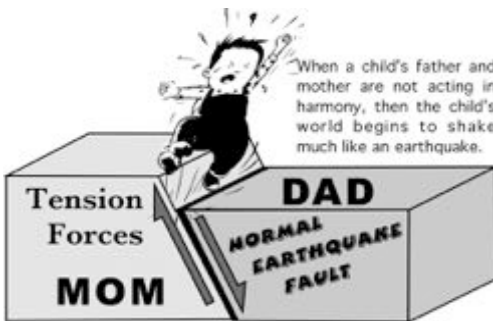


Importance of Marital Oneness to Children

Oneness concerning the married couple is the foundation of our families. To threaten the oneness in marriage is to threaten the very fibre of the family—a child who sees their parents at friction with one another.

Page 38 of Paul and Linda Bucknell's book, *Principles & Practices of Biblical Parenting: Raising Godly Children*, says this about the oneness in marriage and how it affects the child: "The parents' life is the child's world. Any time the husband and wife start arguing, it is like two tectonic plates rubbing against each other in the minor child's world. An emotional earthquake happens. Fears arise. Most small children know of other families who have experienced divorces in today's world. They link their parents' arguments with the possibility of divorce. So, like minor earth tremors, they sense something bigger is happening deep down that threatens their secure world. After all, children's security does not come from the home of the world, but from their parents' agreement to watch over them. They fear all that they love and care about will be gone. They do not know what to do when deserted and left on their own. The child, who does not see the parents' commitment to oneness, can unconsciously develop certain odd behaviours to keep his



parents from destroying his world. For the child, everything is at stake. They are willing to endure rather embarrassing situations like wetting the bed, screaming, stealing, etc., to keep the parents together. They subconsciously think that if the parents focus on their own needs (even though it is often extreme), they will receive more attention from their parents. Parents rarely connect their lack of oneness with the child's odd behaviour. The solution in these cases is not to change the child, but themselves. The parents can make a big difference by making a few changes toward having a harmonious home."

I. There are three ways to model oneness. We look at marriage as being complementary. The husband and wife aren't competing with one another, but should instead model oneness.

A. Opportunities for oneness in conversation.

1. Stop accession (vying for power or trying to gain control) (**Revelations 12:9-12** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. **10** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. **11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. **12** Therefore rejoice ye heavens and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. **Titus 3:2** To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men.)

2. Pause for reflection

- How do you respond when your spouse becomes selfish and focused on the inward?
- Children pick up on our accusing spirit through our conversation.

B. Opportunities for the husband to love (**I Thessalonians 2:7-8** But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: **8** So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls because ye were dear unto us.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it. **1 Peter 3:7** Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.)

1. Are you going to love your wife on her bad days?

2. The wife is good for you (**Genesis 2:18** And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.)

C. Opportunities for the wife to submit (**Colossians 3:18** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. **Philippians 2:4-11** Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. **5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **John 17:4** I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.)

II. The Biblical principles of unity

A. The biblical principle stated (**Philippians 2:1-2**

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, **2** Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.)

• Same mind	Unity of thought
• Same love	Equally devoted to the other's good
• United in spirit	Hearts bound together after Christ
• One purpose	Common goals and drive

B. How to build unity.

1. Develop security by ensuring a secure world in the life of their children through the secure relationship they have with each other. Develop moral character. "The child learns how to appropriately respond to others humbly, lovingly, and kindly. Through the example of his parents, he gains faith (i.e. confidence) that he can get along with people even in difficult circumstances. He does not need to get his way to be joyful. The world might be at war. Neighbours might hate each other, but when a child sees this oneness lived out before him in their parents' lives, that child will stand out as a bright light in a very, very dark world."

2. "God establishes 'oneness' in marriage. A marriage will only be as good as this 'oneness' is lived out in word and action. Disharmony between parents causes excellent [Old English - "outstandingly terrible"] problems in children. Harmony benefits them. God commands His Word to help parents maintain their marital oneness."