

## God Made Them

Mark 10:6-9  
Charlie Brackett

As Jesus answered the Pharisees' question about divorce, He gave four great principles upon which good marriages are based. The first is in verse 6. There He said, "God made them male and female." Being our Creator He knows what makes us tick and what a good marriage is all about. If we would listen to our Creator, we would have better marriages.

The second great principle of a good marriage is in verse 7. Listen. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,.." Jesus began the thought with "For this reason." What reason, Lord? Why the reason stated in the previous verse: "God made them male and female." The natural attraction of a male for a female and a female for a male was put there by God. Because of it, a young man and young woman are both drawn to leave their parents and be joined to one another. It is sexual, but it is more. It has to do with *all* that makes a man and woman different. The King James Version says it this way: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;.."

This "leave and cleave" principle has some interesting implications. First, the obvious, we have already discussed. It is natural that two young people would want to leave parents in order to be joined together. But, there is another implication along the same line, yet more subtle. Frequently, after the honeymoon, husband or wife is found not to have cut the apron strings after all. Many a marriage has been doomed to disappointment or failure over one not leaving parents completely. You see, leaving and cleaving involves more than just moving out of mom and dad's house. It means establishing a household of your own, independent of parents' control.

A third implication is that parents ought to leave their children alone when they set up house for themselves. Sometimes, no matter what a young person does to leave so as to cleave to a new mate, the parents won't permit it. They insist on maintaining control. When mother or father continue to meddle in a young couple's affairs, the marriage is going to have trouble.

There is another lesson I would like us to see in this verse 7 which we will get to next time. My friend, can we not see from this passage that God knows what's best for our marriages, and He has told us plainly and practically what to do. It is up to us to do it.