

Intimacy is one of those funny concepts. Ask 100 people what it is and you'll probably get 100 different answers.

It reminds me of what one U.S. Supreme Court justice once said about obscenity: "I can't describe it, but I know it when I see it."

Ask guys about intimacy, and most will tell you it involves sex. Ask women, and they'll tell you it involves "feelings."

Note to guys: Saying "I feel like having sex" doesn't count!

In Eph. 5:31, God tells us that in our marriages He wants us to be joined to one another. In the OT, the word "cleave" was used. It literally means to cling: Come or be in close contact with; stick or hold together and resist separation.

It's a carpentry term that means to join two parts together so that they can never be separated.

God calls us to be glued to each other physically, sexually and in a lifelong relationship. It's a permanent bonding of a man and woman.

Husband and wife.

Divorce and the Christian

We all know that our society doesn't take this seriously: More than half of all marriages end in divorce. But it's about the same – actually even a little higher – within evangelical churches. We're not cleaving as God intended us to.

Think about that for a moment. The rate of divorce for Christians – those who call themselves followers of Christ and supposedly believe in that "til death do us part" vow – is the same or higher as those who profess no belief in Jesus.

Aren't we supposed to be different?

As usual, God's plan varies from our practice of it. God wants us to have intimacy – a bond so strong that it cannot be broken. It's two becoming one.

Research shows that couples who describe their marriages as "extremely satisfying" and having intimacy view their marriage as having a purpose larger than any one individual.

Simply put, they see "we" as more important than "me."

*Excerpt from Enjoying Marriage
By Rick and Charlotte Redding*