



## Daily Verse and Comment

### Ephesians 5:30-32

(30) For we are members of His body—of His flesh and of His bones.

(31) For this reason shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall be one flesh. (32) This is a great mystery; but I am speaking in respect to Christ and the church.

*A Faithful Version*

Just as [Jesus](#) reached back to God's instruction to Adam and Eve in His teaching about marriage in Matthew 19, the apostle similarly refers to [Genesis 2:24](#), when Eve is first presented to Adam. This verse, often called the "leave and cleave" verse, reveals that there should be a definite break between one's life as a child and life as an adult spouse. To put it another way, a man's life *under* his father and mother should be completely separate from his new life in which he is *over* his own household.

According to this verse, the newly married couple should set up a house on their own because to do otherwise confuses the roles and responsibilities that [God](#) desires to work on through this relationship. If a man remains under his father and mother, he cannot be the lord of his own manor, as it were; he cannot really be a head to his wife. In the same way, if the couple lives in her parent's home, the wife has divided loyalties. Who is really her head: her husband or her father?

For the marriage to work best, the couple should not remain in the home of either set of parents because it does not allow for the intended relationship between husband and wife. It is one thing if there is some sort of hardship that forces the couple to live with the parents for a short time, but to fulfill God's command and purpose in [Genesis 2:24](#), a newly married couple should set up their own household as soon as practicable.

A man should be king of his own castle and his wife, his queen without interference from parents or in-laws. The parents can be there to give needed advice, to lend a hand, and to watch the children from time to time, but for the couple to grow and develop the character that they need both now and for God's Kingdom, they *should* be on their own.

This means that, barring other complications, a couple should not marry if they are unable or not mature enough to set up a separate household. They should put off marriage until the husband can support his wife financially and emotionally. Paul does say in [1 Corinthians 7:9](#), that if a man and woman cannot control themselves, "it is better to marry than to burn with passion." However, that piece of advice has frequently been abused by people who are unwilling to practice self-control—a sign that one or both of them is indeed immature.

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[Marriage—A God-Plane Relationship \(Part Five\)](#)**

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