WAITED AND EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE BEFORE THAT TIME, YOU BRING IN. YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT. EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE BEFORE THAT YOU BRING INTO THAT MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP. THOSE ARE CONSEQUENCES. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT CAUSES? THOSE WALLS OF COMMITMENT ARE NOT REAL SOLID. THEY ARE KIND OF SHAKY. IT CAUSES SHAME THAT SHOULDN'T BE THERE. IT CAUSES FEAR.

VERSE 25 THE MAN AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH NAKED AND THEY FELT NO SHAME. THAT WAS GOD'S DESIGN FROM THE BEGINNING. NOT THAT WE BEEN NUDISTS, UNDERSTAND. BUT THAT THERE BE NO SHAME. WHAT I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT, WHEN WE GET IT OUT OF ORDER, THERE'S SHAME. IS THERE NOT? IF YOU'RE IN HERE AND YOU HAVE HAD IT OUT OF ORDER IN YOUR LIFE YOU KNOW THERE'S SHAME. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU. YOU KNOW THERE IS. WHEN WE GET THINGS MESSED UP LIKE THAT AND IT'S NOT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THOSE WALLS, THEN THERE IS CONSTANT FEAR, CONSTANT FEAR OF REJECTION THAT KEEPS US FROM REAL INTIMACY THAT GOD WOULD HAVE. IT KEEPS WALLS UP BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE. FEAR OF REJECTION IS HUGE. IT HAPPENS WITHIN MARRIAGES JUST AS MUCH AS IT HAPPENS WITHOUT. BEING REJECTED BY YOUR SPOUSE. WHEN WE'VE GOT THINGS IN

THE RIGHT ORDER, WHEN WE SET THINGS RIGHT BEFORE GOD, THERE IS NO FEAR OF REJECTION. THERE IS ACCEPTANCE COMPLETE. AND THERE IS INTIMACY AT A NEW LEVEL. AT A LEVEL THAT GOD INTENDED, WITH NO SHAME.

I'M GOING TO CLOSE THIS MORNING AND ASK YOU TO BOW YOUR HEAD AND CLOSE YOUR EYES.

(PRAYER)