

# LASTING LOVE—Developing a Relationship Marriage

## By Dr. Reggie Alderman

**(EPHESIANS 4:32)** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### REVISITING THE GENESIS FACTOR

- **The Genesis factor - LEAVE**  
(Genesis 2:24 KJV) Therefore, shall a man **leave** his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- **The Genesis factor - CLEAVE**  
(Genesis 2:23-24 LB)  
"This is it!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own bone and flesh! Her name is 'woman' because she was taken out of a man." This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that **the two become one person**.

### FOUR KEY PATTERNS THAT DESTROY ONENESS IN MARRIAGE (The games people play...)

1. Escalation –The Verbal Weapons Game
2. Invalidation: The SHAME Game
3. Negative interpretations: The BLAME Game
  - The Shame-Blame connection
  - Guilt vs. Shame

While guilt says, "I have done wrong," shame says, "I am wrong."

Shame is a feeling that we are defective, flawed, bad, or worthless.

4. The Hide and Seek Game

### WHAT TO DO FROM HERE TO CREATE A *RELATIONSHIP MARRIAGE*?

1. Reconcile any issue that is causing tension in my marriage  
(Ephes. 4:26-27 LB)  
If you are angry, don't sin by nursing your grudge. **Don't let the sun go down with you still angry--get over it quickly**. For when you are angry, you give a mighty foothold to the devil.

(2 Corinthians 5:18 GW)

God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ and has given us this ministry of **restoring relationships**.

2. **Re-engage** skills that build-up my marriage relationship

- **LUV** \*

- a. Listen
- b. Understand
- c. Validate

\*From Gary Smalley's book, **The DNA of Relationships**

3. **Respect**

- **Honor**

(Matthew 15:8) "These people **honor** me with their lips,  
But their hearts are far from me..." Matthew 15:8