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Marriage

As promised (to insiders), I am going to spend today just talking about Marriage and leave the other troubles in our world behind for a while. This is meant to be real and a bit humorous. It is my hope that I don't offend anyone here. If I am a little rough talking in a few places, it's to make a point, not sound politically correct. I much prefer the roughness of honesty to the softness of comfortable falsehoods. Sometimes people need a kind of verbal slap in the face to see the facts for what they really are in our PC obsessed world.

I just want to talk about Marriage today, why it is the way it is and perhaps look at how Christian Churches and assemblies can reclaim it and make it wholesome again.

Marriage was God's idea. He created both woman and the institution of Marriage for the man, so that he would not be alone. In a perfect world, marriage is by far the best thing for both men and women. Each were made for each other. But I hate to break it to you...

... this is **not** a perfect world.

Things since the creation for the most part, have gone downhill and this is where we will begin our talk on marriage.

Rather than spend a great deal of time just reciting Bible verses, though there will be some, there are many things today that Christians, especially young ones need to know about before they hook up before God's altar.

First off, don't get into it lightly. Before God and man, you are making a pledge and covenant and doing so falsely is one of the most serious affronts to God there is. When you enter into a covenant, God is watching. Yet, today, for both the saved and unsaved, the whole institution of Marriage has lost its sense of permanency. It has become '*I will love you forever until...*' kind of commitment and divorce statistics prove it. They are not at all pretty and they are the kinds of thing that cause people like me to pause and consider carefully before entering into a marriage covenant (contract) with someone.

Why is this? There are many reasons. First and foremost, the morality of the western world has changed and changed significantly. This is a throw away society and there is little

mistaking it for little more than that. People these days are not as constant as they once were and without a doubt, the morality of the nation has changed and not for the better. This has deeply effected the institution of marriage. Adultery is so common that it's hard to try and demand it of ones spouse. The social and cultural cues out there all encourage a sexual 'freedom' that is wholly un-biblical. In vogue, yes, but un-biblical.

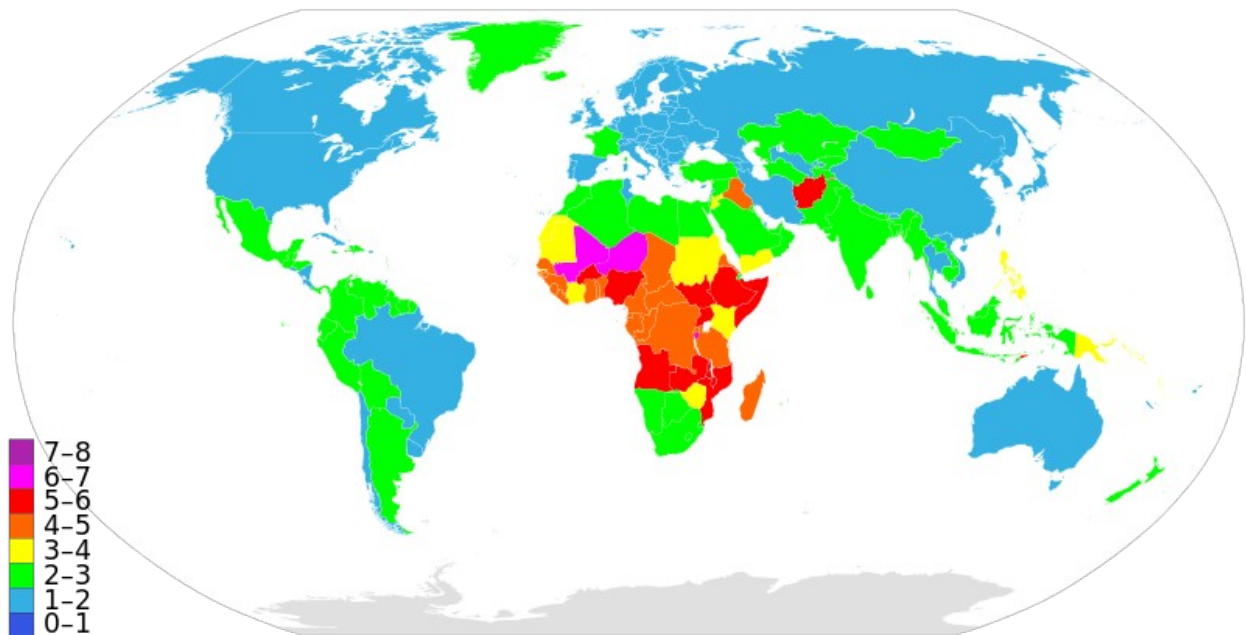
This is where genuine Christians who really want to know and please the Lord must make a clear and unmistakable break with the morality and cultural cues of the world, especially with regards to Marriage. But before we get to our duties as Christians, lets take a look at a few trends in modern Marriage particularly the fruit of marriage, that being fertility.

One thing I have found most valuable is to look at trends. Just get as much data as you can don't let anyone else interpret them for you. Rather, just look at them clearly and then do your best to extrapolate what that data means. Rather than spend half the morning finding charts that are not copyrighted to post here, I will pass on some links for you to peruse at your leisure.

[Population Reference Bureau](#)
[Our World In Data](#)
[Statista](#)

[Image Source: Wikipedia/WikiMedia](#)

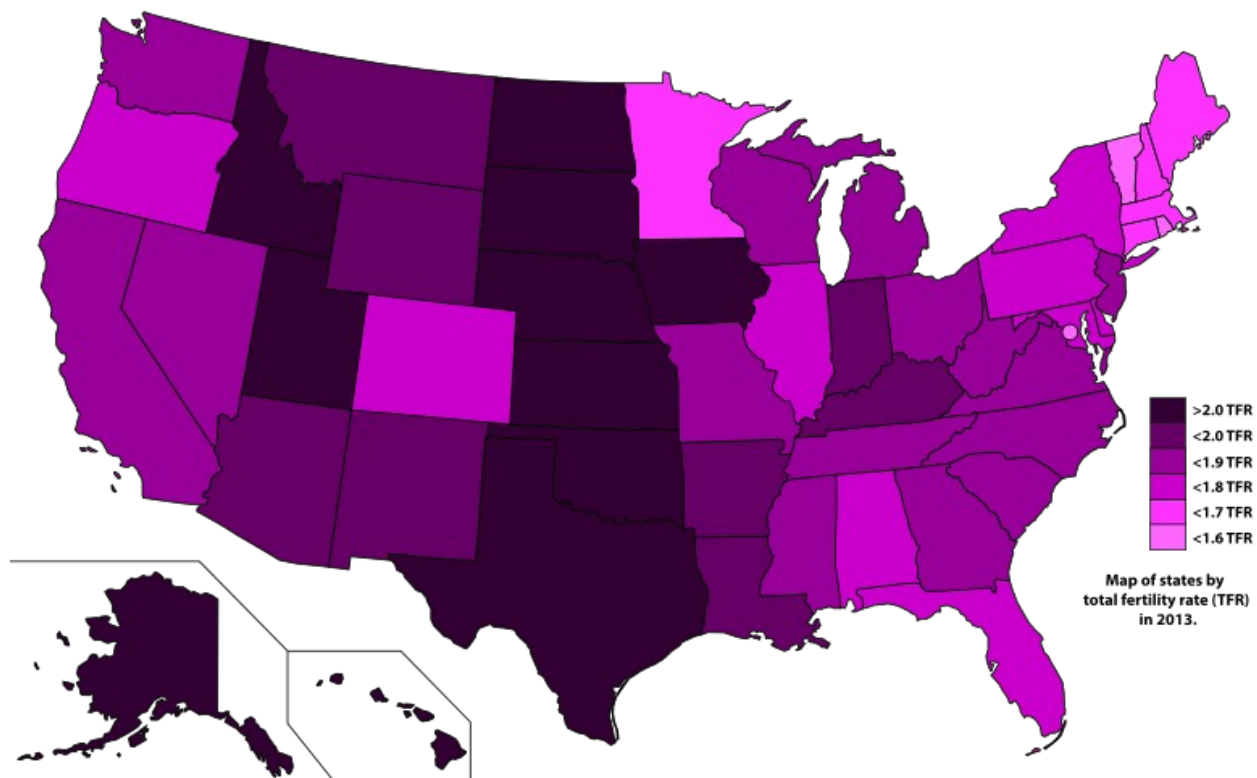
Fertility Rates



Now I hate to quote Malthus because of his views on population control, but his observation here is one that cannot be ignored.

*The **inverse relationship between income and fertility** has been termed a demographic-economic "paradox" by the notion that greater means would enable the production of more offspring as suggested by the influential Thomas Malthus.[4] Roughly speaking, **nations or subpopulations with higher GDP per capita are observed to have fewer children**, even though a richer population can support more children. Malthus held that in order to prevent widespread suffering, from famine for example, what he called "moral restraint" (which included abstinence) was required. **The demographic-economic paradox suggests that reproductive restraint arises naturally as a consequence of economic progress.** - [Wikipedia](#)*

Image Source: [Wikipedia](#)



The facts are simple, in the developed world (Europe and North America) where incomes are higher, fertility tends to be lower, where incomes are lower, fertility rates tends to be higher. Again, I am no fan of Malthus but he makes a point here that cannot be ignored and this I think is something that tends not just towards Fertility but also perhaps with a bit less direct correlation with regards to Marriage as well. The more money people make and the

more affluent and 'modern' a society becomes, the marriage rates tend to decline in an inverse fashion, just like with Fertility.

Here in the west men and women more and more are shunning marriage. With men particularly, this appears to be more and more the case. I have gone to many sites and blogs over the years with men ranting about marriage and the kinds of women they either married to or get entangled with. Understand ladies, **I am not denigrating any of you godly women out there**. Rather, I am just showing you why so many men are simply not interested in that long term relationship that many women crave. There are many reasons. I am going to give you some of them. Please note that these reasons are mostly from a secular perspective, but they are still relevant to our our secularized 'Christian' assemblies.

Marriage is often seen as confining and I just don't mean sexually. You are going to lose a lot of personal 'space' and must deal with another persons idiosyncrasies until one of you dies.

While it's true that sex is a big issue in marriage, its also true that increasingly those who just 'live together' have more sex than a married couples. The old phrase 'PW' seems to be more of a reality than a mere urban joke. Too often, I have seen guys whose wife won't sleep with them go out and find a lover. Then the wife has grounds for divorce, and then she takes the guy to court and he is the one who loses out, for in most cases, the woman will keep the kids and have her income supplemented with child support payments. Second, can you really be sure that the kids are yours? Don't laugh and for those of you who think I have gone off the deep end, click on over here and [read the comments by 'CJ'](#). More [here](#). Guys? Those ain't your kids? Tough, in many places you **still** have to pay. Which brings me to the next point.

The legal profession and politicians have ruined the institution of Marriage and turned it into a money making racket. The Lawyers, Judges, even prisons (don't pay child support and see what happens to you!) are well compensated in the divorce racket... and that is just what it has become, in my view. The system has created significant and enticing economic incentives for divorce; alimony, legal fees and child support being the immediate ones, but the others less apparent that helps keep the system lucrative for the divorce business. And you can be sure that the legal system rakes in a [lot of money from divorce](#). You may not know this but there has even been a [lawsuit that alleges this very thing](#). Me? I don't need a lawsuit or court case to see how messed up the system is in many places. I have seen it first hand in the lives of men I once knew. But this is just one aspect of what is turning out to be in many ways a major trend in men just shunning the institution totally. The thinking? The best way to not have to pay divorce 'ransom' is to not get held hostage in the first place.

Another problem? The women's liberation movement in the eyes of many men have changed women into something unrecognizable, and certainly un-marryable. One writer captured the [idea here](#) and this is written by a woman not a man.

Try and understand this ladies, I know some of you may not like what I have written - but this is how many and an increasingly large number of men really feel. Yes, it's true their feelings may not be 100% justifiable, but to ignore these things is to ignore the problem and this is a major problem, particularly for younger Americans.

But from a woman's perspective, I can say that in all honestly the women in many ways have more to complain about. I am tired of talking to and listening to these whiny, irresponsible men whose cowardliness is only outmatched by their laziness. Too many have no sense of personal responsibility. I know I have seen this so many times, that I do think its more and more the rule rather than the exception. Now me? I recoil at cowards, kiss-behinds and wimps. I don't even like being around them. I can only imagine how a woman who is looking for a real man must feel when she has to deal with this generation of woosified men we have in the nation today when looking for a life-partner.

I don't want to just paint a grim picture of marriage. There are still many of them that work and work well and many of those who do get divorced, [do remarry](#). Those who have happy marriages would not trade it for the world. So I ask all of you to take the negative things I say in that light. I am not down on marriage, I am down on what western, particularly American culture has done to marriage.

Me? I never married. I came very close twice but glad I never did. I am not blaming the women. At the time, frankly, I lacked the maturity and 'steadiness' for a long term commitment. But if there was anything that soured me on marriage is was my time in the Gulf War. The things that went on while I was deployed and the things that men discovered when they came back home. I can remember returning back to Germany from my deployment and somewhere deep in my subconscious I told myself '*I will never marry*'. I think also the fact that our home when I was growing up was broken and the way my mother had to struggle to keep a roof over our heads and food in the Ice Chest (for a long time we did not have a refrigerator when my dad left). I was old enough to kind of see the 'light' go out of my mothers eyes and a kind of sadness that stayed with her for a long time, though she tried very hard to hide it from us all. These things soured me personally on the institution as each of these events effected me rather deeply.

When I see how the legal system has messed marriage up, frankly I have no desire to be held hostage and have to pay 'ransom' to lawyers, judges and other assorted ~~erooks~~ officers of the court if my wife turns out to be the local semen repository and be forced to pay for another man's 'litter'. Nor do I think a woman should have to put up with a man who has fathered small sections of the city and wonder why a couple of her kids friends look like her husband and have to deal with all the mess that goes with that. In the eyes of US courts these things may be 'OK" and nonpunishable. I assure you in God's eyes, they are cause for **serious Judgement**. This is why I will not mince words here our use flowery language to describe what happens ([abominations](#)) in far too many marriages and even relationships. Adultery if un-repented of, is a sin that leads to spiritual death. Moreover, I am not concerned with what Pope's, Priests or Pastors say to put a smiley face on this most serious sin in God's eyes.

But what is a young person to do who has his or her youthful sexual needs and yet these are the moral cues and people to choose from that are out there?

For me now? Well, I am 57. I am in many ways past my prime and am looking to slide into old age as quietly as I can. While I would loved to have had kids, I don't want them now. I am too old. I would be in my 70's when my kids hit their teens. What are they going to get me for my birthday... a new set of dentures? (!)

So marriage for me is out of the question as long as I reside in America. I have about as much faith in our courts to protect my marital rights as I do in a Klansman to protect my Civil rights. That may be a bit overly cynical for many of you, but I have seen a few things that have turned my stomach.

Should the Lord ever direct me out of the nation and I live in a nation with laws that are more conducive to a **healthy** marriage, I may consider it. I am totally uninterested in anything but a Godly and happy marriage. Being single frankly at my age, is not so bad **at all**.

Saving Marriage

First of all, unlike trends in this evil age which is doing all it can to redefine marriage in the image of the world, the Church needs to stand up and stop trying to change what the world thinks of Marriage and begin to redefine it according to Biblical precedents FOR THE CHURCH. This I don't think is nearly as hard to do as many would think. Churches could easily adopt this by enforcing some discipline on its members with regards to Marriage. How do you do that? I mean realistically? Again, I don't think it would be that difficult. Pastors and elders would just need what so many lack today. What is that? Courage.

Church Weddings

One thing I would work towards in a medium to small denomination is establishing a legal framework for a church recognized marriage. What I mean is this. The Church should draw up a legally binding covenant between prospective marriage partners on their responsibilities and their expectations. Also what should be done in the case of divorce. For example, if a man could prove that kids were not his and were the product of adultery, he should not be obligated to pay child support to that child, indeed in the case of adultery, the man should have the option to keep the kids in place of the woman and have *his* income supplemented.

In short, prospective marriage partners could then sign a kind of Church approved prenuptial agreement that would be binding *legally* on both parties. It should be fair, it should remove many of the negative trends that are in modern secular marriage and finally needs to be administered and arbitrated by a Church council should there be a dispute. The Church would be wise to keep a few lawyers either on its board or as consultants/contractors to ensure that things are done properly and that there are no ways for those who sign such agreement to wriggle out of it once its made and they are out frolicking with their neighbors spouse and then don't want to pay the piper when the fun is done.

This is a simple solution and one frankly, I am surprised more Churches have not attempted to adopt. **Separate Godly marriage from the cacophony of confusion and profit that has consumed secular marriage.** This could be done, though there will probably considerable backlash from the 'hate Christians' crowd in society. But the simple fact is, prenups are very common today and a Church who knows the law and what it wants to see in its marriages should not have a major problem doing this.

The key is that the Church needs to ensure and enforce Church teachings on Marriage in more than just sermons.

*Marriage is honourable in all, **and the bed undefiled:**
but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
(Heb 13:4)*

Today, with all the adultery and escort services (whoremomgering) out there, marriage is anything but honorable and that includes a whole slew of 'Christian' marriages as well. The apostolic command is not a suggestion and he gives firm warning to those who think it is. Those who enter into a marriage agreement need to understand just what they are doing in the eyes of God because God is going to hold you to account if you break your covenant with your spouse.

There are many admonitions about marriage in the NT and as we saw when I went through Hosea, God is a stickler for marital fidelity. if you come together, your best bet is to stay together. If there is adultery or fornication, that is your only real 'out' of a marriage agreement. It's not 'mental cruelty' or even your husband's 3 year prison stretch. It's not, 'he looks at too many porn sites' or 'she got too fat for me'. These are not causes for a divorce in God's eyes.

Let me say this as well. Paul's admonition about Marriage, while not being a directive from the Lord is still very good advice. He said clearly that it's better not to marry. But lets take a look at the whole passage and in it we will see how in a Biblical marriage is to operate. Many of the problems we see today would be eliminated if people did right and aas God said.

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

***Defraud ye not one the other**, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. **I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.** And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to*

*every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.
(1Co 7:1-17)*

Does this passage really need a lot of commentary? I don't think so. Paul is laying out God's commandments sprinkled in with a bit of his own strongly held opinion. I think it wise for Christian men and women to get the issue in their minds in a time of concerted prayer as to what God wants for you. But know this. Marriage is no bed of roses. It's work. To make a successful marriage it takes real work, give and take **and sacrifice**. Men need to stop looking at Marriage as a just a way to have sex regularly and women need to stop looking at marriage (and divorce) as a cash register. I know that these may be ugly stereotypes, but frankly many stereotypes have their basis in uncomfortable truths. The simple fact is men and women need to get real about what they expect from a marriage and what they are really willing to put into it to make it work, over the long haul. Will you be there for that man when he is fat, fifty and bald. Men? Will you stay with her when she may not be that 'looker' you walked down the aisle with and may be having significant health challenges? In short, are you willing to be that **life partner** or just a sex partner? Are you looking for some kind of free ride that you think Marriage will provide for you. As a Christian, you have deep obligation to your spouse and a worldly divorce is not likely to free you from those deep **spiritual obligations**, though you may think they have.

*But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife,
saving for the cause of fornication, **causeth her to commit adultery:**
and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.
(Mat 5:32)*

Brothers, I hope all of you, and I am sure you all do, understand the responsibilities of marriage. Don't enter into it lightly because God is going to hold you severely responsible with regards to YOUR obligations in marriage. Don't look for a way out of those obligations and if you are not willing to meet them, I exhort you to shun marriage until you are a ready to.

Please don't be angry with me if the the tone of this may not be quite what you were expecting. I think when God gets finished judging a lot of these marriages and the evil people are doing, you will think I was too easy on some of the behavior I marked with colorful metaphors herein. God is not playing games when he warned us that he will judge adulterers and whoremongers.

Selah - Let us pause and consider this.

God's Grace and peace be upon all of you, married and singles in our Lord Jesus Christ

Brother Mark

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By,

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