

Elvis Huffard wrote once concerning the great binding power of marital love, and its similarity to glue. There have been some amazing developments in the area of glue formulas in the past few years that make this comparison especially interesting. Several so-called 'super-glues' have been put on the market which are guaranteed to glue practically anything. I have purchased several of these products, because I break things rather easily, but I have never found one that really worked before. I guess that I don't follow the important principles which are usually part of the instructions.

The first thing to be done is to make sure that the right type of glue is used for the surfaces to be glued together. There are different glues for wood, plastic, glass, or metal; each must be used only on the materials listed on the package. The similarity to love is that, though there is only one 'love', there are a variety of ways to express it. There are enough varieties to suit every personality, and meet everyone's needs. Love is really more like a universal glue, for it should be able to reach anyone.

The second thing is to make the two surfaces which are to be glued as clean as possible. If they are left dirty, what one ends up doing is gluing the dirt from one surface to the dirt from the other surface. Thus, the surfaces will come apart very easily. The application to love is that we must purify ourselves, so that we can truly be bonded in love. This is especially true with regard to marriage. If our relationship is based on 'impure' motives, then it will break apart.

The third idea is that we have to hold the pieces together until the glue has had some time to harden or cure. This allows the bond to penetrate into the surfaces which are to be joined. The deeper the penetration, the greater the strength of the bond which forms. The bond must be cured before any real stress is put on it. Similarly, we must work very hard initially in our relationships so that they will have time to form properly. In thinking of marriage, we must allow enough time for the bond to become strong and well-established before the permanence of marriage is undertaken.

We read in Genesis 2:24 that a man and a woman are to 'cleave to one another' in marriage. The word 'cleave' could be translated cling, bind, join, or hold; the idea is still that of glue-like attachment. And as with good glue-bonds, the relationship should grow stronger as the years go by. A poor bond is not the fault of the glue, but of the improper use of it. So we must learn the meaning of true love, and how to use it properly; not only in marriage, but in all of our relationships.