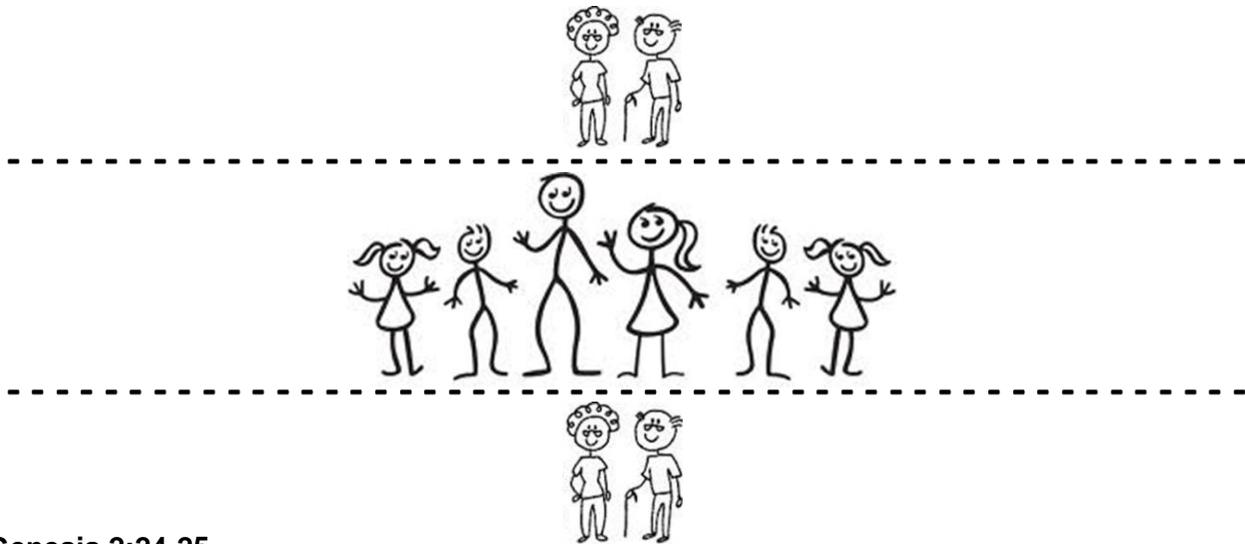


## Leaving and Cleaveing

### Healthy Boundaries between Generations

According to Genesis 2:24<sup>1</sup>, when two people marry, they **leave their parents** (emotionally, financially, and spiritually) and **cleave** (cling) to one another. Christ-centered marriages are interdependent, depending ultimately on God and then each other. According to Ephesians 6:1<sup>2</sup>, **parents** (not grandparents) have **co-authority over the children**. These are healthy boundaries for marriage and family.

When a husband and wife leave their parents and cleave to their spouse, this involves death to dependence on your parents. If a couple or spouse does not emotionally or financially detach from their parents, it results in rigid barriers between the husband and wife. Loose (overstepping) boundaries between the generations fosters immaturity. Overstepping will result in divided loyalties and alliances, producing conflict, frustration, and isolation.



### Genesis 2:24-25

**For this reason** (intimacy, interdependence, unity, and harmony)  
**a man shall leave** (go away from, not interfere with, discontinue dependence, not include)  
**his father and his mother,** (not his family fellowship, but emotional and financial dependence)  
**and be joined** (sexual union; join or cleave means to “cling”)  
**to his wife;** (interdependence limited to spouse)  
**and they shall become one flesh.** (sexual union representational of our oneness in Christ)  
**The man and his wife were both naked** (emotionally, mentally, physically, and vulnerably)  
**and were not ashamed.** (no pretense, nothing hidden, warts and all, guard down, no shame)

### Discuss

1. How do you depend on your parents emotionally or financially?
2. Do you see potential problems with either parent when you “leave and cleave”?
3. What do you feel the Holy Spirit is leading you to do to protect your marriage?
4. Define and establish boundaries to protect the health of your marriage.

<sup>1</sup> See also Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:6-9, and Ephesians 5:30-32

<sup>2</sup> See also Colossians 3:20, 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12, 15, and Heb 13:17