



● Two things we know about family relationships:

- 1) All of us are **affected** by them.
- 2) Family relationships are **hard**.

● The very first effect of sin in the world relates to **family**.

📖 Exodus 34:5-8

● We **pass down** an inheritance of characteristics, both physical and nonphysical, from generation to generation. 3 aspects to our heritage:

- 1) Every person is made in the **image of God**.

📖 Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1, 3; 9:6

- 2) Every person is born with a **sinful** nature, a general bent toward **evil** inherited originally from Adam. 📖 Romans 5:12; 3:10-12

- 3) There can also be a **specific** bent toward evil inherited from our more immediate forefathers and its resulting consequences.

Example: Abraham's family (lying)

📖 Genesis 20:1-13; 26:6-11; 25:27-33; 27:1-4, 5-29; 37:32-33

● The overwhelming point of Genesis: **all began with God**. We are given incredible insight into the nature of our **lives** and the nature of our **relationships**. 📖 Genesis 2:18-25

● God creates Eve, and in doing so establishes the most foundational relationship to all creation: **marriage**.

I. Marriage Requires **Leaving**.

■ Leaving what? 📖 Exodus 20:12

- ◇ At marriage, the priority of the relationship to mom and dad changes and **now** there is a new priority—the **spouse**.

■ Some have failed to leave **family**.

■ Some have failed to leave other **priorities**.

II. Marriage Requires **Cleaving** (Joining).

■ The reasons we leave is so we can **cleave**.

■ The way we cleave is to **love**.

- ◇ Love is a **passion** or **emotion**.

- ◇ Love is a **choice**—an action or a decision. 📖 1 Cor 13:4-7

■ Some marriages let the **passion** die.

- ◇ You are no longer in love *only when* you **choose to stop loving**.

- ◇ It is easier to **act** your way into a feeling than to **feel** your way into action.

III. Marriage Results in **Weaving**.

■ God creates **one** out of **two**.

- ◇ The goal is **unity**.

■ This unity is to be **physical**, **emotional** and **spiritual**.

- ◇ **Sex** becomes the physical expression of this oneness.

■ The enemy wants to destroy God's creation—that includes **marriage**.

- ◇ **Truth** and **forgiveness** are the greatest tools we have to preserve oneness.

"Desperate Households" next week: "Help! I Married the Wrong Person!"