# **Shared Love Unites**

עַל־כֵּן יַעַזְב־אִישׁ אֶת־אָבִי וְאָת־אָמּוֹ וְדְבַקּ בָּאִשְׁתּוֹ וְהָיוּ לְבָשָׂר אֶחָד: (בראשית ב:כד) Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh** (Bereshit 2:24).

The Torah tells us that man and women become one - והיו לבשר. How are we to understand that phrase?

# RASHI - CHILD

Rashi cites a gemara (Sanhedrin 58) that suggests that the fetus is formed by two individuals, and through the birth of a child their flesh becomes one. The child essentially is conceived through the father and mother and the result is one entity, or individual with characteristics of both parents. This is what is meant by a woman and man becoming one – through the birth of a child.

# **RAMBAN-CLOSE RELATIONSHIP**

The Ramban has an issue with Rashi's explanation. Animals also give birth to offspring and it would seem that the Torah is seeking to distinguish between humans and other species when highlighting that man and women become one. Therefore, the Ramban offers an alternative interpretation of the pasuk. In contrast to animals that mate with any female and establish no long-term attachment to their partner, humans develop a lasting relationship

and cling to each other. The relationship between man and women exceeds a cursory temporary attraction. Between them develops a bond that is much deeper than a mere physical connection. That relationship fuses them into one being. It is the **close relationship** that creates the bond between them.

# RAV SOLOVEITCHIK -CHILD CONNECTS PARENTS

Ray Yosef Doy Soloveitchik (Masoret Harav) creatively blends both interpretations to offer his perspective on marriage. To love means to share an identity, a common destiny. In the Rav's words: If the lover and the beloved are united, then two persons who are in love with a third are also united... the link of hearts is stronger than the link of minds. The love between a husband and wife is strengthened and deepened with the birth of a child. Two individuals who exhibit unconditional love for a child create a strong bond between each other. Together they focus on creating the proper environment for their child, together they nurture that child and share concerns and aspirations. This establishes a strong emotional connection that unites them. It is important to develop a strong relationship as a husband and wife and not just as a father and mother, but

co-parenting facilitates the strengthening of this bond.

# **LOVE OF TORAH – UNITES**

The Rav extends this idea to Torah. We all aspire to be Bnei Torah. The "children of Torah". God loves Torah and offered this precious gift to us. Just as a husband and wife strengthen their bond through their love and affection toward their child, so too Am Yisrael as God's child, strengthen their connection to Hakadosh Baruch Hu through the joint love of Torah.

As we begin the new cycle of Torah reading, may we cherish the messages portrayed in each parsha. May our allegiance, admiration, commitment and love for Hashem continue to grow and flourish through our study of Torah.

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