

# One Plus One Equals One: The Sacrament of Marriage

## Pray Together

Hanoon Flor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, as we learn about the sacrament of marriage, please show us what godly love is. Bless the marriages of our families and loved ones and keep us strong in our faith and in our love for you. Amen.

## Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

- On Holy Thursday, Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate
  - the death of King Herod
  - the First Christmas
  - Passover
  - Pentecost
- Another word for Holy Communion is
  - Eucharist
  - the Ascension
  - ordination
  - anointing
- Which of the following things is not part of the Communion activity:
  - fasting
  - giving to charity
  - repenting for sins
  - confession
- God offers us \_\_\_\_\_ to help resist temptations.
  - Moses
  - the Holy Spirit
  - St. Gregory
  - David
- Which is not one of the seven deadly sins?
  - envy
  - anger
  - humility
  - gluttony

## A Garden Wedding

Read Genesis 2:19-25. Answer the following questions.

- Why did God bring all the animals to show Adam?

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2. What did God decide Adam still needed?

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3. What was Adam doing when God removed one of the ribs from his side?

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4. What did God do with Adam's rib?

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5. When a man is united to his wife, he and the woman become what?

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### One Plus One Equals One!

As you saw in Genesis, God states that a man and woman are to become “one flesh” when they are united in marriage. Does this mean they should tie their feet together and act as one being all the time? Of course not.

When a man and woman decide to get married, they are two different people. They grew up in different families, and maybe spent their childhoods in towns that are very far apart. They each bring different experiences, opinions, and skills to the marriage. God created them as individuals with special gifts which should be valued.

By declaring the married couple “one flesh,” God means that the man and woman now have a new life *together* which is a whole different thing than the way they were each living before. One plus one really *does* equal one in this case! A husband and wife must work to protect their oneness from harmful outside influences. Their marriage relationship is something God wants the couple to treasure. It is so important that God compares it to the relationship between Christ and his church (Ephesians 5:25).



## What Is Love?

You see images of love everywhere. It's on TV, in books, and in the movies. So many songs are about love. These images usually show attractive people kissing and holding hands and doing other things associated with romance. But what is it really about?

On the lines provided, write about your opinion of what love really is:

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When you think of a loving person, who comes into your mind? Tell what makes that person a good example of someone who shows love.

## God's Recipe for Love

In I Corinthians 13:4-8, God says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Below are the qualities of love that God says are important. Rank them in order of importance from 1-15, with 1 being the most important.

- \_\_\_\_\_ patient
- \_\_\_\_\_ kind
- \_\_\_\_\_ not envious
- \_\_\_\_\_ not boastful
- \_\_\_\_\_ not proud
- \_\_\_\_\_ not rude
- \_\_\_\_\_ not selfish
- \_\_\_\_\_ not easily angered
- \_\_\_\_\_ forgetting about wrongs
- \_\_\_\_\_ not being happy about evil
- \_\_\_\_\_ being happy about the truth
- \_\_\_\_\_ protective
- \_\_\_\_\_ trusting
- \_\_\_\_\_ always hopeful
- \_\_\_\_\_ always keeps trying



What did you rank as most important?  
Why did you choose this quality?

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## But What About Divorce?

Everyone knows a family where there has been a divorce. Your own parents may be divorced. Why does this happen? How should you handle it? Didn't God say love never fails?

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, all of God's wonderful creations, including marriage, are subject to problems. When a couple decides to separate or divorce, it makes a lot of people sad. The parents themselves are very sad that their union is being dissolved, because their hopes and dreams for family life did not work out. Grandparents and children are sad and confused because their family as they knew it has changed. Even the church community shares this pain.

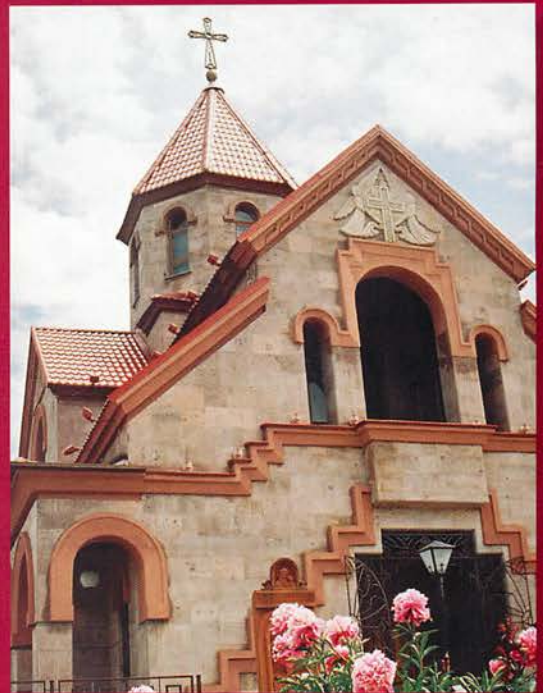
Even though a pair decides not to live together anymore, their love for their children will never change. In these ways, love continues, even if the marriage does not. And God's love for everyone involved is always there.

## Our Armenian Way *Harsanik* Հարսանիք

The wedding ceremony in the Armenian Church is particularly beautiful. During the service, the priest joins the right hand of the bride to the right hand of the man. In remembrance of the first marriage in the Garden of Eden, the priest says, "Taking the hand of Eve and giving it to the hand of Adam. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

The deacon reads from Ephesians 5:21-33. This passage explains the relations between husband and wife, and between Christ and his church. In this case, the word "church" does not mean a particular building or group of churches, but all believers. The deacon also reads Matthew 19:4-9, which discusses family life and divorce.

The bride and groom are seated in the chancel before the altar, and crowns are placed on their heads. This tells everybody that the man and woman are king and queen of their household, and work together to make a home. The crowning also reminds us of the day when we are in heaven with Christ, and we all share in his glory and majesty.



## FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



### **Lesson Roundup**

In today's session, your child learned about the sacrament of matrimony. Students first explored their associations with the word and then read about how God created marriage and partnership in the Garden of Eden. The children performed an exercise helping them to define their understanding of love, and they read about ideal love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. The class also read about the Armenian wedding ceremony.

### **Family Faith Activity**

God's plan is for us to live in families that are grounded in his Word. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Tell your children about how you and your spouse met.
2. Read Genesis 1 and 2 together.
3. Find a story online or in the news about a marriage of a celebrity couple. Have a family discussion about how the list of love's attributes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 might or might not be operating in the celebrities' situation.

### **A Parent's Promise**

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup \_\_\_\_ and tried at least one activity as a family \_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### **Faith Word**

#### ***Matrimony***

The act or state of being married.