

Pastor Geoffrey R. Boyle  
Wedding for Scott and Amber Osborn  
6 August 2011  
Grace Lutheran Church, Wichita  
Genesis 2:18-24

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit*

Scott, Amber,

You are one flesh.  
One person.  
One unique union of man and woman.

You are not two.  
You are one.

But what does this mean?

It means that you're no longer in a relationship.  
You're no longer simply related to each other as separate individuals.

It means your feelings are no longer only yours, but each others' as well.

And your actions don't just hurt you or help you, they hurt or help this union of two made one.

It means you don't live separate lives.  
You don't keep things from the other.

It means that you no longer go throughout this world as if the weight of it all rests on your shoulders alone.

Scott, you now have a suitable partner.  
You now have "bone of your bones and flesh of your flesh" (2:23).

And Amber, you do too.

You are now no longer two, but one.

And in the course of our preparing for this marriage,  
we experienced this two-becoming-one in a more profound sense than today's wedding.

As we met and got to know each other a bit better,  
our conversations were rarely about marriage, or the wedding—  
we'd try to take care of that as quickly as we could so we could get to the real  
meat!

We talked about the faith:  
about Baptism, Communion, who this Jesus actually is and why the Cross matters.

And that is what your marriage is built upon.

It's built upon the marriage, the union, of God and Man.

When Adam saw Eve he knew that this woman was God's gift to Him, and it was good.

When Christ Jesus saw you, He knew that you were God's gift to Him, and it was good.

When Jesus saw you, He cried out,

“At last! Bone of My bones and flesh of My flesh;  
you shall be called *Christian*—for you are made by Christ.”

Scott and Amber,

Your marriage,

your union of two-becoming-one,  
is all about Christ and you.

Not as two separate things—

remember, in Christ you're not separate, related to each other, or distant—  
you and Christ are One.

This union didn't come about because you did anything so wonderful or deserving,  
but because our God loves you.

As we learn to live and grow within this love that He has for us,  
so also our marriages, our unions of two-becoming-one,  
show forth a love that we now have for each other.

Now don't get me wrong, you will mess up along the way.

You will lie—all men are liars one way or another...

You'll hurt each other—that's bound to happen when we're so focused on ourselves...

And you'll fail to see each other as a gift from our Lord from time to time.

This will happen.

And it also happens with our union to Christ—

we lie to Him, thinking we can cover up what we've done so He doesn't find out...

we hurt Him, just look what we did by putting Him up on that cross!

And we often fail to see Him as a great gift for our own good, our own salvation.

But as we mess up with Christ, and as we mess up with each other,  
we learn more and more what it means to be one flesh.

We begin to feel the pain we've caused the other.

We hurt when the other hurts.

We cry when the other cries.

And so when we do something to mess it all up,  
 we hurt and cry out,  
 “Forgive me!”

And being one flesh with the other,  
 our partner, our Christ,  
 says to us,  
 “I forgive you. All is well. Come back, come home.”

That’s what it means for the two to become one flesh—  
 there is forgiveness.  
 There’s love.  
 There’s a unity that cannot be broken,  
 a oneness that can’t be separated.

God loves you and gives you at last “bone of your bones and flesh of your flesh”  
 so that you’d learn to trust Him, to rely on Him, to grow in love and faith toward Him.

And all of this happens because our Lord gives you to another,  
 so that the two of you become one flesh,  
 just as Christ Jesus has taken humanity into Himself.

In Christ, you are one with God and one with each other.

There’s no greater blessing or gift than that.  
 No greater relief than to say finally,  
 “At last! Bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh,  
 you are from me and I am from you!”

And that’s how it is between the two of you.  
 And that’s how it is for you with Christ.

That’s what this marriage is built on.  
 That’s what will sustain it.

Praise God for His calling the two of you into a union with Him by His grace alone.

May that grace be what this marriage is known for.

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit*