



## Introduction:

### 1. HAPPINESS IS DEPENDENT UPON MARRIAGE

- Of course marriage is source of happiness, that is why so many people divorce.

Some have touted recent statistics that the divorce rate has gone down or stabilized. The fact is that marriage has declined and co-habitation has increased of which has a higher failure rate than marriage.

2009 – 50% of those married, divorced.

2000 – 8.3% of the population married.

2009 – 7.1% of the population married.

Recent article. “Three of the top 10 counties the divorced call home, are in Florida – The Florida Keys is number one in Florida. (18%). Rural Putnam County in Northeast Florida and urban Pinellas County on the Gulf Coast are the other two.”

Age at marriage for those who divorce:

Under 20 years old: women:27.6% men:11.7%

20 to 24 years old 36.6% 38.8%

25 to 29 years old 16.4% 22.3%

30 to 34 years old 8.5% 11.6%

35 to 39 years old 5.1% 6.5%

- When an unhappy person marries an unhappy person you get two unhappy people. Usually the unhappiness is multiplied.
- Perfect marriages are not always happy.
- Happiness varies with your happenstances. What is needed is joy. That is a result of a right relationship with God. When a married couple is in right relationship with God and with each other, then no matter what is happening in and around them, they can have true joy.

## 2. SEXUAL EXPRESSION IS SOLVED BY BEING MARRIED

- Having the legal and moral right to each others' body is not an assurance of intimacy nor does that solve any problems of sexual dissatisfaction. The vast majority of individuals don't have a clue as to what makes for a great sexual relationship in a marriage. All of the ideas, thoughts, knowledge and misconceptions that people have before marriage will very quickly be exposed as to their veracity and practicality. In other words, reality will set in!!!!
- Everyone brings some kind of sexual baggage into a marriage. That baggage begins getting packed at a very early age. We place in it what we learn from our parents, authorities (teachers, coaches, ss teachers). We also stuff those bags full of junk that has been passed on from friends, media and casual conversations. Most of the things in our baggage were put there after being worn by others and never washed. **If you have traveled much you know how "stinky" worn clothing can become after a long trip.**
- You can have sex without intimacy and you can have intimacy without sex.
- If sex is the center of your relationship and that is what you have built it upon, then when the sexual part of your marriage ceases to exist you will be left with nothing.

## 3. FINANCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEES MARITAL STABILITY

- If money and material wealth could provide marital stability then why do the rich and famous demand prenuptial agreements? **There is a certain fellow who is pretty good at golf, who could testify to this fact.**
  - a. Seeking to marry someone because that person will provide for you, financial security.
  - b. Waiting until you can afford to get married.
  - c. Focusing on material things instead of God.

#### **4. HAVING CHILDREN STRENGTHENS THE RELATIONAL BOND OF MARRIAGE PARTNERS**

- Children are a blessing from the Lord and bring with them much joy. But children bring with them added pressures and responsibilities.
- Some husbands or wives can focus on the children so much that they sacrifice their relationship with their spouse. The children become the center of the marriage and to the exclusion of each other. Never forget, one day the children will leave home (hopefully) and what remains will be the two of you! It is because so many couples fail to focus on each other during the child rearing years that when the children do leave home they do not have a strong relationship and soon they divorce.

#### **5. BEING CHRISTIAN GUARANTEES MARITAL SUCCESS**

- The sad fact is that the divorce rate among professed Christians is just as bad as the secular world. There is virtually no difference.
- The Christian life is a process of growth and maturity. One can never stop growing.
- A Christian marriage is also a process of growth and maturity.

**This is the growth process of a lasting typical Christian marriage.**

- a. The public vows**
- b. The honeymoon**
- c. The problems**
- d. The disenchantment**
- e. The misery**
- f. The reawakening**
- g. The True Love**