

Keeping the Family One - Week 1

Psalm 133:1; Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Oneness is built into our very DNA and created nature- we long for oneness- to be known and to be understood. We are designed to deeply value friendship, community and belonging. In our deepest parts, we really don't want to be alone. The more we embrace Oneness, the better we bear God's image. *Genesis 2:4-25; Romans 1:20b; Genesis 1:27b; Ephesians 5:31-32; John 19:34-37; Ephesians 5:21-33*

1. The Two are United into One. How you see yourself after you say "I DO" is the key to keeping and building oneness. We must see ourselves as One. The moment you give yourself to ONE another in marriage your state of being changes. You no longer live for SELF, you live for ONE another. *John 15:4-5*

2. Keeping and Building Oneness in our marriage begins with mutual submission, or "coming under" the needs of the other. Understanding one another's needs and making it our joy to meet them is the primary way to build Oneness in our marriage.

Her Needs

Affection
Meaningful Conversation
Honesty and Openness
Provision
Family First

Philippians 2:1-4

His Needs

Sexual Intimacy
Recreational Companionship
Attraction
Retreat
Admiration

3. Man's role in Keeping and Building Oneness in his marriage is to sacrificially love his wife, to serve her, to cherish her, to protect and provide for her, to always do what is in her best interest, and thereby to lead in love. *Ephesians 5:25-28*

4. The Woman's role in Keeping and Building Oneness in her marriage is to relate to her husband in a respectful way, to seek to understand and support him, and respond to and encourage his attempts to love her.

Ephesians 5:22-24

5. We Keep and Build Oneness by being committed to Family. Our nuclear family is a representation of our spiritual family, the Family of God. As we connect, protect, pursue and discipline our sons and daughters, we represent the Heavenly Father to them.

Family First- Family becomes the treasure to protect and invest in. Seek to understand your children in their giftedness and accept them in their personality. Listen to them and be committed to building Oneness in family. *Ephesians 6:4; Isaiah 54:4-6; Psalm 68:5-6*

Oneness in our marriage, family and church family reveals Christ to a world that desperately longs to belong and are looking for evidence to believe. *John 17:20-21*

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how "ONE" is your marriage? How "ONE" is your family? If married, compare your answer with your spouse.
2. How well do you submit, or "come under" the needs of your spouse? What is your spouse's biggest need? List 3 things you could do to better meet that need.
3. How are you building ONE-ness in your family? What are you doing to connect with and pursue your children? List 3 things you could do to connect with and pursue them better.
4. How are you building ONE-ness in your spiritual family, the church. List 3 things you could do to build more ONE-ness with your church family.
5. How are you building ONE-ness with Jesus? What are you doing to stay connected to the vine?