

# Matthew 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother,  
and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

## Analysis

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Jesus quotes Genesis 2:24, establishing marriage's three aspects: leaving parents, cleaving to spouse, becoming one flesh. 'Shall cleave' (Greek 'proskollao'—glue, cement together) indicates permanent bond. 'One flesh' signifies comprehensive union—physical, emotional, spiritual. Reformed marriage theology emphasizes covenant permanence and exclusive intimacy. God's design creates new family unit requiring departure from parents and establishment of new household. This verse grounds heterosexual, monogamous, permanent marriage as God's creation ordinance.

## Historical Context

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Genesis 2:24 predates Mosaic Law, making marriage a creation ordinance, not merely Jewish custom. The 'one flesh' union finds expression in sexual intimacy (1 Corinthians 6:16) but encompasses total life sharing. Jewish marriage practice included formal leaving of father's household and establishing new home. Jesus' citation shows Genesis authority for Christian ethics.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does your marriage reflect the leaving, cleaving, one-flesh design?
2. What prevents couples from achieving true one-flesh unity?
3. How should Christian marriages model God's creation design to watching culture?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ εἶπεν ἕνεκεν τούτου καταλείψει ἄνθρωπος τὸν  
**And** **said** **cause** **For this** **leave** **shall a man** G3588  
G2532 G2036 G1752 G5127 G2641 G444

πατέρα καὶ τὴν μητέρα καὶ προσκολληθήσεται τῇ  
**father** **And** G3588 **mother** **And** **shall cleave** G3588  
G3962 G2532 G3384 G2532 G4347

γυναικὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔσονται οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν  
**wife** G846 **And** **shall be** G3588 **they twain** G1519 **flesh** G1520  
G1135 G2532 G2071 G1417 G4561

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 7:4** (Parallel theme): The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

**1 Corinthians 7:2** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

**Ephesians 5:31** (Parallel theme): For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

**1 Corinthians 6:16** (Parallel theme): What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

**Psalms 45:10** (Parallel theme): Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

**Psalms 63:8** (Parallel theme): My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

**Romans 12:9** (Parallel theme): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

**Deuteronomy 10:20** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

**Deuteronomy 11:22** (Parallel theme): For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

**Deuteronomy 4:4** (Parallel theme): But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.

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