

## Bible Verses and Cohabiting

**Exodus 20:14** "You shall **not commit adultery.**"

**Psalms 127:1a** "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in **vain.**"

**Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to **death.**"

**Eccles. 3:1,5** "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;"

**Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

**Romans 12:1** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

**1 Cor. 6:9-10** "Do you not know that the **unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, [10] nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

**1 Cor. 6:18-20** "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own**, [20] for you were bought with a **price**. So glorify God in your body. "

**1 Cor. 7:8-9** "To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. [9] But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion."

**Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

**Ephes. 5:3** "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named ("hinted" in NIV) among you, as is proper among saints."

**Ephes. 5:8-11** "for at one time you were darkness, but now **you are light in the Lord**. Walk as children of light [9] (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), [10] and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. [11] Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.'

**1 Thes. 4:3-7** "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you **abstain from sexual immorality**; [4] that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, [5] not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; [6] that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. [7] For God has not called for impurity, but in holiness."

**James 1:14-15** "[14] But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. [15] Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

**Hebrews 10:26-27** "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."

**Hebrews 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."

**1 Peter 1:16** "since it is written, "**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**"

**2 Tim. 3:16** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”*

## **Top 10 reasons for Cohabitation before marriage.**

10. Everyone else is doing it?
  
9. Not hurting each other?
  
8. We're not having sex?
  
7. I don't care what anybody else thinks, it's none of their business?
  
6. What's the big deal?
  
5. We're practicing being married/trial run?
  
4. Who are you to Judge?
  
3. What's wrong with having pre-marital sex?
  
2. We can't afford to split up?
  
1. We're doing the right thing eventually, right?

**2 Tim. 4:2-5** “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove** (correct), **rebuke**, and **exhort** (encourage), with complete **patience** and **teaching**. [3] For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. [5] As for you, always be sober-minded, **endure suffering**, do the **work** of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

## Things You Might Try

1. **Reprove (correct)** -

2. **Rebuke** –

3. **Exhort (Encourage)**-

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## A different Kind of Question/A different Way

Read John 8:1-11 (Adulteress Woman)

Read John 4:4-26 (Woman at the Well)



## *St. Andrew Lutheran Church* (LCMS)

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Congratulations!

In seeking a wedding here at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, you are seeking the blessing of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, upon your marriage. You are to be commended for this. Rather than giving in to the unchristian influences of our culture you are seeking to begin and establish your marriage in Christ who is our life and source of every blessing. I intend to do everything I can do to help you prepare for married life together.

As in anything we sinful humans do, we must always begin with repentance (Luke 13:3) and prayer (1<sup>st</sup> Thes. 5:16-18), in an honest look into our lives based upon the perfect and piercing word of God (Hebrews 4:12), and so we will. As repentance and forgiveness is the essential element of wedding preparation, it is also the essential element that must guide your lives together throughout your married life. As God tells us in His Word, "As the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive." (Col. 3:13) May the Lord of the Church bless your marriage to be this sort of marriage.

It is my expectation that we will have 4-6 marriage counseling sessions as soon as possible at a time that is convenient for both of us, to ensure that various issues are discussed before the wedding. Defining Christian marriage, conflict resolution, the importance of forgiveness in marriage are some of the topics to be discussed. This will include some "homework" that will be done individually and together. Enclosed you will find:

- One *Wedding Questionnaire* (to be filled out together and brought to our next meeting)
- Two *Premarital Questionnaires* (to be filled out and mailed **individually**)
- One introductory *Premarital Bible Study* (to be done together and brought to our next meeting)
- One *Wedding Guide* (to be read thoroughly before our next meeting and then discussed)
- One letter *If You Are Living Together* (Only to be read **if** living together currently)

I look forward to meeting with you both and preparing for a life together in Christ.

In Christ,

Rev. David C. Lingard



A note from Pastor Lingard if you are currently living together:

As in anything we sinful humans do, we must always begin with repentance (Luke 13:3) and prayer (1<sup>st</sup> Thes. 5:16-18), in an honest look into our sinful lives based upon the perfect and piercing word of God (Hebrews 4:12).

God has called you both to **“be holy, for I AM holy** (1 Peter 1:13-16).” He has called you to, **“present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God** (Romans 12:1).” God warns us to **“Flee from sexual immorality** (1 Cor. 6:18).” But God also warns us that if we do not change our ways we can only have **“a fearful expectation of judgment.** (Hebrews 10:27).” However, **“If we confess our sins, (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness** (1 John 1:9).”

I want to encourage you to live out your baptismal vows and confirmation vows. In order to do this if you are currently living together and/or expecting a child you will be asked to acknowledge such action requires repentance on your part. Such acknowledgement will be promptly followed by forgiveness/absolution.

You will now have these two options...To marry immediately (within 2 weeks)and promise to abstain from any sexual intimacy and if desired to then later celebrate a marriage affirmation service, **OR** separate immediately until the wedding day and have separate mailing addresses. The aim is for you both to honor God publicly and privately by your words and deeds, in order to receive the Blessings of God for your holy marriage.

I have included a sexual purity worksheet that I want you to do together and bring with you to our next visit. May God’s Holy Word guide you! If you have any questions about anything in this letter, worksheet or anything else please don’t hesitate to call me anytime. I look forward to seeing you both very soon.

In Christ,

Rev. David C. Lingard

Please read the whole passage first and then go back and answer the question.

### Why Does Pastor Speak Out?

- Ezekiel 3:17-21** (v. 17) The pastor has been made a \_\_\_\_\_. (v.18) The pastor is to give a \_\_\_\_\_  
(v. 21) If you listen to the warning you will \_\_\_\_\_!
- Jeremiah 26:2-3** (v.2) The pastor is not to hold back a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why Sexual Purity?

- Exodus 20:14** “You shall not commit \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 1 Cor. 6:13** “The body is not meant for \_\_\_\_\_, but for the \_\_\_\_\_”
- 1 Cor. 6:18-20** “\_\_\_\_\_ from sexual immorality... Your body is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.”
- Romans 12:1** “Present your bodies as a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice, \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptable to God”
- 1 Thes. 4:3-8** “Each one of you know how to \_\_\_\_\_ his own body in holiness and \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 1 Peter 1:13-16** “You shall be \_\_\_\_\_, for I am holy.”
- 1 Peter 5:8** “Be watchful...the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Matthew 18:6-7** “Woe to the one by whom the \_\_\_\_\_ comes.”
- Hebrews 10:26-27** If we do not change our ways we can expect “only a fearful expectation of \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Psalms 119:9** “How can a young man (or woman) keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Forgiveness and New Life

- Joel 2:13** God is “\_\_\_\_\_ to anger and abounding in \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Psalms 86:7, 15-16** (v.7) In our trouble God will \_\_\_\_\_ me. (v. 16) God will have \_\_\_\_\_ on me.”
- Micah 7:18** “God does not stay \_\_\_\_\_ forever but delight to show \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Hebrews 8:12** “I (God) will remember their sins \_\_\_\_\_ more.”
- 1 John 1:9** “If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins” God will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 26:27-28** In Holy Communion you drink the blood of Jesus “for the \_\_\_\_\_ of (your) sins.”

### Pray together Psalm 25:1-22

# Marriage & Family Resources

**“United in Christ: Preparing for Christian Marriage”** Scott Stiegemeier, CPH, 2010 (64 pages)

**“Second Thoughts about Living Together”** Rev. Matt Harrison, CPH, 2010 (32 Pages)

**“What about...Living Together Without Marriage”** Rev. Al Barry, CPH, 1998 (Tract)

**“Why Not Just Live Together”** Linda Bartlett, Lutherans for Life, (Tract)

**“Real Love/Real Life”** Lutherans for Life, 2004 (Tract)

**“Real Sex: the naked truth about chastity”** Lauren F. Winner, Brazos Press, 2005 (173 Pages)

**“The Ring Makes All the Difference: The Hidden Consequences of Cohabitation and the Strong Benefits of Marriage”** Glenn Stanton, Moody Publishers, 2011 (160 pages)

**“Why Marriage Matters: Reasons to Believe in Marriage in Postmodern Society”** Glenn Stanton, NavPress, 1997 (224 pages)

# Marriage & Family Resources on the Web

[www.boundless.org](http://www.boundless.org) - Lisa Anderson (from Focus on the Family) **Go to “Blog” & “Ask Advice”**

We're a ministry for Christian young adults who want to grow up, own their faith, date with purpose and prepare for marriage and family. We know that life is a journey, and some of your most important adventures are happening right now. It's easy to get lost along the way, so we'd like to travel the road with you, and like a trusted friend or mentor, help you navigate the years ahead with biblical wisdom and intention.

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[www.drlaura.com](http://www.drlaura.com) – Dr. Laura (Radio, SiriusXM #106) **Go to “Blog” and search “Marriage, Cohabitation, and/or shacking up” tab**

As one of the most popular talk show hosts in radio history, **Dr. Laura Schlessinger** offers no-nonsense advice infused with a strong sense of ethics, accountability, and personal responsibility; she's been doing it successfully for more than 30 years, reaching millions of listeners weekly.

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[www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) – Hank Hanegraaff (Christian Research Institute International & Bible Answer Man on radio/internet) **Type in “Cohabitation” in search box**

The Christian Research Institute exists to provide Christians worldwide with carefully researched information and well-reasoned answers that encourage them in their faith and equip them to intelligently represent it to people influenced by ideas and teachings that assault or undermine orthodox, biblical Christianity.

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[www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com) - **Go to “marriage” tab and “Glenn Stanton”**

Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. We provide help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages that reflect God's design, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in biblical principles. We're here to come alongside families with relevance and grace at each stage of their journey. We support families as they seek to teach their children about God and His beautiful design for the family, protect themselves from the harmful influences of culture and equip themselves to make a greater difference in the lives of those around them. No matter who you are, what you're going through or what challenges your family may be facing, we're here to help. With practical resources - like our 1-800 Family Help line, counseling and websites – we're committed to providing trustworthy, biblical guidance and support.

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[www.ruthinstitute.org](http://www.ruthinstitute.org) – Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse (Frequent guest on issuesetc.) **Go to “Article Archive” & “Blog”**

Core Values:

- \*Marriage as the proper context for sex and childrearing
- \*Respect for the contributions of men to the family Marriage as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman
- \*Lifelong spousal cooperation as a solution to women's aspirations for career and family
- \*Cooperation, not competition, between men and women