

Trends . . .

The number of unmarried couples living together rose 13 percent from the previous year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This year, there are 7.5 million opposite-sex unmarried couples living together – up from 6.7 million in 2009 . . . There is a much higher rate of cohabiting couples in the South (38 percent) than in the West (23.2 percent), the Midwest (15.8 percent), or in the Northeast (15.8 percent).

- via The Christian Post, 9/26/10

Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."



October 31, 2010

Options That Married People Do NOT Have
By Bill Crews

When two people are married legally (according to the civil laws they live under, Rom. 13:1-7), and in the eyes of God (according to the law of God who originated marriage, Gen. 2:18-24; Rom. 7:2-3; Matt. 5:32; 19:3-6, 9 -- and the law of God supersedes the ordinances of men), they often vow to love, honor, and cherish one another for better or worse, in sickness and in health, and in prosperity and in adversity until death parts them. In fact, whether such vows are made a part of the wedding ceremony or not, such obligations inhere in the marriage relationship, and husbands and wives are expected by God to live up to them.

So many couples, both young and old, think they just have to get married (and they are in such an emotional romantic mood that hardly anyone can talk them out of it), but they (either both of them or one of them) soon decide that they don't have to (or should that be "want to") stay married. But God has given them no such option! Jesus said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6).

Some decide that they want a divorce from a mate because they are "no longer in love" with that mate. They should have been certain about their love before the marriage. And they need to know that God commands husbands and wives to love one another, Eph. 5:25, 28, 33; Titus 2:4 (and these passages were written during a time that in many cultures parents arranged the marriages of their children). Husbands and wives do not have the option of deciding to stop loving one another.

Some decide that they want a divorce because a mate has contracted a debilitating disease or has been paralyzed by an accident. They don't want to be tied down by "a cripple," but God has not given them that option. The unfortunate mate needs them

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MEETING TIMES
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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more than ever, and they need to show the nobility of their love, their character, and their commitment.

Some decide that they want a divorce because they have found someone else that they "truly love" (or like better), someone who also shows greater love for them (their perception) than their mate. But what kind of person would become romantically involved with another man's wife or another woman's husband? Could such a person ever be trusted as a husband or a wife? (And could they be trusted?) But, again, God did not give them any such option. Marriage is for life, and not "until you find someone you like better."

Some decide that they want a divorce because they "just don't get along well" with their mate, or they "really weren't ready for such a commitment," or they have found that "they are no longer compatible" with their mate, or they "don't feel loved and important," or they "argue all the time," etc., but God has given them no such option. Grow up, mature, get help, but work out your problems. The majority of divorced and remarried people admit that they were better off in their first marriage than they realized. Marriage is of God; He who originated it has a right to regulate it. He has done so in the Bible, the revelation of Himself and His will for mankind. God's plan is one man and one woman for life with one exception. That one exception is fornication (sexual immorality). The innocent and faithful mate has been given the right (not the duty) to divorce the guilty mate [and] marry another. The guilty mate has been given no such right. When two people marry, they have entered a serious relationship. Both need to be sure that they are both ready for such a commitment. People may change their minds and go back on their promises, but God's law does not change.

Consistency

Consistency is a key to success in almost any endeavor. In business, in school, in athletics – in fact, in every conceivable realm --consistency is fundamental to achieving success. We submit that consistency is also vital to success as a Christian.

There are some who go through periods of high interest and energy. For a time they will attend every assembly. They will speak to neighbors and co-workers about Christianity. They will actively pursue every possible opportunity to do good and serve the Lord.

Then, without apparent cause, these same people will enter into a period of almost total indifference and apathy. They stop attending Bible classes. They frequently miss the worship assemblies. They have no interest in personal work. They stop growing as a Christian and show signs that they are actually becoming much weaker.

Folks who exhibit these "hot & cold" cycles in their service to God will not be

successful in the long term. The "lukewarm" results of their inconsistency will not please the Lord (Revelation 3:16).

We need to be "steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). Christian, are you consistent?

- by Greg Gwin

Sharing the News

We tend to talk with others about those things that are of the greatest interest to us. Golfers like to talk about golf, musicians about music, and hunters about hunting.

The point here is this: Do Christians like to talk about Christ, the church, and the Bible? How committed are we about who we are and what we are? It is not necessary to be over-bearing with other people in order to let them know that we are enthusiastic about the Christian life. There was a time when people spoke freely about Bible topics on the job, in their neighborhoods, and among their friends, but those occasions today are certainly becoming more rare. Some are reluctant to discuss the Bible because it is no longer fashionable to do so, some cannot discuss the Bible because of lack of knowledge, and some decline to discuss the Bible because they simply have no interest. Nevertheless, there are still many opportunities. Many would still be interested in a conversation which began with one of the following statements:

"I was reading my Bible last night, and I came across something I had never noticed before..."

"Last Sunday, the preacher brought out a very interesting point in his sermon..."

"My wife (or husband) and I found some biblical principles that have really helped our marriage..."

"We have been through some difficult times, but our faith in God and his word have really sustained us..."

A great many people still wish to know more about God and his will. Most would admit to a desire to know more about the Bible. If we are truly committed, and if we approach people in the right way, there still are many who have an open heart to a study of the scriptures.

- selected

45,133,350 people have died so far this year (as of 12 o'clock Noon on 10/8/10) – that averages out to: 154,048 every day; 6,419 every hour; 107 every minute; 1.8 every second.

- via World Health Organization

John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

