

What is "one flesh" and what is it that God joins together?

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Assertions/Conclusions of this article

To show that "one flesh" is sexual relations between a man and a woman and not some 'bond' that cannot be broken as asserted by a few.

Supporting Evidence

To prove this we see that a husband and wife will become "one flesh"..

Gen_2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Mat_19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Mat_19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Mar_10:8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

Eph_5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

We see that a husband and wife will be "one flesh".

to further understand what this "one flesh" is lets look to something outside the marriage union....

1Co_6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

Paul shows that even having sex with a harlot, one to whom we arent married, obviously, is the same as "one flesh" in marriage.

Paul even quotes God/Jesus when he states..."For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh".

A man is also 'one flesh' or 'one body' with a harlot he is with (1 Cor 6:16) showing that 'one flesh' is not exclusive to the marriage union. So we see that "one flesh" is merely the sexual union between a man and a woman, married or not. If anyone other than Jesus would understand what 'one flesh' was, it would be Moses. The man wrote the law, we can rest assured that he understood Gods intent from the beginning. That Moses were ever permitted to allow divorce/remarriage (as proven in Deut 24:1-4) shows absolutely that this perpetual 'one flesh' bond is nothing more than unscriptural nonsense. Moses had permitted a man to put away a wife just because she found no 'favor in his eyes". She was permitted to REmarry.

IF 'one flesh' from the beginning were UNbreakable, then so it would be in Moses day, Moses would have KNOWN that if it were the case, and ongoing adultery would have been the crime of this woman put away and REmarried, as she most likely would have been.

Are we naive enough to think that Moses was sentencing an innocent woman to hell by permitting her to REmarry ?

All he had to have done *IF* one flesh were perpetual was tell the INNOCENT they couldnt remarry so as to not be in 'adultery' as some suppose today.
But he didnt.

Because Moses understood that this one flesh is not continued perpetually when a divorce has happened. If the divorce is scriptural, then the bond is broken, ended....no adultery is committed when one REmarries. Just as in Jesus exception. He narrowed the allowance by showing that a legitimate breach of covenant must be present, but He did not change the definition of divorce, nor did HE disallow remarriage in the case where fornication has happened. Adultery is committed now when a spouse is put away for any reason short of legitimate breach of covenant, and we then remarry.

Lets look at Joseph and Mary now.

Firstly we know that Jesus was not illegitimate. He was born to two lawfully married people. The Jews accepted this and called Joseph Jesus' father (many not knowing any different).

IF marriage was not valid without consummation....the two being "one flesh" as it were, then Joseph and Mary wouldnt be "married" and Jesus would have been illegitimate....without a lawful earthly father.

Joseph had not yet been with Mary before Jesus was born, yet WAS said to be her "husband" and she his "wife" or espoused (betrothed) wife. He was going to put Mary away when he found her with child, showing that she was indeed his "lawful" wife....if she werent his wife he could have just left her obviously.

What bound Joseph to Mary was not sex, as is blindingly apparent, since they had had no sexual union at that point, but what DID bind them was they were joined in matrimony, Gods holy marital covenant.

So when we look at "one flesh", we can clearly see that because of 1 Cor. 6:16 that "one flesh" is sexual relations between a man and a woman, married or not.

And since we know that we arent married to the harlot just because we make ourselves "one flesh" with her, that this "one flesh" is NOT any tie that is unbreakable.

There is no such thing as breaking the "one flesh" union, otherwise 1 Cor. 6:16 would show that every person who has had sex with someone they werent married to is permanently "one flesh" with them for life...and we know that isnt the case based on the context of 1 Cor. 6.

Conclusions:"one flesh" is sex, plain and simple.... as proven by 1 Corinthians 6:16Sex is not the tie that binds, the covenant is...as proven by Joseph and Mary.What binds a man and woman for life is the marriage covenant.... which we know is a conditional covenant, for Jesus has said "except".

IF "one flesh" is what makes a man and wife "married" (as some see it), then Joseph and Mary were NOT married and our Lord was born illegitimate.

Proof that is not the case is in Luke 3:23, Luke 4:24, John 1:45, John 6:42. Jesus WAS Josephs "son" as far as being born into a LAWFUL, binding marriage covenant.

Below is a quote from John Gill concerning his own views of 1 Corinthians 6:16.

Commentators can help us shed light on a verse, but never take their words as gospel truth, they are fallible men like you and me.

1Co 6:16 -

What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot,

.... Not in marriage, but in carnal copulation, and unclean embraces, is one body with her

for two

("saith he", Adam, or Moses, or God, or the Scripture, or as R. Sol. Jarchi says, the Holy Spirit, Gen_2:24)

shall be one flesh;

what is originally said of copulation in lawful marriage, in which man and wife, legally coupled together, become one flesh, is applied to the unlawful copulation of a man with an harlot, by which act they also become one body, one flesh; and which is made use of by the apostle, to deter the members of Christ from the commission of this sin, which makes a member of Christ one body and flesh with an harlot, than which nothing is more monstrous and detestable.

The apostle here directs to the true sense of the phrase in Genesis, "and they shall be one flesh"; that is, man and wife shall only have carnal knowledge of, and copulation with each other.

-J. Gill