

## A House United

When scripture describes the first marriage between Adam and Eve, it says that "for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh". It describes a process of being joined together in such a way that the end result reflects both individuals but also a single entity. An entity that operates together, supports each other, and is not self-seeking. It suggests that marriage is more than just being married because you have a marriage license. Marriage requires a unity in thought, heart and actions that is essential for a long-term, healthy relationship.

This unity does not mean that you have to agree on everything or view every issue from the same perspective. It does however suggest that you should work together to come to a joint understanding and support each other. This unity seeks the best interest of the union and not the individuals. Is it any wonder that James 4:1-4 suggests that our quarrels and fights are rooted in our self-serving desires?

When a couple is united, they know each other in intimate ways. In John 14:7-11, Jesus responded to Philip saying "Don't you know me, Philip, even I after I have been among you such a long time?" Jesus raised an important point that just because you spend a lot of time with someone does not automatically mean that you know them. Knowing someone requires that you truly want to know them.

Think about ways you can strengthen the unity in your relationship. How often do you spend time with your spouse just talking with no distractions, or enjoying a hobby together? If you don't have a joint interest, be creative and come up with one that you can explore together. Make discussions about unity a regular part of your conversations and support each other as you remove any obstacles in your lives that compete with your spouse. If you haven't yet used our Couch Time questions on the website, we encourage you to give them a try.

Blessings,

Brian and Trudy

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."  
- Mark 3:25