

Hillcrest Encouragement

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And the Two Shall Become One Flesh

I recently attended my parents' 50th anniversary celebration – 50 years of marriage, united in love, producing a family of their own. Genesis tells us that God's view of marriage is that "the two shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24), an idea affirmed by Jesus and continued by Paul in the New Testament.

So, what exactly does that mean? We can certainly dissolve a marriage far more easily than we can 'dissolve' a person. One way to think about this idea is via a repurposed analogy. C. S. Lewis, when describing his view of the Holy Spirit, refers to a club or church or team which seems to have its own unique 'spirit', a spirit so tangible and pervasive that anyone can sense it. For example, if you attend a Wylie Bulldogs football game you will observe one spirit, and perhaps a different spirit at an Abilene High or Cooper game, and yet a different one at an ACHS game. Likewise, Hillcrest has its own spirit that is unique from other church fellowships across the town and nation. C. S. Lewis then likens the Holy Spirit to just such a spirit, that is to say, a spirit of union between Jesus and God the Father so strong that it is actually its own unique 'person' in the trinity.

Now let us consider the Lewis analogy for the Holy Spirit in terms of the "two becoming one flesh." Instead of a unique 'spirit' so strong that it actually becomes its own person we can conceive of a union so strong and permanent that it becomes its own person. Here, the "one flesh" is embodied in a child. In other words, a child might be considered the one flesh expression of his or her parents union. (This is not to argue that the union is incomplete without a child but merely that the child is the expression of that union which already exists.) Furthermore, just as all children from one union differ, multiple children express the different dimensions of that union. One child may be high energy and extremely curious whereas another may be a wordsmith, naturally creating original phrases that skillfully paint thoughts in a new way. Each of these qualities would then represent distinct expressions of the union between mother and father that God has deemed "one flesh" just as light refracted through a prism looks a different color depending on the viewing angle.

So what's the point? Well, are you a father or mother? Then treat your children with love and respect because they are the living expression of your union with your spouse. Are you a son or daughter? Then act with honor because you are the living expression of your parents' love and union.

Ryan Jessup

The Hillcrest family is led by the Holy Spirit to glorify God, proclaim the truth of Christ which transforms lives, and encourage one another toward faithful service and maturity.