

“Time is filled with swift transition— Naught of
earth unmoved can stand— Build your hopes on
things eternal, Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you, Whatsoever
years may bring, If by earthly friends forsaken, Still
more closely to Him cling.

When your journey is completed, If to God you
have been true, Fair and bright the home in glory,
Your enraptured soul will view.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveyed American's views about family arrangements.

Our government is simply pointing out the changes that are occurring in our nation and especially in our young.

In one ethnic group, 28 percent report having first sex before the age of 15, compared with 14 percent of the majority ethnic group.

How old should your children be before they hear such information?
Certainly not 15.

A Washington Post Op-Ed writer said, “We millennials still want our happily-ever-afters, but with an emphasis on the after.”

“Meanwhile, many of those intermediate milestones we now see as connubial preconditions have moved further out of reach. Mounting student loan debt, falling youth homeownership rates and stagnant or declining job opportunities are disqualifying many young Americans from this apparently elite institution”.

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

20 ... But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ... 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

In 2013, 60% of women and 67% of men agreed, “Living together before marriage may help prevent divorce.” The percentage of respondents who agreed with this statement was similar between 2006 and 2013

How do these trial marriages work out?

Census data from 2012 shows that 7.8 million couples are living together without walking down the aisle, compared to 2.9 million in 1996.

Two-thirds of couples married in 2012 shared a home together for more than two years before they married.

In 1970-80, couples who lived together before they married saw a 33 percent higher rate of divorce than those who waited to live together until after they were married.

“Couples who cohabit before marriage and especially before an engagement or an otherwise clear commitment tend to be less satisfied with their marriages—and more likely to divorce—than couples who do not” 2012 study.

Economics plays a role as low income \$30,000 twice as likely to live with more than one person as \$75,000 income couples.

Do you think there's a reason God wanted men and women to get married and stay that way?

Heb 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

The CDC report finds that Americans have gotten more accepting of women who bear and raise children out of wedlock.

“It is okay for an unmarried female to have and raise a child,” increased over time. Among women, 70% agreed in 2002, and 78% agreed in 2013.

Among men, 59% agreed in 2002, and 69% agreed in 2013.

This clearly contrasts with God’s ideas on the matter.

Heb 12:7 It is for discipline that you have to endure.

God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

What do such children learn from women who bear and raise children out of wedlock?

1. Fathers are not necessary and perhaps not even useful.
2. What role is there in such a household for a little boy?
3. What does a little girl learn about men in such a situation?

The CDC report finds that Americans have gotten more accepting of same-sex couples who adopt children. The percentages of women and men who agreed, “Gay or lesbian adults should have the right to adopt children,” increased between 2002 and 2013.

Women agreeing with this statement increased from 55% in 2002 to 75% in 2013.

Men agreeing with this statement increased from 47% in 2002 to 68% in 2013.

Mark Regnerus in a study published in 2012 of nearly 3000 families found:

Four times as many lesbian families were on welfare compared to married parents 69% vs. 17%. Nearly four times as many children of lesbian families were on welfare compared to children of married parents 38% vs. 10%. Twice as many children of lesbian families were in therapy compared to children of married parents 19% vs. 8%. Three times as many children of lesbian families cheated in their current relationship compared to children of married parents 40% vs. 13%.

Regnerus' study showed:

The biggest reason not to allow lesbians to adopt or care for children is the sexual advances made by the parents toward the child – nearly 12 times more children in a lesbian household were molested as opposed to children in a married household 23% vs. 2%. Additionally nearly 4 times as many children in a lesbian household were raped compared to children in a married household 31% vs. 8%.

One bright spot is that divorce is being seen as more undesirable.

“Divorce is usually the best solution when a couple can't seem to work out their marriage problems.’ In 2002, about half of Americans disagreed. Within a decade, the share had risen to more than 60 percent. In the most recent data, younger Americans - a cohort with the lowest marriage rates on record, mind you - were especially likely to perceive divorce as an unacceptable response to marital strain.”

1Co 7:10 To the married I give this charge not I, but the Lord: the wife should not separate from her husband 11 but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband, and the husband should not divorce his wife. 12 To the rest I say I, not the Lord that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. 13 If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

1Co 14:37 If anyone thinks that he is
a prophet, or spiritual, he should
acknowledge that the things I am
writing to you are a command of the
Lord.

Paul wrote 1Co 7.10-13 as well as this
passage!

A survey from 2015 found that young Americans believe they should wait to marry until they have a stable job, have reduced their debt levels or accumulated savings, have a college degree, have successfully cohabitated with their future spouse, have had previous serious relationships and even own their home.

It would appear that sex and marriage no longer have a relationship in most couple's minds as 85% of US 21 year olds have engaged in sex.

There are those who do abstain as 24 percent of men and 45 percent of Mexican-American women claim to be virgins on marriage.

1Co 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?

Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her?

For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

“Earlier generations saw marriage as a sort of foundational milestone, laid relatively early in life, that would help couples go on to achieve familial and financial stability. Today, it is seen more as a crowning achievement, appropriate and available only after lots of other boxes are ticked off first. And this brass ring ought to be indestructible by the time it graces your left hand.”

Wedlock is a luxury good that young Americans want, but view themselves - and just as important, their potential spouses - as too poor or otherwise unprepared to buy.

1Ti 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In 2013, 75% of women and 76% of men agreed, “It is okay to have and raise children when the parents are living together but not married.”

What does this teach young people?
It's OK to lie and be immoral?

Rev 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

We need to teach these principles to our children
and live them in our lives.

1Ti 4:7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly
myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for
while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of
value in every way, as it holds promise for the
present life and also for the life to come. 9 The
saying is trustworthy and deserving of full
acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive,
because we have our hope set on the living God,
who is the Savior of all people, especially of those
who believe. 11 Command and teach these things.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait?
Rise and be baptized and wash away
your sins, calling on his name.'