

The Case for Marriage

“The ‘ideal’ American family – a father and a mother, bound to each other by legal marriage, raising children bound them by biology – is a stubborn relic, a national symbol that has yet to be retired as threadbare and somewhat unrealistic.” – Amy Benfer, “The Nuclear Family Takes a Hit,” *Salon.com*, June 7, 2001

“Ironically, sociologists say, marriage may be on the decline precisely because it has become so idealized. People expect more from marriage than they did a century ago, when it was mainly a practical arrangement to provide financial stability for women and a place to raise children... Since there’s no longer much of a stigma attached to getting pregnant outside of marriage, many couples have replaced ‘shotgun weddings’ with ‘shotgun cohabitations.’” – Debra Rosenberg and Pat Wingert, “First Comes Junior In a Baby Carriage,” *Newsweek*, December, 4, 2006

Is “marriage” (as most understand it) merely an antiquated American ideal, now irrelevant because it is no longer viewed as practical? “Marriage” is not an American invention but a sacred relationship created by God. Now more than ever Christians need to understand what the Bible says about Marriage!

I. Marriage Is From God, Not _____

- A. God _____ and defined marriage (Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-6).
- B. God _____ marriage (Prov.18:22; 19:14; 31:10; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 17:6; Heb. 13:4).
- C. Societies can be built on marriage.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____/ Support
 - 3. _____
- D. _____ is learned and expressed by marriage (Eph. 5:22-23).
- E. Eternal _____ is declared through marriage (Eph. 5:22-32).

II. Biblical Critique of “_____” Marriages

- A. Men have redefined and substituted “alternatives” for marriage.
 - 1. _____ (Matt. 19:4-6).
 - 2. _____ (Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).
 - 3. _____ & same-sex marriage (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).
 - 4. People can and do live in _____ (Col. 3:6-7).
- B. God judges “alternative” marriages (Heb. 13:4).
 - 1. You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7-8).
 - 2. Fate of sinners (1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- C. Societies crumble by these “alternative” schemes.
 - 1. No natural procreation.
 - 2. Provision & support is strained if not _____.
 - 3. Production & maintenance of a society undercut by _____.
- D. _____ is learned and expressed by “alternative” marriage.
- E. No salvation – No God in these arrangements

III. What about Professed _____ That Condone “Alternative” Marriages?

- A. They are _____ against God’s Word.
- B. They are _____, leading people astray and giving them false hope.
- C. A true Christian must stand up for _____ (Jude 3).