



Christian married couples are the smallest units of the body of Christ, just like the 7 trillion cells of our body. Scientists have shown that it is possible to clone a person out of a single cell. It shows that a cell of an individual person contains the unique characteristics of the person it belongs to. It is because a cell of a person comprises his DNA and other components. DNA represents his identity and the other components keep the cell alive. Likewise Christian couples are the living cells of the body of Christ. When the Bible says, "Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church." (Eph.5:25), it means the couple will exist healthily when they are able to maintain their relationship within the love of Christ. It may be likened to the DNA of Christ. The love of Christ maintains the identity of Christian marriage and Christ's love enables husbands who are the heads of their wives initiate the process of loving interactions between them. Through this process wives will feel loved and reciprocate with respect and submission to their husbands. This helps husband and wife relationships in love which, in turn empower each one to fulfill his/her role effectively.

Going back to the origin of humanity or human community, it is nothing more than a man and a woman who were joined as an interactive system to enhance the love of God. It is because we are created in God's image and His likeness. It is only natural that they reflect God's love through interacting with one another as God is Love. Though a husband and a wife are two unique individuals, they are one spirit and one flesh in the sight of God, for procreating godly human kind. That is why Malachi 2:15-16 says: "Has not the Lord made them one?" In flesh and spirit they are His, and why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring, so guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 'I hate divorce', says the Lord God." Godly children are therefore by-products of a God-designed marriage. The original design or the blueprint of marriage is found in Genesis 2:18-25. Obviously, marriage is designed for man to fulfill the desire of God. As the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." He has a need of a suitable helpmate for him to show his love the way God does to humankind. And that suitable helpmate could not be found on this earth, but through sacrificing one of his ribs. It was the

sacrifice made by the man that enabled him to cherish her as "the bone of his bones and the flesh of his flesh". This shows that a healthy marriage does not come by cheaply. The higher a price a man pays for the love of his helpmate the more he would cherish her as a part of his body; and she would willingly position herself in such a way that can empower him to function effectively as a thoughtful head of his marital relationship and family. In fact, Jesus affirmed the truth of marriage as a divine act of God by saying: "At the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Mk.10:6-9). This is the reason God hates divorce.

Every married couple in Christ is therefore regarded as a development of a new cell within the body of Christ. It must become a unique cell grown out of the old one just like a growth process of our body system. The health of a cell is maintained by the healthy interaction between its DNA and the other components without interference from any foreign particles. The new cell should therefore not be enmeshed to the old cell but healthily individuate from it in order to maintain a normal growth process of the body. This gives us clarity when the Bible says, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife." (Gen.2:24). Parents should therefore release and commission their children to form a new married couple relationship and develop their own healthy family unit, and in doing so build up the body of Christ and the advancement of God's Kingdom.

In our aging society many senior adults encounter loneliness as their children leave them because they are busy with their own lives. Many complain that they now have skin-deep (superficial) interaction and a lack of communication with their children and grandchildren. They seem to have no time to show love and concern for their parents' wellbeing. It appears that children selfishly leave their parents behind and only take care of their wives and children as their priorities. I would encourage our children to devote themselves to inculcate family values and lifestyles in the light of Christian beliefs that fit them as wives and husbands rather than be confused by the "values and interferences" of their parents. ...

We should encourage our children to go on to maturity and have trained themselves to distinguish between good and evil rather than linger with traditions which may be obsolete. As long as they have the life of Christ and have it to the fullest, this is the greatest blessing to their parents!

As senior adults, we should learn how to let go and be gracious to our new generation. We can also inculcate godliness and contentment by making full use of our own limited resources which may include our time, bodies, talents and space; if we are fortunate enough to have sufficient retirement funds and our beloved spouses and friends around us. Most of all remember what the Word of God says, "For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." (ITim.6:7-8). Let us rejoice in the Lord always and be forward looking and finish the rest of our lives well. Amen!