

## MARRIAGE'S IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM

Reference: **Genesis 2:24** and **25**

Pastor Larry Webb

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**verse twenty-four**, *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*

**verse twenty-five**, *“and they were both naked (notice) the man and his wife (that statement confirms that this text is a reference to marriage) and were not ashamed.”*

Jesus quoted from this same passage in **Matthew 19:5** and Paul also quoted this passage in **Ephesians 5:31**. These words constitute the earliest definitive statement ever made about marriage. This means that marriage is first described in these verses. Using this Genesis passage we're going to discuss marriage's irreducible minimum.

The first part in marriage's irreducible minimum is \_\_\_\_\_ of our parental ties.

**verse twenty-four**, *“Therefore a man shall **leave** his father and mother”*  
Married children are to be loosened from their parents in three basic areas:

- in a \_\_\_\_\_ sense
- in a \_\_\_\_\_ sense
- in an \_\_\_\_\_ sense

Being loosed from our parents in marriage **doesn't mean** that we ignore, neglect, dishonor and or disrespect our parents. See the fifth commandment.

Reference: **Exodus 20:12**, *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”*

Reference: **I Timothy 5:4, 8, and 16** (see screen)

The second part in marriage's irreducible minimum is \_\_\_\_\_ to our mate!

**verse twenty-four**, *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother **and be joined to his wife**, and they shall become one flesh.”*

The Hebrew term that is translated as *“joined”* means to be \_\_\_\_\_ and has three basic meanings:

- to \_\_\_\_\_ someone
- to be \_\_\_\_\_ together
- to \_\_\_\_\_ together

Marriage was designed to be a permanent arrangement but God has allowed for some exceptions. Legal and biblical divorce was and is a concession to the innocent partner so that the faithful partner is no longer bound to a marriage commitment that has been violated. The Christian should never consider divorce except in specific circumstances, and even in those circumstances divorce should only be pursued with reluctance because there is no other recourse.

Some biblical grounds for divorce:

- unrepentant \_\_\_\_\_ sin  
Reference: **Matthew 5:32** and **19:9** (see screen)
- \_\_\_\_\_ by an unbeliever  
Reference: **I Corinthians 7:12-15** (see screen)
- \_\_\_\_\_ from the church giving the church permission to pronounce the innocent partner eligible for a certificate of divorce  
Reference: **Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:1-5 and 9-13**