

[In three nights begin an intimate journey ... that lasts a lifetime.]

# TWO WILL BECOME ONE

"For this reason  
a man will leave his father and mother  
and be united to his wife,  
and the **two will become one** flesh."

Ephesians 5:31 niv Genesis 2:24



: Three Nights : Three Promises :

*Let your Creator Transform Your Marriage  
into the Image He Intended.*

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“May Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Bless you with Himself in this  
Marriage Transformation Bible study.”

Rick Carangelo  
Founder, NRO

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Malachi 2:15

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**To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning**, Ch. 35, p. 88-89, Book: "Fifty Reasons Jesus Came to Die" or "The Passion of Jesus Christ" by Dr. John Piper, Available free at:

[http://www.desiringgod.org/media/pdf/books\\_pojc/bpojc\\_all.pdf](http://www.desiringgod.org/media/pdf/books_pojc/bpojc_all.pdf)

(Note: The entire Book "The Passion of the Christ" and **others are available free** at <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/OnlineBooks/ByTitle/>

**God's Word for Married Couples, Devotions for Growing Together**, HumbleCreek, ISBN 1-59310-154-6

**Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**, p. 25-55, available free as PDF at <http://www.cbmw.org/rbmw/rbmw.pdf>

# INTRODUCTION

## **Overview**

“Two Will Become One” is a three night Marriage Transformation bible study intended for Married couples (One Man in Covenantal Marriage to One Woman) who have received the gift of faith given through the grace of Christ in a born-again reconciled relationship with God. This study is designed to be enjoyed by new to mature Christians, recently Wed to long-standing marriages alike.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 niv

## **Background**

This Transformation Bible Study began as an email of some suggested scriptures to a friend in need of God's direction in His marriage. As a result, he and his wife experienced great healing, fresh perspective and new purpose in their marriage because of the real intimacy with their Creator and receiving His intentions for marriage. Now, everybody may not experience this same result but my wife and I did the study over three nights and received the same incredible gift. We are amazed at the power of God's word and the loving kindness of His Holy Spirit.

## **What's the Cost?**

“Two Will Become One” Biblical Marriage Transformation Study is **Free** to all who have the faith to embrace the truth that lay within and apply it daily for the glory of God. All we ask is that you keep the Study intact. (If you have suggestions, please let us know.)

## **How is the study conducted?**

The couple, in the privacy of their own home or as a private retreat elsewhere, with clear minds and no agendas, sit down in a comfortable, work/stress/competition free and safe environment. (Safe in that they agree to focus on the study and allow the other to express themselves without judgment.) Leading the study is easy men. Just follow it chronologically and don't skip ahead.

Why the Husband? Because the Husband has the responsibility to lead the study as he is the primary moral agent through which God teaches the family. (Men, this entails some prayerful preparation but mainly more listening than speaking.)

## **How many hours will it take? Only 1 hour?**

That's really up to you and your spouse. It's designed to be conducted over Three consecutive nights. Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights for example. It's great for an annual marriage sabbatical. Plan for approximately 1 hour a night with night two approximately 2 hours in length. But the length will vary depending on how much you “die to yourself”, let go and let God the Holy Spirit direct the study and intimate

sharing to the depths he desires. The greatest experience is found when you demonstrate faithfulness in the study and are free to *Expect* God to bless you and your spouse. Faithfulness is accomplishing the study in the progression provided and anticipating what God will do next through it.

**What do we do after we complete the study?**

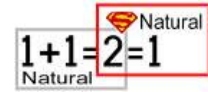
The study itself will help you identify and be freed from some hidden and destructive life patterns to live anew in Christ. The study gives guidance on this new-beginning with the “Morning After the Study” and some follow ups. Also, if you were blessed by the study we would like to give you a free Certificate as a gift of encouragement in your new unity with your consort and Savior. Directions are provided in the Study. Also, a Follow up Reading is noted at the end of the Study on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

**It is our prayer that you will be personally blessed by God in ways we cannot even imagine. May you find new joy and peace with your Creator Christ. If you are blessed we want to share in your joy and hear from you.** Rick Carangelo, Founder

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FACILITATOR/HUSBAND

Men,

As the primary moral agent, the Husband is called to be the Spiritual Leader, Provider and Protector of his wife and family. Christ is at the center of these household relationships of husband and wife and, children, and so on.



We are called to “Lead, Provide, Protect, with Love that engenders Respect for God.”

In the Old Testament passage Gen. 2:24 and in the New Testament Eph 5:31, and others, we see that two “will” become one flesh. The man and woman leave their parents and are united as a new thing, a new creation that seeks God’s will over the will of friends, family, foes and even self. This “will” is God’s will in that it is a reality, a true outcome of God joining a Man and a Woman together with the binding glue of His indwelt Holy Spirit. Man and women become a Husband and Wife in a holy one-flesh relationship. They are transformed from two individuals, Man and Woman, into the singular image representing God’s revealed character and love for His Church. God is not suggesting that the union between Husband and Wife “may” be a unity or oneness, but that it “shall” be done with certainty as they seek his “will” here on earth for their lives. What unavoidably follows in this obedience is a Holy joining of “Two becoming One” for the glory of God. This holy union, between a Christian Husband and Wife, is one of the greatest witnesses to the world of the reality of Christ. May it be so with your Marriage Journey as you embrace ministry to each other for the glory of God.

### **OVERVIEW:**

The following scripture is a three-night/session study for married couples of all ages. One man married in Christ to one woman. They are passages and materials that are intended to bring a husband and wife closer to Christ in his plan of intimacy and closeness to each other and himself. **Two keys: Do not skip or read ahead and don't be judgmental of your spouse.** Let the Holy Spirit provide comfort and care and see Him tenderly transform your marriage more from two lumps of clay into the one image of Christ.

The provided verses must be **read aloud together**, you and her alone, in a quiet place where you two can enjoy being with each other without distractions. Turn off the phone, shut off the TV, close the blinds and let each other know how important you are to one another. See that each of you are a personal gift from God to the other.

### **FACILITATING EACH SESSION:**

Open and close each session with prayer. Men, this is not about us trying to fix anything. It is about letting God lead and do all the transformative work. As part of this study remember to let your wife know you love her by listening. In your prayer times, especially towards the end of the study, allow her to openly express her prayers to Christ. Be sensitive and patient, especially if she has not prayed with you before or

your have not prayed together aloud. This is a tremendous privilege so be tender as the Pastor of your family.

Men, we must realize that as Christ died for the church he has called us to die to ourselves that He may bless our Wives through us. (Men: Read "To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning" Ch. 35, as preparation before beginning this study. It will also be read together later as part of this study. (See web link at beginning.)

**Prayer:** Always Pray in Christ's Name, that is, your intentions in your heart, your motivation is to Pray because you are in His Name and He is interceding on your behalf to the throne of grace. You can communicate this to your spouse and to your own soul by ending the prayer "In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

**TIP!** Take your time and don't rush - especially towards the end. May God bless you in this study with his joy!

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### UPON COMPLETION:

If you have been blessed by this study please send it to other Christian couples and encourage them to receive the blessings of "2 Will Become 1" Marriage Transformation Bible Study.



**FREE CERTIFICATE:** while quantities last

If you have been blessed by this study please send us your names, comments, request for your certificate and mailing address to: [2wb1@NeighborReach.Org](mailto:2wb1@NeighborReach.Org)

## SESSION 1: How Special She is. (about 1 hour)

**Opening Prayer:** Pray facing each other, kneeling if at all possible and holding hands.

**Ask the question. Read the verse Aloud. Then Discuss:**

- Is God Happy?
  - Genesis 21:6
  - 1 Timothy 1:11
  - 1 Timothy 6:15
  - Psalm 59:8
- What is happiness?
  - Isaiah 51:3
  - Luke 6:21
  - Luke 11:28
  - John 13:17
- Who made everything?
  - Genesis 1:1
- How were you made?
  - Genesis 2:7
  - Genesis 1:27
  - Genesis 1:31
  - Psalm 139:14-16
- Who made the heavens and the earth?
  - Genesis 1:1
  - John 1:1-2
  - John 1:3
  - John 1:14
- Who is your Creator?
  - John 1:1-2
  - John 1:3
  - John 1:14
- What is your Creator's plan for your life?
  - Isaiah 43:7
  - Genesis 2:16-17

### **Confession:**

Sweetheart, out of the Billions of people that have ever lived, and ever will live, there is no one like you. You are a unique and special creation of God made in His image. And I know and confess that God has given me a great and precious gift, and that gift is you. ...

**Closing:** Prayer aloud Thanking God for the gift of each other, your marriage and this study. (facing each other, kneeling if at all possible and holding hands)

## SESSION 2: How Special Your Marriage is. (1-2+ hours)

**Opening:** Prayer Aloud (facing each other, kneeling if at all possible and holding hands)

**Ask the question. Read the verse Aloud. Then Discuss:**

How does God, your Creator, implement the plan for our marriage?

Genesis 2:20-24

Matthew 19:5

Ephesians 5:15-33

**Exercise:** The List

Each of you is to take a blank piece of paper and list what you love, like or admire about your Spouse. Now, this is not "I love the way she rubs my back..." or "I like the way he mows the lawn..." but in this exercise, you are looking for the beauty of Christ in your Husband/Wife. How have you seen Christ in him/her no matter how small. You are looking at their heart, which in the original Greek is 'kardia' meaning "inner self." This list is a list of positives. List as many positives as possible no matter how insignificant to you as it can be very significant to your Husband/Wife to hear this from you. After each of you have completed your list, then read the lists to each other. Sign and date them and give them to each other as a gift. When you find something else to add later, write them a note and place it somewhere where you know they will find/see it. (Post it notes are a great surprise when placed on the bathroom mirror.)

**Our Marriage is a Ministry to one another:** Read Aloud

*"Sin has made an utter wreck of things. God's original design was that man and woman should live in fellowship with Him and in a selfless relationship of mutual giving to each other. In such a relationship, my love would so thrill my wife that I would feel deeply significant as I realized the joy that my love creates in her; I would exult in the security that her love provides me. She too would find significance in touching my deepest needs and would enjoy the security of my love for her." Dr. Larry Crabb, The Marriage Builder, p.21*

**Discuss Above Quote:** 5+ Minutes.

### Heart of the Study:

ASK: How are you and your spouse to be One? Lookup and Read each verse aloud, discuss with each other and answer each "We are to be ONE in (thought, phrase or word)."

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 1:14 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:19 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:20 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 5:21-23 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- John 17:22-23 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Malachi 3:17, Galatians 3:28 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 6:25-27, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:17  
One in \_\_\_\_\_
- James 5:16, Luke 17:4 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Philippians 4:11-13, Matthew 11:28 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Mark 10:6-9, 1 Corinthians 7:5 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- John 14:15 One in \_\_\_\_\_
- Malachi 2:15 One in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we are \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Psalm 31:14 **Read together aloud in unison three times.**
- Write this verse down on a post it note and stick to your bathroom mirror to read every morning.

### Read Aloud Together:

"To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning" by Dr. Piper.

### Discussion:

Discuss the above reading before moving forward in this study. (Guys, listen...)

(take a short break)

## Marriage Covenant:

**READ:** Open your Bibles and Together Read Aloud Ephesians 5:33 **Three Times.**

**“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”**

**Husband’s Confession:** aloud

It’s biblically true that love, the love of God in Christ, covers over a multitude of sins. But that doesn’t necessarily mean that those sins didn’t hurt and leave even small scars at the time when we inflicted the damage. Often times, we are unaware of these accumulated hurts because our Wives cover them over. So Men, let’s face it, we have blown it many, many times with our wives. (If you think not take a look at 1 John 1:8.) The point is that we have not loved our Wives as Christ loved the Church. We have not provided, protected, interceded, nor spiritually lead or loved her as God intended. She married you with many expectations usually unknown to you and one of them may be that you are responsible for her happiness and she yours. Not true, you are called to love her and to give yourself for her but cannot make another person happy because happiness comes from within by first being given from above. So ask yourself “Have I been the man God wants for my wife in all areas?” If you are honest, you’ll say ‘no’ and admit that you have trampled over her heart and emotions. A holy marriage is a marriage of repentance... repentance that lives in Christ, that continually removes walls unknowingly built over years of lost dreams, false hopes and miscommunications. More like a garden, we are called to plant holy seeds that may bloom in our brides. Like any garden, it requires us to pull our own weeds or they will choke out the life in her.

So this is the most critical place where you humbly and sincerely get down on your knees and confess that you have not been the Man, the Husband, the Father she may have wanted you to be, that you have failed many, many times to not LOVE her as God intended. If we, as husbands, can get out of God’s way (die to self), he WILL bless our wives and families. Ask her for forgiveness so that she may see and experience Christ and be freed and able to further trust Christ for ALL things for he is the one who provides, protects, intercedes and leads (through you) as you die to yourself and allow him to do so. This should be a time of the most tender, humble and heart felt expression to your wife.

## Marriage Covenant: continued

### Wife's Confession: aloud

One of the most difficult, if not the most difficult, thing for a Wife to do is trust that Christ will provide through your husband. Often times, we tend to trust our husband for what only God can do and show this lack of trust by a lack of RESPECT of our Husbands - especially in public. We tend to be placing the ultimate trust in our husband to provide instead of trusting Christ our Creator to provide through our husband and other means. The difference may seem subtle, but in reality it is profound. As a result, tensions build up in the marriage and we condemn the other for what only God can do. Christ the whole time so desires to be our source of life and treasure. Yes, your husband is called to die for you but remember that only Christ has died that you may have the most precious of gifts - eternal life. That doesn't mean that husbands should be sluggards either, nor does it mean that the wife disrespect her husband by calling him so, especially in public. But God brings the increase not the husband. So when the increase comes we can thank our God Jesus for it is intended for his glory, not man's. Here is where Christ wants to grant us freedom to trust him and be content with what he provides and how he provides it. Ask your husband for forgiveness for the things that you have mistakenly placed your trust in him and now see him (your husband) as a blessing and special gift from God. Affirm now your trust in Christ and his plan for you and your marriage. Confess to your husband that you have not respected him, trusted him, cared nor supported him as Christ would have.

## Prayer and Healing Time Approaching:



The Greek word for healing is *iaomai*. It's pronounced like *yeow - omy* as if it hurts at first "yeow!" then a sense of awe as you look back on a God produced healing "o-my!" This is a somewhat of a silly rubric to introduce the next section, but healing in marriage requires tender honesty as we reveal our hurts that need healing. More than that, healing in marriage can sometimes take on this picture where we want to respond with a "yeow! That hurts to hear!" We must remember that they said their "yeows!" long ago with many of them were silent to our ears.

**Confess:** God has brought you providentially to this place and time that you might be a means for Christ to touch each other that the other might see Christ in you for the glory of God.

It's seems that those closest to us often times are the ones that hurt us the most. We are fallen and live in a fallen world tempted at every turn to live as though God is not Creator active in His creation, Sovereign over our Marriage and life.<sup>1</sup> But there is an infinite difference to our ability to respond to these hurts than those outside the adopted family of God. We are the resurrected of Christ and the same power that took Christ off that cold damp slab lives in us to bring new life where we have brought death. As a Christian you have been bought at a price, been adopted as a Son or Daughter of the King of the Universe, changed from a slave to sin to a free man or woman to love God and you are part of His Bride who will inherit the kingdom along with Christ at that great wedding feast to come. His return is imminent. Jesus said, "*I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*" (John 14:2-3) In these last days, we are given some of the greatest opportunities to glorify God when we are hurt. It's in our deepest pains that we can turn toward the hope of restoration and reconciliation with God that only comes through Christ Jesus. And here's the kicker, we most glorify God in these times when we are able to demonstrate our restoration and forgiveness from God *by responding to our spouse like Christ did to us on the Cross*. Christ was innocent but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, (Verse 10: while we were enemies), Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6). He was nailed to the Cross, globally humiliated, and yet He made a plea directly to God for you and your Marriage. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34) If God can forgive us for what required the death of His Son (yeow!) can we forgive each other and show that He reigns in our life (o-my!).

The next two pages are handouts intended to help the couple **reveal, release and repent** of seemingly invisible pain built up overtime in our marriages that acts as an acid corroding the life we have in Christ.

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<sup>1</sup> "life" is used intentionally here; as a Marriage is a covenant sexual union between one man and one woman for life, producing a physical and spiritual oneness by God such that the two previous parts no longer exist. There are no "lives" but one new "life" focused on Jesus, a new creation in Christ living for His glory.

Be gentle with each other, listening for the pain and understanding that, as we have hurt the other, in reality, we have actually hurt ourselves.

“In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ...”  
Ephesians 5:28-29 niv

**Print the next pages.**

Give “**For the Husbands**” to the husband and “**For the Wives**” to the Wife.

1. The discussion is preceded by a preparatory confession.
2. Husband, do your sheet first followed by the Wife.
3. Before proceeding, Open your Bibles and **Read Ephesians 4:32.**

**“Be kind and compassionate to one another,  
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”**

4. Now Pray this verse together back to Christ and ask God to bring His healing and forgiveness to His marriage.
5. Move to the discussion and receive God’s healing.

## **For the Husbands:**

**“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself,  
and the wife must respect her husband.”**

Men, how could we have missed it? Here it is in black and white. The primary need of your wife is to be “Loved.” And true love is demonstrated (Rom 5:8) through Christ as the pre-eminent relationship where our need for security and significance can be met. But remember, your Wife is a precious gift from God specifically and providentially given to you and she is the only human relationship given to help find and meet your deepest needs of human personality. Like gently holding a blossoming rose, come alongside your Bride in her journey to total trust in Christ for all things.

If the Husband consistently, openly, publicly and honestly loves his wife before others, and God, over time she receives His grace and becomes secure in that love and freed to openly, publicly and honestly Respect you her husband before God and others. It’s a cycle that feeds on itself but it starts with the men. With an honest and inward motivation to please Christ, hold her hand in public, praise her in public and especially before her children, open the door for her and let the world know how special and prized she really is to you. To God, she is more than a daughter; she is a Princess in the highest royal family, she is a Queen who co-rule with you under Christ the King. Remember Christ died that his Bride might be lifted up to the heavens... and you are called to do the same.

***Pray to God the Holy Spirit to make you the Respectable husband  
that he wants you to be.***

### ***Prayer to God the Holy Spirit:***

1. *Confess* that you have not loved your Bride as God intended, that you have not been secure in Christ’s love for you and that this has created a fear that has kept your Wife from the deepest intimacy with you.
2. *Seek* a deep *Repentance* for the pain and suffering that you have caused your Bride and its ill effects on your Marriage. You know how it has hurt you so remember that it hurts her if not more so.
3. *Receive forgiveness* as His child and trust the truth that Christ truly is God and as Immanuel (God with us) He, in the most intimate and personal sense, is dwelling in you christian.
4. *Ask* the Holy Spirit for *trust* in Him that He will provide and has already provided for ALL your needs.
5. *Ask* God to send His Holy Spirit to you that you will be made further into His image to bring forth the fruit of a covenant marriage with your Bride and growth in Christ in a selfless mutual relationship that reflects the singular holy Trinity.

6. And ask all these things in the precious name of your Creator and Redeemer Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**For the Wives:**

**“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”**

Same story but different focus. How ladies could this be missed? According to our Creator the primary need of your husband, the thing God intends you to give him, to light his fire, is not primarily sex, but a union that reflects Respect for him because of your respect for Jesus. This Respect is a level of intimacy that God intends for you to give as a gift to your husband. However, only in Christ, and His pre-eminent relationship, is where your need for security and significance can be truly be met. But remember, your Husband is a precious gift from God specifically and providentially given to you and he is the only human relationship given to help find and meet your deepest needs of human personality. If the Wife openly, publicly and honestly Respects her husband he in turn is secure and freed to openly, publicly and honestly Love his wife before God and others. It's a cycle that feeds on itself. With an honest and inward motivation to please Christ, support your husband in public, praise him in public in all his ventures, encourage him to lead and let the world know how special and prized he really is by helping him meet God's purpose for marriage and family. Lift him up with Respect that you may be the giver of grace that frees him to love you for the glory of God.

***Pray to God the Holy Spirit that He will heal and mold you to be the Loving Wife that he wants you to be.***

***Prayer to God the Holy Spirit:***

1. *Confess* that you have not respected your Husband as God intended, that you have not been secure in Christ's love for you and that this has created a fear that has kept your Husband from the deepest intimacy with you.
2. *Seek* a deep *Repentance* for the pain and suffering that has caused your Husband and its ill effects on your Marriage. You know how it has hurt you so remember that it hurts your Husband as well.
3. *Receive forgiveness* as His child and trust that Christ truly is God and he is Immanuel (God with us) in the most intimate and personal sense in that He indwells you.
4. *Ask* the Holy Spirit for the trust in Him that He will provide and has already provided for ALL your needs.
5. *Ask* God to send His Holy Spirit to you that you will be made into His image and bring forth the fruit of a covenant marriage with your husband and Christ in a selfless mutual relationship of giving.
6. And ask all these things in the precious name of your Creator and Redeemer Christ.

## OUR MARRIAGE COVENENT: Healing DISCUSSION

**Read Aloud Together:** Three Times

**“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”**

**Ground Rules:** (take as much time as you like, express your hearts longing for true, divinely ordained intimacy with each other.)

Now Explore the verse above together. But here is a general rule:

1. Do Not point fingers at the past. Each of you is forgiven by God. Remember that Christ suffered and died on our behalf so that we, Husband and Wife, do not have to make each other suffer.
2. Note that this is about seeing and making a covenant for now and the future with each other, in God’s presence, to treat each other as God has designed and commanded for our good. There are three in every biblical marriage: Christ, Husband and Wife.
3. This is about reclaiming the covenant that was made with Him when you were first married, only this time, it is with a better informed, submitted and Christ filled heart.

Now gently and preciousy Confess your failing to provide, protect, lead, love and respect one another and confess your deepest hearts desire for Holy intimacy with each other as God intended. Explore this together and *commit to love and respect each other’s soul in a way that can only be explained by the power of God.* (No time limit)

**Closing Prayer:** (facing each other, kneeling if at all possible and holding hands.)

Lift each other up to the Throne of God and let Him see the love you have for each other because He has loved you first.

## SESSION 3: God's Gift of Marital Intimacy. (1 + + hours)

**Read Aloud:** contemplate this preparatory to your prayer

Lord, make us instruments of your grace\*.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, union;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy;  
O Divine Master, Grant that we may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen

*~ By St. Francis of Assisi ~  
\* grace rather than peace*

**Opening:** Prayer (facing each other, kneeling if at all possible and holding hands)

**Read Aloud:**

Colossians 1:27 "...this mystery, which is Christ in you"

**Discuss:**

- 1.) What does it mean that Christ is in you? (~ 5 min)
- 2.) How does this relate to the Covenant of Marriage? (~ 5 min)

**Read Aloud:**

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

**Discuss:**

- 1.) What does it mean that "I" no longer live? (~5 + min)
- 2.) How does this relate to Gen 2:24/Eph 5:31 "two will become one?" (~5 +)
- 3.) The words "live by faith" can also be translated "made alive by faith." How have you been made alive by faith in God the Son through this study? (~10 +/-)

## Article Excerpt:

**We've only just begun, to live...** September 27, 2004

"It was the day before the fundraiser for the local Crisis Pregnancy Center. As a result it prompted my family and I to have some precious discussions about the sanctity of life and marriage.

So, the other day I found myself humming a line from the 70's song by Karen Carpenter "*We've only just begun, to live...*"

I didn't know it at the time but this was a subconscious response to a comment my eight year old son made during our discussion.

He said "Dad, isn't when two become one (in marriage) like when the egg and the seed come together?"

Wham! It hit me right there and I was captured by his innocent yet profound words. It was as if, in my mind's eye, I could see clearly the two (egg and seed) coming together, the seed working its way toward the egg, and becoming one as though I was watching the whole event live through some super electron microscope.

What my son described was that very moment when God brings to earth another new, single and beautiful life created in his image. What he described was also an excellent picture of the birth of a New Christian of how the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believer. What he described was a picture of the unity and union in Christ in Marriage.

"Yes, you're right! You're RIGHT!" I told him. (What beauty we can see of the Holy Spirit in our own saved children.)

The Seed and Egg were previously yet predestined entities that were meant to both disappear as individual parts at conception and emerge together as one new life. In the place of the two, God knits together a new, single, unified life for his holy purposes. (It is a life of complete unity, not joined parts.)

My son was right. Here we have the most tender and smallest of realities that a new single life is formed by God. And this new life only *begins to live*.

*And so it is with Christian Marriage.*

*"God takes two individual persons and brings them together into a one flesh, one spirit relationship. They become One, New, Single, Unified God Glorifying Life in union with and by God himself."*

*"Conception is a visible and holy picture of new life in Christ. It is also a picture of true Christian Marriage. It is a holy picture of a married couple's complete unity and union in Christ. Like the seed and egg, once conceived into a new singular creation, the two previous parts no longer exist."*

*"Let it be known that Man cannot separate that new, God formed life into the two (now non-existent) previous parts. 'So they are no longer two, but one. **Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.**' Matthew 19:6 niv"*

## Exercise: Precious Time

Find a quiet place and gently read these passages to each other. This requires a 'no expectations' attitude so that she can feel the essence of the love Christ has given you for her, that she may receive expressions of God's tender love through His own words that she may reflect the same.

**Book:** the following verses are from the Song of Solomon.

1. Her: 1:13-14
2. Him: 1:15
3. Her: 1:16-2:1
4. Him: 2:2
5. Her: 2:3-2:6
6. Him: 4:9-15; 7:1-9a
7. Her: 4:16; 7:9b-13
8. Him: 5:1
9. Her: 5:2-6, 5:10-6:3

(Read Solomon as far along as you wish and remember that this is a sweet, tender dialogue of His love and respect and together, hearing in your heart words as spoken by God through you to one another. Listen for the love of your Creator Christ as you speak to one another with his words.)

**Comment:**

The intimacy experienced within the physical union of marriage is a God given glimpse of the infinite intimacy and union the born again believer, the true child of God in Christ, experiences as **Christ literally lives in that believer.** The believer IS in union with God and literally walks on Holy Ground in God's presence.

**Before we end:**

**The Three Nights**, we pray, were to give you **Three Promises** with **Three Persons**.

**The Three Promises** we pray you experienced were that:

**GOD'S WILL IS** to transform Your Marriage into His Image!  
**GOD'S WORD IS** his transforming truth!  
**GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT HAS** infinite transforming power!

**The Three Persons** we pray that grew intimately into One with each other are:

**Christ** our Creator,  
the **Groom/Husband** and  
the **Bride/Wife**

**Final Closing Prayer and Blessing:** (open your heart and commune with God with thanksgivings for what He hath done!

Prayer (facing each other, kneeling if at all possible and holding hands.)  
Example:

Our Heavenly Father,  
We Lift each other up to you in Christ,  
by the power of your indwelt Holy Spirit,  
and to Christ who sits on the Throne as the High King of Heaven,  
with all authority,  
we **Praise** you for who you are  
And we **Thank** you for what you have done and are doing for us, in us  
and through us.  
We thank you for bringing yourself into **the rightful center** of our  
Marriage and making us selfless servants to each other of you and your  
love.

We praise you as Lord and Lover of Our new, singular life in you as you  
had intended from the beginning. And We agree and ask for your  
**blessing** and **ever growing presence** in our life for evermore. We now  
wholly and daily submit to **you and your word** willingly, lovingly and  
cheerfully as our Lord over All in every area and aspect of our life.

We ask all this in the precious name of our God, Creator, Lord, King,  
Savior, Redeemer and Supreme Treasure - Christ Jesus, Amen.

## MORNING AFTER THE STUDY - NEW LIFE : Follow Up

### To Husband and Wife:

Christ is now the center of your marriage as God intended. Continue to make this sure each day for the world is literally bent 24/7 on taking you away from your Creator and His word. And **when Christ the King is not on the Throne of your heart, it will first be seen in your relationship with your Husband/Wife.** This marriage was intended to glorify God, and it does when you live it according to God's plan and precepts. Keep striving towards the goal to move Christ to the center of every part of your life that you may be blessed each and every day by his personal presence in your life. If it is true, that God that "Two have become One."

### LIFE ACTION:

Now, **before** the hurriedness of **each day** begins, the Two that are now One begin each day together with intimate time with Christ through a:

- 1.) **Morning Prayer** and
- 2.) **Scripture Devotion.**

Both husband and wife are to share in the open expressions of prayer and together you both should expect to receive the blessings that follow and flow from the Tree of Life - your Creator... a marriage where Two have become One in God Almighty who is Christ.



**Resource:** You may wish to use a devotional for Married Couples of which there are many. One, as only a suggestion, is "God's Word for Married Couples, Devotions for Growing Together, Humble Creek, ISBN 1-59310-154-6 The key is not a particular devotional book, but that you are spending time with your spouse in a biblical devotion, based on scripture, with and in the Lord Christ.

May God bless this marriage forever more. Amen.

## **FURTHER STUDY TOGETHER: A Marriage "in Christ"**

As **follow-up**, this section includes a **vital study** to continue to transform your marriage further into the image God intended, that is, in the image of Christ.

### **FIRST: Turn together to Ephesians 5.**

This inspired book begins with a command to "imitate God." This in itself sets the theme for the entire chapter which later bleeds over into this imitation by children in chapter 6 by your example.

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." EPH 5:1-2

The Marriage section begins with a reminder of this in Eph 5:21 and continues through to the final proclamation of a mystery hidden before the beginning of time. God tells us through the writer of Ephesians that Marriages are Christian, and have always been, since the beginning of Creation. He does this by quoting Genesis 2:24 in Eph 5:31.

**"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church." Eph 5:31-32**

Imitation of God brings glory to God and a true witness to the world.

### **INSTRUCTION:**

Each of you are to do the following:

1. PRAY for God to reveal his truth to you as you read.
2. READ Ephesians 5 atleast **3 times** and
3. Get a sheet of paper and **separately ANSWER** this one question.
  - a. **How do I**, as a Husband or Wife, **Imitate God in my Marriage?**
    - i. What example does He give each of us?
    - ii. How am I to minister personally to my H/W based on this scripture passage?
  - b. **Make note of your comments**, insights and "aha's!" as a result of your reading.
4. After completing the above:

- a. DISCUSS your findings with each other.
- b. Discuss your “aha’s!” as a result of your reading.
- c. Encourage each other in God’s revealed truth.

5. CLOSE with Prayer.

## **FURTHER STUDY TOGETHER: Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**

(Note: This material can be read before as a preparation or as a further study after “2 Will Become 1.”)

As follow-up, this section includes a vital study to continue to transform your marriage further into the image God intended, that is, in the image of Christ.

### **PREPARATION:**

Both Husband’s and Wives: **Read p. 25-55, Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**, available free as a PDF. (This is a top resource and highly recommended for your library. See beginning of this study for a web link.)

### **Discussion:**

[Note: This briefer study can be accomplished as a discussion before bedtime, after dinners, as part of a morning devotion time together, etc.]

Discuss the Reading on “Complimentary Biblical Manhood and Womanhood” from God’s perspective for their design and purpose. Ask yourselves and answer these questions:

- 1) “What is Biblical Obedience?” and discuss
- 2) “How does this obedience glorify God?” and discuss.
- 3) “Is Obedience Biblical without Joy?” And discuss.

## READING/MEMORY VERSES: Husbands

**Ephesians 5:25 (Memorize)**

Genesis 1:27-30, 2:4-7, 2:20-25  
1 Corinthians 7:2-5  
Colossians 3:19  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Ephesians 4:31-32, 5:3-7  
Philippians 2:14, 4:8  
Hebrews 13:4  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  
Philippians 2:2  
1 John 4:7-12  
Romans 12:9-12  
1 Timothy 3:2-7, 12  
1 Peter 3:7  
1 Timothy 5:8  
Luke 16:10  
Psalm 45:9-17 (Read to her)  
1 Samuel 16:7  
1 Corinthians 13:4-8  
Proverbs 10:12  
Romans 13:10  
1 John 3:18  
1 John 4:18-19

1 Timothy 5:1-3  
Malachi 2:15  
Ephesians 4:26, 5:28-33  
Proverbs 15:1, 4  
Colossians 3:17  
Colossians 4:6  
James 1:19,26  
Daniel 1:8  
Proverbs 6:20-22  
Proverbs 7:1-5  
Proverbs 3:13-18  
Proverbs 10:9  
Proverbs 20:7  
Proverbs 28:6  
Proverbs 29:23  
2 Thessalonians 3:10  
Proverbs 12:24  
Proverbs 14:23  
Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Psalm 78:1-8, 1-72  
Ephesians 4:25-32  
1 Thessalonians 5:15  
Hebrews 13:5-6  
1 Peter 3:8-13

## READING/MEMORY VERSES: Wives

**Ephesians 5:22-24 (Memorize)**

Ephesians 5:33 (Memorize)

Genesis 1:27-30, 2:4-7, 2:20-25

1 Corinthians 7:2-5

Colossians 3:18

Colossians 3:12-17

Ephesians 4:31-32, 5:3-7

Philippians 2:14, 4:8

Hebrews 13:4

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Philippians 2:2

1 John 4:7-12

Romans 12:9-12

Proverbs 31:10-31

Genesis 2:20-24

1 Corinthians 11:8-9, 11-12

1 Corinthians 11:3

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Proverbs 10:12

Ephesians 4:26

Romans 13:10

1 John 3:18

1 John 4:18-19

1 Peter 3:3-4

1 Timothy 3:11

Malachi 2:15

Psalms 45:1-8 (Read to him)

Proverbs 15:1, 4

Colossians 3:17

Colossians 4:6

James 1:19, 26

Proverbs 12:4

Proverbs 14:1

Titus 2:3-5

1 Peter 3:1-2, 5-6

1 Timothy 2:9-10

Proverbs 19:14

2 Thessalonians 3:10

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 14:23

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalms 78:1-8, 1-72

Ephesians 4:25-32

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Hebrews 13:5-6

1 Peter 3:8-13

## **PRIVATE MESSAGE to HUSBANDS:**

### **From Nagging to Nice:**

Humble yourself and Try this (even if this remotely applies to your relationship.)

Jesus said "if you love me you will do what I command." At first glance this verse may not seem to have any direct application in our daily life, but in reality, it does. This verse, when applied to the Christian human experience shows us that our response to one another is an expression of love. Now, this doesn't mean that we become Lord's over each other shouting commands like a General in the army. But it does mean that we can demonstrate love to, for example, our Wives by doing **what** they ask **when** they ask if at all possible. For example: My Wife may ask me to take out the trash, but now knowing and being transformed by Christ and his words, I see that she is giving me an opportunity to show her that I "Love" her. And as we become more responsive to each other, the demands become less and less and therefore they become more and more opportunities to focus on each other in expressions of love and giving kindness to one another. They become opportunities to be Christ to our wife. The more immediate the response, the more Christ-like our action becomes. This is not manipulation but a dying to ourselves that our Wives might experience in some small sense the unconditional love of Christ in her life through us. Think about this the next time you are watching the game on TV and she asks for something. Stop whatever activity you are doing, if possible and safe, and show her that she is more important than whatever you were doing at the time. *Right then and there* just respond in love and **as you continue to respond in love, she will respond too...** Praise God!

### **Regularly:**

Husband, **regularly lift your Wife up in prayer** when praying together at the bedside, at the kitchen table, and so on, and praise Jesus Christ for her as a beautiful and special Creation just for you, the King's daughter, the prettiest member of the royal family, etc. **Daily encourage her to pray with you** aloud as your God given helper of the family God has given you to lead for His glory. The more she is encouraged, the freer she'll become in Christ to be a means of grace according to His will.



### **AUTHOR'S COMMENT:**

This study is available for free from [www.NeighborReach.Org](http://www.NeighborReach.Org) and may be copied when left intact including copyright notices. This study began as an email suggesting some scripture to a friend. Since the original work it has grown based on input from couples who have experienced New Life, a New Beginning in their Marriage because of what Christ has done in and through them by His Holy Spirit and Word. If you were blessed by it, please thank the Lord!

### **DISCLAIMER**

Since that original email, it has come to our attention that there are other Bible Study(s)/resources with a similar name(s). This study, "Two Will Become One" is based on God's word and therefore He gets the credit and glory. Ref: NIV Gen 2:7, Eph 5:31. This study is **NOT** affiliated with other studies or other resources of the same or similar name.

NeighborReach.Org is not associated with Dr. Piper or his works and entities, such as DesiringGod.org, nor the Center for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood or it's works found at cbmw.org.

## NOTES

**Heart of the Study:** Common responses.

Earlier in the study we ASKED: "How are you and your spouse to be One?"

Typical responses are included below for your benefit but do not read until after you have completed your study.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 **One in Mind and Thought** in Christ
- Acts 1:14 **One in Prayer** in Christ
- Ephesians 5:19 **One in singing Psalms** to Christ
- Ephesians 5:20 **One in Praise** to Christ
- Ephesians 5:21-23 **One in Submission** to Christ
- John 17:22-23 **One in union with God** in Christ
- Malachi 3:17, Galatians 3:28 **One as the Lord's Possession** in Christ
- Matthew 6:25-27, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:17 **One in trusting the Lord for all Provision** in Christ
- James 5:16, Luke 17:4 **One in Repentance** in Christ
- Philippians 4:11-13, Matthew 11:28 **One in Peace** in Christ
- Mark 10:6-9, 1 Corinthians 7:5 **One Physically** in Christ
- John 14:15 **One in Obedience to Christ as Lord over all**
- Malachi 2:15 **One in Flesh and Spirit**, we are Christ's.

**Husbands:** The American Institute of Family Relations published Seven areas where Husbands fail most according to their wives.

- Frequency of snide remarks and sneers at the wife before company or the children.
- A lack of tenderness.
- A lack of politeness.
- A lack of sociability.
- A failure to understand the wife's temperament and peculiarities.
- Unfair in financial matters.
- A lack of plain honesty and truthfulness.

### **Prayer Support:**

We would appreciate your *support through continued and regular prayer* for this ministry and the Husbands, Wives, Marriages and Marriage Ministers it impacts.

If you have been blessed by this study please let us know by sending a note to:

Richard Carangelo, 102 Kisa Court, Mooresville, NC 28117

**“Christ, who is God over all, be forever praised! Amen.”** Romans 9:5 niv