

## The Two Will Become One – This Is A Great Mystery

Read Ephesians 5:31-33

Two becoming one in marriage, and within the body of Christ, requires commitment to a lifelong process of discovery. The secret of solid, enjoyable and productive marriage relationships, and relationships in general, as Paul writes, is a mystery, but a mystery that is meant to be known.

The Greek word for **mystery** means: that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation. Further, a mystery is made known to the **initiated**.

Marriage is an initiation of sorts. A man and a woman are initiated into a relationship of differences. One of the most amazing aspects of marriage is that women and men are different. One of the most challenging aspects is that women and men are different. Gender, personality, family background, preferences, and expectations are just some of the differences we experience in our relationships. These differences can often create tension. Tension is not, in and of itself, a negative thing. Tension is the balance that literally holds our universe together (see Colossians 1:15-20). If we manage it in our relationships, tension will create opportunities for growth and deeper appreciation for one another.

Read Philippians 4:12-13. What is the secret of living in every situation, whether living rich or lean, hungry or full, single or married, popular or unknown?

Dr. Gary Smalley has written about human personalities by likening them to four different animals; **lion, beaver, otter, golden retriever**. One is not superior over another. We are generally dominant in one type but are often a blend of two or more types. Often, we will display one type at home and display a different type at work or out with friends.

- Share within your group: Have the group answer the question for each individual – “What kind of an animal are you?”
- Reflection: With so many differences, how can you get along?
- Read Ephesians 4:2-5, 11-16.