



Family Christian Center

340 45th Avenue, Munster, Indiana ~ 219.922.6500

Family Life Development & Application {FLDA} Department

FCC Equip Overseer: Pastor John Ponder ~ jponder@fcc4me.com

FLDA Directors: Elders Robert & Natalie Watts ~ watts@fcc4me.com

FLDA Marketing & Advertising Directors: Conell & Rhonda Hollins



CLASS NAME: Prep for Marriage – 20/20 Vision | Lesson 7: Playing House – The Consequences of Cohabitation
CLASS SESSION: Sundays May 24, 2020 @ 11 a.m. LOCATION: Zoom Conference
INSTRUCTOR(S): Elders Conell and Rhonda Hollins ~ me2weministries@gmail.com

Playing House, It Makes Secular Sense!

Cohabiting prior to marriage makes sense today. With the increase in the cost of living as well as utilizing “living together” as a litmus test to evaluate if the person you are with is “the one” before making the big plunge makes good **secular sense**. Society today understands why some choose to cut the cost of living in half as they determine if marriage is really for them in the first place. Let’s face it, you are saving money, splitting rent, cutting grocery cost, raising kids together, added security, never being alone and let’s not forget unlimited sexual access brings all the benefits of marriage, less the commitment.

Reasons to Cohabitate

Ask yourself silently to yourselves, “Do I fall into one of these categories”?

- Convenience
- Testing the relationship for compatibility
- Financial Reasons
- Child/Children out of Wedlock
- Fear of being alone or Fear of starting over
- Fear of Divorce

Understand this, if it is convenient, if it is easy and most of all if it pleases the flesh but does not please God, are you in right standing with Lord?

Matthew 26:41 New King James Version (NKJV)

“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Imaginary Bricks

Do you remember the childhood story, “The three little pigs”? The fable is about three pigs who build three houses of different materials. A Big Bad Wolf blows down the first two pigs' houses, made of straw and sticks respectively, but is unable to destroy the third pig's house, made of bricks. Well, what if there was a 4th house in this childhood fable? One in which one of the pig's home was built with imaginary bricks. Think for a moment, if you were the child hearing this story, you might say to yourself, “who would build a house with imaginary bricks”. However, as premarital coach's we have watched so many couples attempt to do just that. Cohabitation without marital commitment is building a home with imaginary bricks. There is no foundation, there is no covering and it leaves you and your cohabitants susceptible to attacks from the enemy.

Playing House

The Consequences of Cohabitation

*According to statistics gathered by US Attorney Legal Services, living together before getting married doesn't accomplish the goal that couples think that it will. A couple who does not live together prior to getting married has a 20 percent chance of being divorced within five years. **If the couple has lived together beforehand, that number jumps to 49 percent.***

*If the couple chooses to live together as an alternative to being married at all, the likelihood that the relationship will break up within five years is 49 percent. **At the 10-year mark, a married couple has a 33 percent chance of breaking up. For the unmarried couple who is living together, the likelihood of a breakup is a whopping 62 percent.***

Proverbs 3:33 New Living Translation (NLT)

³³The LORD curses the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the home of the upright.

Just another Monday

Perhaps the saddest thing a recently-married couple told me was this: “Because we lived together before marriage, the day we got back from our honeymoon felt like ‘just another Monday.’” Premarital cohabitation sucks the novelty, joy, and surreal feeling out of the weeks, months, and years following the big day. Nothing’s really new except the jewelry on your fingers.

The Dangerous Lure of Living Together Before Marriage, Author - Steve Hoppe

Hopes Unfulfilled

*“In every measure of consolidation, intimacy and commitment, couples who are living together feel less closeness than married couples. Fewer share resources and 18 percent are not dating their partners exclusively. More than twice as many are not sure if their relationship is permanent. **The low commitment levels in cohabiting are particularly tough on females. Women agreeing to move in with a partner typically look for a deeper, more committed relationship, but according to studies, their hopes are often unfulfilled.**” *Christian Headlines Today**

Trying Before Buying

Why Buy the Cow When You Can Get the Milk for Free?

We have all heard the many sayings when it comes sampling the best of a women before asking for their hand in marriage. It is an insulting term and invalidating statements like these cause women to stay in relationships as the hopes of marriage are dangled over their heads until they comply with the needs of their live-in mates. Often, after many years of sexual **sampling**, a would-be male suitor becomes bored when a covenant commitment has not been made. Not inspired to change, not driven to fight for what is essentially laying right in front of them they become comfortable in complacency. We have all heard the many heartless comments and jokes said behind the heads of live-in

girlfriends. *“The old ball and chain, it’s cheaper to keep her”*. The sayings are many, but the kept promises of marriage are few. Statements such as, *“Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free, you can have your cake and eat it too or test drive the car first before you buy it,”* demeans and devalues the gift that God has called women to be.

Test the Test Drive Theory

Test Drive Theory - The theory that you must test drive a car (live with someone) before committing to purchase (marriage).

- **The Test Drive**- after you have test driven the vehicle you have utilized the vehicles resources without committing to purchase. (Fuel, convenience, etc.)
- **Devalue**– Once the vehicle is driven off the lot the car immediately depreciates in value.
- **Miles**- Most of the time a potential buyer does not want to own a vehicle that has high mileage.
- **New versus Used**– Let’s face it; if given the choice between a new car and a used vehicle most people would prefer to purchase a new car free of blemish.
- **Insurance**– During a test drive the vehicle has no protection to ensure its quality.
- **“As Is”**- Meaning you take it or leave it. Whatever damage was placed by the previous owner you take it that way and assume the risk, and you cannot seek reimbursement. There is no accountability and there is no recourse for repair for the current owner.

Do You Really Want to Be Tested Like This? God calls us to test the spirits not the spirits testing you!

1 John 4:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

Love for God and One Another

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits**, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Only the adversary seeks to diminish your value by comparing your importance to objects or things. You were created by a King and have inheritance as a child of a King. Women and Men of God are worth the wait! However, it is imperative that women in cohabitation relationships know their worth most of all!

1 Peter 2:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Future Forfeited

The real tragedy is that many couples who seek to live together before marriage do not truly understand what they are giving up. Without covenant there is no protection therefore you forfeit your marital inheritance. It is such an insurmountable wager where the consequences far outweigh the impact to those involved but affects their children's children up to the 10th generation.

Deuteronomy 23:2 New King James Version (NKJV)

²One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his *descendants* shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

Putting your children's children future at risk is selfish but it also shows a sincere lack of faith. It shows that you and your relationship lack the ability to trust in God that he knows what is best for you. This lack of faith causes a manmade relationship that siphons love and virtue rather than giving it. This faithless relationship continues to look for proof to establish itself in the eyes of man without ever providing commitment. Coexistence based in fear gives an outward appearance of marriage not the character of God within your relationship.

1 Samuel 16:7 New King James Version (NKJV)

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have ^[a]refused him. **For^[b] the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

The Fear Factor

An unwillingness to start over or fear of loneliness has caused many to move out of the will of God attempting to master their own destiny.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

"Treating cohabitation as marriage "insurance" is a very unstable foundation, one built partially on fear and partially on selfishness. It's basically saying that, if you meet all my needs and serve me well, then I will marry you".

- If you make me feel loved, then I'll marry you.
- If you satisfy me sexually, then I'll marry you.
- If you treat me with respect, then I'll marry you.
- If you make me happy, then I'll marry you.
- If you fulfill my needs, then I'll marry you.
- If you like what I like, then I'll marry you.
- If you make something of yourself, then I'll marry you.
- If you don't do things that get on my nerves, then I'll marry you.
-

Before You Live Together: Will Living Together Bring You Closer or Drive You Apart? Dr. David Gudel

Isaiah 4:1 New Living Translation (NLT)

4 In that day so few men will be left that seven women will fight for each man, saying, "Let us all marry you! We will provide our own food

and clothing. Only let us take your name so we won't be mocked as old maids."

Ring Rights!

If you Love it, put a ring on it!

Both men and women must understand that sex and the ability not to engage in sex should not be the sole reason you are getting married. Both genders pressure their mates for intimacy out of an abundance of fear. **While others in cohabitation relationships want the benefits of marriage without the actual ring rights.** This is unfair to both parties and if you really love each other you should be able to sacrifice your flesh for the greater good of covenant in marriage.

It is an unnatural dependency to live on lust instead of love. You or your mate should never feel pressured to engage in sex prior to marriage. You should also never feel that you will lose your relationship if you forgo sex prior to marriage. This is the embodiment of **Soul-Ties** where the spirits of others are fighting for center stage in your marriage bed. The bible states to get married if these strong desires persist. **However, we caution you again this should not be the sole reason you want to marry your significant other.**

1 Corinthians 7:9 New Life Version (NLV)

⁹But if you are not able to keep from doing that which you know is wrong, get married. It is better to get married than to have such strong sex desires.

Great Sex in Marriage is God's Design

Great sex in marriage is God's design. In fact, that's how great sex works! Sex is supposed to be intimate physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And here's the neat thing: the more spiritually and emotionally close we feel, the more the physical kicks in and the more sex feels great! **To Love, Honor & Vacuum – Top 10 Reasons to Get Married: Author Sheila Wray Gregorie**

