

The Church at your Home



From the Unity Perspective

His Grace Bishop Paula

The background is a light beige color with a faint, stylized map overlay. The map features various navigation symbols: a compass rose with 'N', 'NW', 'W', and 'E' markers; a dollar sign (\$) in the lower-left; and several white crosshair-like symbols. A prominent white line runs diagonally across the center, framing the title. In the bottom right, there is a silhouette of a family of four walking. A thick red horizontal line spans the width of the image just above the bottom edge.

From the Unity Perspective

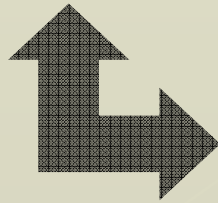


The Early Church



The Bible focuses on the lifestyle of the early church believers that was mentioned in Acts: 4: 32 ,34,35 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

And on the 50th day, it also mentions



“They were all together in one soul” Acts:2:1

And about the church in general

It is written:



“so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” Romans 12:5

The verse means:



1. Unity in Christ:

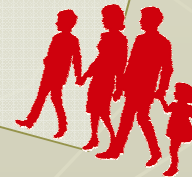
“one body in Christ”

2. Unity with each other:

“individually members of one another”, “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

John 17:22

**The relevant
question
that is raised:**



**what does unity on the
family level mean?**

First

Unity in Christ :

St. Paul says that Our Lord Jesus Christ that HE is the Head of the Church

“He is the head of the body, the church” Colossians 1:18

“Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body”

Ephesians 5:23

First

Unity in Christ :

In the Coptic Orthodox Church, in the wedding ceremony prayer, we pray for a tri relationship, Our Lord, the Bride and the bridegroom which illustrates that God is the cause of their unity and he is the preserver of this unity.

Therefore, we believe that man is the fundamental link with Christ. St. Paul says, “The man is the head of the woman” Ephesians 5:23

“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ” 1Corinthians 11:3

Therefore, the bridegroom puts on the uniform of priesthood as a symbol of being the priest / pastor of the family as well as the spiritual guide to everyone in his family.

That is why, the bride and the bridegroom must,

seriously, consider ways to stay united with Jesus Christ with the purpose of maintaining a true successful marriage, and that can be done through all the available sacraments.

And because of this unity, St. Paul asks all husbands for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Ephesians : 5

And when Paul says that: “The man is the head of the woman” it means more emphasis on the unity between a husband and a wife as there can't be a head without a body nor a body without a head.

It also means that there is no life for a head without the body and there is no life for a body without a head,

which also means the body is united with the head and the head is united with the body. For this unity God created Eve from Adam's body. When this part of Adam came back to him, Adam felt this unity when he said that :"this is a bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" Genesis 2:23

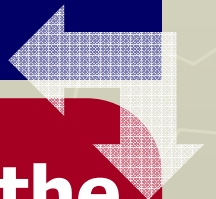
Consequently



the marriage unity is created by God Himself, that's why we read in the Gospel of Mathew, "what God gather, no man can separate". And this and this Godly act is done through the wedding ceremony.



Wedding prayers: connect them with the true company; give them the sign of their communication so that "love" would be the link between them.



In the first prayer of the wedding ceremony

we pray

**” We ask that you
connect your
worshipers so that they
can communicate with
each other in one body.**



In the third prayer

**we pray
saying**

**“to support their
connection” And through
this unity, they are
integrated with each other
and they complete each
other’s shortages: “So we,
being many, are one body in
Christ, and every one
members one of another.”
Romans 12:5**



Fourth:

Abigail talked about her husband's fault saying

"I should bear his fault, forgive your slave's fault. That is why we see Abigail kneel down in front of David and she did not even make any faults.

This explains to us that the marriage relationship is such a superb relationship more than any other relationship and that is because of the complete unity between the husband and the wife.

'For this reason a man shall leave father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6As a result, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, no human being is allowed to separate." Mathew 19

We can also find the same meaning and concept in Ephesians 5.

That is why, in the wedding ceremony, the bride is told when she is being handed to the bridegroom: “Listen my daughter, look here, and be attentive. Forget your people and the house of your father” She is also told in the commandments: “Your husband is responsible for you after your parents. This tells us that each of the husband and the wife leaves all for the ONE; his or her “life partner”.

**The holy Bible asks us to honor our
parents :**

**There are a number of commandments
concerning parents:**

**” Honor your father and your mother,
that your days may be long in the
land which Yahweh your God is
giving you.” Exodus 20:12**

This particular commandment has a significant importance for a number of reasons:

1

This commandment was written by God's hand

2

It is also the first commandment in the second stone tablet

3

It is also the first commandment that deals with human relationships

4

And finally, it is the first commandment that offers a promise of something.

That is why St. Paul says “honor your father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.” Ephesians 6:2

On the same level and with the exact approach, we can consider the relationship of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Mother; Virgin Mary in three different situations:

first

in the wedding of Cana

second

when Jesus was 12 years old

third

at the cross during His Crucifixion

There is also another example in the Old Testament about King Solomon and his Mother. 2nd Kings 2:19

**The Holy Bible also asks us to
obey our parents:**

**“Children, obey your parents in
the Lord: for this is right.”**
Ephesians: 6:1. Here we have
to stress the fact that the main
condition here is to obey them
in the LORD as we should obey
the Lord more than people.

BUT, despite all that I have just talked about, the relationship between the husband and his wife is so much special, it is much more special than their relationship between them and their parents. That is why the Bible stressed the fact that **“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh”**

Therefore,

it is very much recommended that the prospective couple should train themselves gradually to detach themselves from their parents for the purpose of uniting with each other without any obstacles.

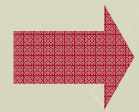
This training must have an evidence in everyday life. The following are some examples:

how can a husband decide to go to his parents without even telling his wife.

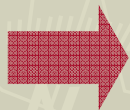
How can he eats some meals at his parents' house without taking his wife

How can he always be biased to his parents in every problem that arise between them.

There is another level of communication and some relevant problems:



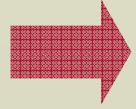
What if your wife complained about something that concerns your parents ?



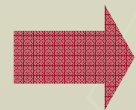
Would you verbally abuse her and show her that she is mistaken?



Would you just act defensive without a reasonable argument?



Would you try to comfort her and make her feel at ease?



Or would you be unfair towards your parents?

I strongly believe that a wife does not want her husband to be unfair to his family. I truly believe that she wants her husband to make her feel at ease and comfort her.