

God's Plan For Man: In The Home - Ephesians 5:23-33

Sunday AM 12/19/21

I) Facts

A) Marriage rate

1. Has steadily fallen in U.S. from 1932 to 1946 rate was 16.4 per 1,000 people.
2. Fallen steadily to 6.5 per 1000 for the years 2017 to 2018. 2019 rate is 6.1.

B) Divorce Rate Statistics (2019) (per, 1000 people)

1. 2.7 the lowest rate since 1970
2. 7.8 was the divorce rate in 1980 (considered the highest)

C) Percentage of Population that is married 2019

1. 53% down from 62% in 1990
2. 72% of the population was married in 1970

D) Percentage of Population that is divorced

1. 14.9% in 2019
2. 10% in 2005
3. Up from 8% in 1990
4. 6% in 1980

E) Why is the divorce rate declining?

1. People "living together" 15% 2019
2. People not getting married but "living together" 7.5 percent in 2005
3. Number of couples "living together" 2019, 17 million.
4. 5.5 million couple living together 2005.

5. Many view marriage as optional; those areas that do not still have the highest divorce rate.
6. Ironically the one group seeming to place a premium on marriage is homosexuals.

F) Current trends

1. Overwhelming majority of high school students have sex before they are 18 years of age
2. ¼ of the babies born today are out of wedlock
3. Fox News Reported: ¼ of all teenage girls have some type of STD
4. Poverty and divorce have a direct correlation.
5. 63% of children grow up with both biological parents (the lowest figure in the Western World)
6. Fatherless homes:
 - a. 63% of youth suicides
 - b. 90% of homeless/run away children
 - c. 85% of children with “behavioral problems”
 - d. 71% of High School dropouts
 - e. 85% of those in prison

II) God’s Plan for Man: In the Home

A) For one man to be married to one woman,

1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

1. In all three dispensations that was the rule.
 - a. In the Garden of Eden,

Genesis 2:24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

b. We have some cases of man deviating from God's law

i. Lamech took two wives, Adah and Zillah,

Genesis 4:19 *Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.*

ii. He also boasted to his wives of killing a man,
Genesis 4.23

c. Dinah in goes out to meet the daughter's of the land. She laid with and was "violated" by Shechem. This ended badly for Shechem and the men of the city were all killed by Dinah's brothers.

Genesis 34:2 *And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her. 3 His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman. 4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."*

2. The law of Moses regulated marriage and divorce (divorce not mention in Genesis)

a. It was not God's intention for man to marry and divorce for any reason.

3. Jesus' answer in **Matthew 19.6-8**

Matthew 19:6 *"So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to Him, "Why then did*

Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

- a. ***Romans 1*** describes the downward spiral of the Gentiles. Even the Jews had the practice of divorcing for any reason.
- b. Such leads to unstable homes, and children without parents
- c. Once again we can read of different people deviating from God's law today.
 - i. David committed adultery with Bathsheba, ***2 Samuel 11***
 - ii. Unintended consequences included pregnancy, attempted cover up of the sin, murder of the husband.
 - iii. King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. They turned his heart away from God.

3. The Law of Christ,

Mark 10:11 So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. ***12*** "And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

- a. God intended for every person to marry someone that is not already bound to another.

Romans 7:1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? ***2*** For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if

the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.

- b. God intends each to faithful to each other. *Hebrews 13.4*

III) God's Plan for Man: In the Marriage

A) In any marriage there must be some type of foundation.

- 1. An unstable foundation will result in an unstable marriage,

Matthew 7:26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: **27** "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

- a. A marriage based on looks will eventually have problems.
- b. A marriage based upon selfishness or self centeredness will not last.

- 2. A marriage based upon God will last,

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: **25** "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- a. Husbands are told to love their wives, nourish, and cherish them. ***Ephesians 5***

- i. Provide leadership in the home, by the authority of God,

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of

Christ is God.

- ii. Your wife should not have to fear your headship. How is that possible? If she knows you love God and trying to serve Him; if she knows you love her and want her to go to heaven.
- b. Wives are told to love their husbands, submit, and even respect their husbands, **Ephesians 5:33** ***Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.***
- c. You want to have a good and happy marriage? Serve God and be a good spouse.
- d. God intends for couple to use their home to serve Him. Priscilla and Aquila is a good example of this in the New Testament, **Acts 18, Romans 16.**

B) Children

- 1. In the marriage is where children should be reared.
Ephesians 6:4 ***And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.***
 - a. Moms and Dads have a few years to affect a lifetime. By the time children are 4 or 5 a lot of their attitudes and personality is set. Don't wait too late to be a parent.
 - b. Children need nurturing and guidance.
- 2. Teach your children to obey God and you,
Ephesians 6:1 ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that***

it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Conclusion:

At one time divorce was rare and frowned upon. Now it is common and readily accepted. One couple we knew divorced due to unfaithfulness in the marriage. Such is tragic. The betrayed spouse, the children, pain of the parents and in-laws. The greatest tragedy is they have betrayed God. When we sin, we sin against God and need His forgiveness. That is why God gave His only begotten Son on the Cross for us.