

Open to Marriage, Open to Children: Our Identity as God's Children

by Rev. Alex Post, Iowa District East Life Coordinator

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Marriage Statistics: (statistics from Pew Research, or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unless noted)

U.S. percentage of people who are:

Married, 1960: 72%; in 2013, 50% (record low)

Divorced, 1960: 5%; in 2013, 14%

Never married, 1960: 15%; in 2013, 30%

Cohabited before marriage at some point, 2014: 44%; among 30-year-olds, 74%

Percentage of cohabiting couples who eventually divorce: 67%

Percentage of cohabiting couples who break-up or divorce within 10 years: 85%

Average length of time cohabiting before marrying or breaking up: 22 months

Percentage of women who marry first before moving in, 2013: 23%

Median age for first marriage, 1960: early 20s. In 2011, 28.7 for men, 26.5 for women

Children Statistics:

Average number of TV sets in each U.S. home, 2009: 2.86

Average number of people in each U.S. home, 2009: 2.5

Total fertility rate per woman in the U.S., 1960: 3.65; 2014: 1.86.

(Replacement fertility rate = 2.1)

Percentage of first births out of wedlock, 2013: 48%

Percentage of children born to cohabiting parents that will live with only one parent by age 13-15: 90% (www.lifesitenews.com, from the British "Marriage Foundation")

Worldwide percentage of married couples able to have children who use some form of contraception: 45%

Percentage of U.S. women of reproductive age in a marriage or union who use some form of contraception: 77%

Percentage of U.S. women age 15-44 who have ever had sexual intercourse and have ever used some form of contraception: 99%

The two most common forms of contraception in the U.S.: The Pill (11 million) and sterilization (10 million)

Percentage of children (under 18) in U.S., 1960: 36%; in 2015, 22.9% (www.childstats.gov)

Number of unborn children murdered through abortion from January 22, 1973 – January 21, 2015 (42 years): 57,762,169

Average number of unborn children murdered each year since 1973 through abortion: 1,375,290 = 3,768 children/day, 157 children/hour, 2.6 children/minute, or 1 child every 23 seconds

Total U.S. population as of July 4, 2015: 321,216,397 (www.census.gov)

What Does God say about Marriage? (And what should we say?)

Genesis 1:27 – “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 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.””

Genesis 2:23-24 – “Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, for she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Deuteronomy 24:5 – “When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.”

Proverbs 5:18 – “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.”

Proverbs 12:4 – “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.”

Malachi 2:15 – “Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.”

Matthew 19:4-6 – “Jesus answered, “Have you not read that He Who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.””

Ephesians 5:24-25 – “Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.”

Hebrews 13:4 – “Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

What Does God say about Children? (And what should we say?)

Genesis 1:28 – “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””

Genesis 3:20 – “The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”

Genesis 4:1 – “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man [with the help of] the LORD.””

Genesis 9:1 – “And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”

Genesis 13:16 – “I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.”

Genesis 21:1 – “The LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as He had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.”

Genesis 24:60 – “And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!””

Genesis 30:22-24 – “Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” And she called his name Joseph, saying, “May the LORD add to me another son!””

Genesis 35:11 – “And God said to [Israel], “I am God Almighty: Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.”

Leviticus 26:9 – “I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm My covenant with you.”

Deuteronomy 1:10 – “The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven.”

Deuteronomy 4:9 – “...make them known to your children and your children’s children...”

Ruth 4:13 – “So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.”

1 Samuel 1:19-20 – “...and the LORD remembered her. And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”

Psalm 113:9 – “He gives the barren a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!”

Psalm 127:3-5 – “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”

Psalm 128:3, 6 – “Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.” “May you see your children’s children!”

Psalm 139:13-16 – “For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

Proverbs 31:10, 28-29 – “An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.” “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.””

Mark 10:13-15 – “And they were bringing children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.”

Luke 1:31 – “And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus.”

Ephesians 6:4 – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

1 Timothy 2:15 – “Yet she will be saved through childbearing – if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.”

1 Timothy 5:14 – “So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.”