

## October 10, 2021 – “Super-Glue for Marriage” – Genesis 2

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One of the many things I enjoy, as a pastor, are the meetings with young couples who are preparing for marriage. Their excitement is contagious. They speak in such glowing terms about each other. You know things like: *“How could I not love her silly little giggle?”* or *“Picking up after him won’t be a problem!”*

Fast forward and this same couple can’t stand to be in the same room together. *“That silly giggle of hers drives me crazy!”* or *“He’s such a slob. He never picks up anything.”*

One of the hardest things, as a pastor, is trying to help couples save their marriage! Usually by the time they come to see me, they’ve already decided what they’re going to do. They’ve crossed the line from irritation to *“I want out.”*

What happened? It starts small, over time it grows into conflict. If you’re honest and married, you have to admit there’s conflict in every marriage, in your marriage. Where there are real people, there is real sin. Where there is real sin, there is real conflict!

Can marriages experience *“happily ever after,”* or is that something you see in the movies, or read about in fairy tales? There is something that will keep a husband and wife together through the conflicts that every couple faces. There is **“Super-Glue for Marriage.”** What is it? Before we find out what it is, let’s find out what it’s not!

**Friendship** ... won’t keep a couple together! Yes, it’s important that husband and wife enjoy spending time together. One of the toughest transitions in married life is retirement. The dream can become a nightmare seeing each other all day, every day! They’re used to their daily routines without each other around! Friendships weaken when they see faults and flaws in others. Friendship ... is not the *“Super-Glue for Marriage.”*

**Sex** ... won’t keep a couple together! God’s gift of physical love, reserved only for a husband and a wife to enjoy needs to be kept alive in healthy marriages. Sex is a feeling that can change suddenly. It’s unpredictable. Sex ... is not *“Super-Glue for Marriage.”*

**Children** ... won’t keep a couple together either! When they get married, every couple promises: *“You are now the most important person in my life, more important than our parents were and more important than our children will be.”* We may say that. Research says otherwise. We put more effort and energy into our children than our marriages. Don’t neglect your spouse and let your kids be your only point of contact. Someday they’ll fall in love, move away, and you’ll be left staring at each other. Kids ... are not the *“Super-Glue for Marriage.”*

There are plenty of self-help books and expert opinions on how to maintain the level of excitement of the wedding day for years to come. Here are several of them:

- *“Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you never take out the trash.”* – Billy is 8.
- *“Marriage is for people to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.”* – Lynnette is 8.
- *“I think you’re supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn’t supposed to be so painful.”* – Adam is 7.
- *“No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That’s why girls wear perfume and boys wear deodorant.”* – Emily is 9.

Today’s message: **That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh,** as we saw was first spoken by God the Father in Genesis 2, repeated by God the Son in Mark 10, and then voiced by God the Holy Spirit through Paul in Ephesians 5. This is the foundational verse for marriage, and it’s from this verse we’ll discover the **“Super-Glue for Marriage.”**

What holds a husband and wife together through the demands of establishing a home, creating careers, having children, dealing with sickness, financial struggles and the stress of aging? You see it, feel it and hear it don't you? **“That’s why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”**

It’s commitment! You thought I was going to say love, didn’t you? But the word “love” is nowhere to be found in our passage first announced in the Garden of Eden. Commitment is the **“Super-Glue for Marriage.”**

Real commitment, the *“I’m there for you through thick and thin”* needs to be a 100% commitment from each. None of this: *“I’ll pitch in 50%. You pitch in 50%, and together we’ll have 100%.”*

That’s not the Bible’s teaching about commitment. The Bible models putting the needs of your spouse before your own. It’s patterned after God’s commitment to us. He didn’t say he would meet us half way. He promised to do everything for us and our salvation. He’d take care of 100% of it. That’s why he lived perfectly in our place. That’s why he died innocently on the cross. That’s why he sends his Spirit into our hearts to believe all that he did for us. That’s commitment!

Today’s lesson teaches a 3-step approach for a couple who wants to **Super-Glue Their Marriages: Leave, Cleave and Weave.** A carefully planned wedding doesn’t guarantee a great marriage. A commitment to these does.

**Step 1: Leave:** ... **“A man LEAVES his father and mother.”** Obviously, the woman does the same. Loosen your dependency on mom and dad – whether emotional, financial or physical. You’re to **“leave”** the family you grew up in and begin a new one of your very own.

Mom and dad, your child was given to you but only for a set time of training. Experts tell us that by the age of 12, two-thirds of your

training is done! And when your child is making decisions about whom they will date and chose as a mate, your job is done. If you’ve been preparing your child since they were little tikes, you’ve done it right. If you’ve waited until their 16, it’s too late.

Every bride and groom must leave and commit to rely on each other and work through the tough times together. You can’t go running back when something doesn’t work or goes wrong.

**Step 2: Cleave:** ... **“Be united to his wife.”** The KJV reads: **“cleave unto his wife.”** That word has nothing to do with what slices and dices in the kitchen. It means *“to keep close to, to be glued to something.”* That’s the whole point of marriage, right?

When you stood before the Lord, whether it was in a church, a courthouse, an indoor or outdoor venue, you said words similar to these: *“I take you to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish until death us do part.”* In God’s eyes your promise is a permanent commitment.

Marriage is hard work – the hardest, but most rewarding task you’ll ever attempt! Invest time and effort in your marriage with long walks and longer talks. The more time you spend together, the stronger your relationship will grow and the better it will get. The same goes for your relationship with your Lord. The more time you spend as a couple with him worshiping in his house and receiving his supper, the stronger your relationship will grow and the better it will get.

**Step 3: Weave:** ... **“They become one flesh.”** If your marriage is going to be what it ought to be, weaving yourselves together is an ongoing thing. It doesn’t happen when the preacher pronounced you husband and wife, or when you signed the marriage license, or in the honeymoon suite. It’s a life-long process!

God's plan for marriage involves a unique brand of math: 1 + 1 = 1! 2 lives weave together into 1. 2 bodies weave together into 1. 2 families weave together into 1.

It includes a weaving together of hearts and minds – sharing what's on our heart and mind and allowing the other to do the same. It also includes a weaving together of bodies – sharing God's gift of sexual happiness. While God did instill in us a natural desire for the opposite sex, he does reserve this closest way to express love only for those who have made the marriage commitment.

Commitment is ***Super-Glue for Marriage***. If you've been using it, keep up the good work! If you haven't, it's never too late to start!