



We've been talking on Sundays about being made in God's image, being made male and female, and most recently, about sex and marriage. Let's take a deeper look at what the Bible says it means to be one flesh in marriage, and how the marriage relationship reflects and represents the covenant relationship between Jesus and the church.

Read: Genesis 2:21-25

What deeper significance do you see in husband and wife becoming one flesh, having read that God created woman from a piece of man?

What does nakedness entail, from mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual perspectives?

What does that kind of total exposure risk?

We read that Adam and Eve, in their nakedness, felt no shame. If you are married, do you have that level of openness in your relationship with your spouse? Do you have that level of openness with God?

How does sin twist nakedness and exposure before a spouse? Before God? What does sin do to our idea of body image?

Read: Ephesians 5:21-33

Just as we see woman being made from the body of man, who/what is the body of Christ?

Note the word “as” in v.28. How does your understanding shift in light of woman being made out of man’s body and becoming one flesh in marriage?

What kind of consideration should be demonstrated toward a marriage partner in light of these verses?

What does Jesus offer us, the church, in a relationship of oneness with Him?

In marriage, each person leaves their family and is united with their spouse. In a relationship with Jesus, what do we leave behind, and what are we united with?

What parallels can you draw between a man and woman uniting in marriage, with woman having been made from man at creation, and a believer uniting with Christ, having been made in His image?

Make it personal:

When was the last time you can remember feeling no shame in your own nakedness, either physically, or with respect to being fully open and honest about who you are?

How has your own nakedness, be it mental, physical, emotional, or spiritual, been wounded or twisted by sin in your life: either your own sin, or the sin of someone else?

In a relationship with Jesus, He invites each of us to dive deep beneath the surface levels to be fully open and exposed in His presence, finding ourselves fully seen and fully loved by the one who created us. How would that kind of oneness with the Savior heal the wounds of nakedness you might have experienced?

What would you need to risk to experience that kind of intimate freedom and release any shame you may be carrying into His care?

How might oneness with Jesus in this way affect your ability to be fully exposed and unashamed in a one flesh union with a spouse, and vice versa?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the invitation you extend to open ourselves up to you, and that you meet us where we are. Thank you that you fully know us, and fully love us, in spite of ourselves. Help us to strip away all the lies we have believed, and allow you access to the most intimate parts of who we are. For those who are married, we pray that You help them extend that same deep intimacy to oneness in marriage. For those who are single, we ask that You give them a sense of growing together deeper relationship with you and with others. And may every single one of us grow in our faith toward you. Amen.

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