

WHY MARRIAGE

- ♡ MARRIAGE - Treasure or Torture?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Delight or Dictatorship?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Benefit or Bereavement?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Blessing or Burden?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Should I ever marry?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Should I never have married?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Why not we just live together?
- ♡ MARRIAGE - Do we really need to be legally married?

A LOOK INTO THE MANUFACTURER'S MANUAL

About the Author



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Benita Francis Chemnitz



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Your Navigator through a Confusing Culture

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FOREWORD



For the first time in history, there is a real need for people to understand the WHY of marriage. Is marriage really so important? Is it not outdated? Is marriage still viable for modern man and modern society? And if so, WHY?

Well, if for no other reason, here you have a very important point: Our God is still in the hero-making business! What does that mean? See here:

“Have you ever noticed that most heroes are married man?” - “Every married man is a hero.”

So no matter whether you are a man or a woman, God’s idea of marriage exalts you! If you are a man, marriage makes you a hero. If you are a woman, marriage makes you a hero-maker! WOW! What more can you ask for?!?

Here is another very important reason for the conception of marriage. Did you ever wonder,

Why did God have to create Eve?

Here is the countdown of the 10 most important reasons:

10. *God worried that Adam would always be lost in the*

garden because He knew men would never ask for directions.

9. *God knew that Adam would one day need someone to hand him the TV remote because men don’t want to see what is on TV; they want to see WHAT ELSE is on TV.*

8. *God knew that Adam would never buy a new fig leaf when the seat wore out and therefore would need Eve to get one for him.*

7. *God knew that Adam would never make a doctor’s appointment for himself.*

6. *God knew that Adam would never remember which night was garbage night.*

5. *God knew that if the world was to be populated there would have to be someone to bear children because men would never be able to handle it.*

4. *God knew that as Keeper of the Garden Adam would never remember where he put his tools.*

3. *The Scripture account of creation indicates that Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.*

2. *As the Bible says, “It is not good for man to be alone”, he only ends up getting himself in trouble. And the NUMBER ONE reason...*

1. *When God finished the creation of Adam He stepped back, scratched His head and said, “I can do better than that.”*

I hope you enjoyed this humorous explanation of what God’s Word says a little more seriously:

18 And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Ge.2:18)

Unfortunately, today’s culture does its best to discredit marriage, at least God’s pattern of marriage between one man and one woman. Science works hard on developing designer-babies, 3-person-babies and now even babies that don’t need a mother at all. All this hectic activity reminds me of Psalm 2:

1 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us” (Ps.2:1-3)

Forbidding to marry or in any way discouraging people from getting married is also a clear sign of the End Times, the time before the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus:

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 **forbidding to marry**, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth (1.Ti.4:1-3)

Should we simply sit back and allow the concept of mar-

riage to be stolen from us and even slowly erased from society? No way! The purpose of marriage is not only our personal enjoyment. The healthy proliferation of the human race and the underlying social fabric of any culture depend entirely upon these smallest building blocks, which are marriage and family.

Nowadays, an increasing number of women and even some men or “same-sex-couples” want to have children without “the hassle” of a spouse. Some search out a partner who displays the qualities they want in the child and purposely become pregnant; others go so far as to select donor sperm or donor eggs in an online-catalogue and hire a womb, if needed.

What should we think about such modern trends? Let’s go to the root.

1

MARRIAGE AS GOD INTENDED IT IS UNDER SEVERE ATTACK

In our “modern” days, many people refuse to marry for a variety of reasons. Many times, the fear of losing money in case of a divorce is a major concern. The main reason, however, is just a selfish love of pleasure and an unwillingness to take responsibility.

As God’s Word says, in the Last Days “men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2.Ti.3:2-5).

We see many of these traits emerging stronger than ever in today’s society. Of course, all these traits make it very difficult for people both to embark on marriage and to abide in marriage. People give all kinds of excuses to avoid or escape marriage. Even women counter men's unwillingness to commit in marriage with spicy jokes like,

Why buy a whole pig just to get a little sausage?

Tragically, in many nations the divorce rate among believers does not significantly differ from the divorce rate among unbelievers. God’s plan, however, is that in each and every area of life, the Church of the Living God should be a role model and a herald of Good News of true love and peace to a suffering world (Lk.2:10).

You can make a difference! You can overcome and resist the trend of this world. You can enjoy a marriage as God intended it to be and experience heavenly bliss already on this side of eternity. Your house can be full of joy and laughter. Your children can grow up to become responsible and influential members of society.

All of this is only possible, however, if you truly and fully understand God's design and intention for marriage. So let us study...

MARRIAGE STATISTICS

Let me first give you some shocking facts and statistics here.

A recent study in the USA revealed that 85% of all juvenile criminals come from homes with no fatherⁱ. Fatherless households in the USA make up for 63% of youth suicides, 71% of all high school dropouts, 75% of all adolescent substance abuse patients, 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions, 85% of all persons incarcerated in prisons, 85% of children exhibiting behavior disorders and 90% of all homeless and runaway childrenⁱⁱ.

Can you see behind these figures the tremendous amount of pain and suffering these little ones go through? Children are important to God and very close to the heart of Jesus. Don't forget His severe warning from both Matthew 18:6 and Mark 9:42: "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea".

80% of the single households in the USA are run by women who have to somehow try to balance a job that would feed them and their children with leisure time to actually feed and nurture their children emotionally - a thing children so desperately need.

This demand is just too much on women who are simply not created for such a double-role - having to raise one or more children plus having to fight for economic survival in a world mainly dominated by men. Who can blame them if they are

unable to muster the time, strength and energy as well as the nervous and emotional resources to give to their children the loving foundation they so vitally need?

Even if a mother had enough money to stay at home with her children, she still could not provide them with what they really need to become fully functional adults. In God's wise design, children need the healthy example of one man and one woman, two individuals who became one and are thus portraying and representing the God who created them in the very beginning as male and female (Ge.1:27; 2:24).

In order to get a picture of the fullness of God and also of the fullness of humanity, a child must see the male and the female part of humanity and be influenced and formed by both of them. A child needs both the example of a father and the example of a mother to find his or her own role and identity later in the own family.

Let me give you a very small example. Have you ever noticed how parents hold their babies? A woman usually holds her precious child towards herself, lovingly cuddling it and tucking it in. A man loves to shock his wife by lifting the baby high above his head, making it to look around, making it to "fly down" at great speed... have you ever noticed it? No mother would do that, and many will try to stop their husbands and protect their children.

A child, however, needs both approaches - the inward one toward the protecting family and the outward one toward the world he or she will have to explore and conquer some day. Think about it! Do you really want to deprive your child of this fullness?

Do you really want to try to raise a child all by yourself or with a partner of the same sex? In both cases, your child would get only one aspect of humanity deeply engraved into his or her

system!

Or do you really want to dissolve an existing marriage just because you think you are “not compatible”? Think about it. If you go down to the root, the real reason for any divorce is nothing but utter pride and selfishness. You are not treated the way you want... You are fed up with it... You can’t stand it any longer... You... You... You! Can’t you adjust with each other, at least for your child’s sake? Do you really want to do this lifelong damage and cause this traumatic psychological lack to your childⁱⁱⁱ?!?

I love a quote from Ruth Bell Graham, the late wife of famous evangelist Billy Graham. She said, “A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.” So true! Giving and receiving forgiveness is the route to happiness, not only in this earthly life, but even for eternity!

You CAN forgive! You CAN soften your hardened heart! You CAN humble yourself! You CAN entrust your life into God’s loving hands! Be assured, if you do that, He will fight your battles and protect you as the apple of His eye (Dt.3:22; Jos.23:10; Ps.17:7-9).

Let me give you even more facts. A divorce of the parents doesn’t only affect a child during the growing-up years. The effects go well into adulthood, affecting studies, job stability, income, health and even longevity!

Can you imagine that adult children from divorced parents have a four years shorter life expectancy, and forty-year-olds from divorced homes are three times as likely to die from all causes as forty-year-olds whose parents stayed married?

Not only that, but they are 70% more likely to have circulatory problems, 56% more likely to show signs of mental illness,

27% more likely to report chronic aches and pains and 26% more likely to rate their overall health as poor than adults from homes where the parents stayed together^{iv}. Wow...

Knowing all this, can you still have any question as to WHY our loving MAKER insists in marriage and HATES divorce (Mal.2:16)? Can you still have any doubts WHO is behind all that anti-marriage-propaganda we hear everywhere nowadays?

Even among our leaders who are good, spiritually strong brothers, we see a very marked difference between men who grew up in a normal family and men who grew up without a father. Fatherless men usually show great insecurity, fear of confrontation and a temptation to bow to control and manipulation.

I would never have imagined the amount of psychological damage children suffer if they don’t grow up with both parents. Even in our truly life-transforming “Schools of the Holy Spirit” where we see testimonies of physical, mental and emotional healings on a daily basis, both men and women from broken families struggle more than others to find their deepest identity in Christ and in Christ alone (Phil.1:20).

No amount of prayer, Bible reading or Holy Spirit power has been able to completely eradicate this problem. These brothers and sisters have to be on their guard lifelong not to succumb to lethargy and indifference or, on the other extreme, to control and manipulation in their deep desire for human acceptance and security. They can, however, become even greater testimonies of God’s love and power if they are careful to strongly adhere to their Heavenly Father and to draw their strength and authority only from Him.

Yet what is the hope for a society that creates more broken families each and every day?!? Can you allow things to go on like this? No way! You can make a difference! Take responsibil-

ity today for your own life. Make sure your life and your marriage display God's plan and principles. Do everything in your power to make your marriage a success and a beam of hope to other couples. Become a shining light in midst of a perverse generation (Phil.2:15)!

As you can see, the commitment of marriage is of utmost importance for the healthy upbringing of children. It is also vital for the peace and security which especially women need in order to be able to entrust their lives to a man and build the stable environment of a home. Marriage is simply a safe haven from where a family and even an entire culture can branch out and flourish.

Let me add a word here. You might feel totally devastated reading these statistics if for any reason that escapes your control you have to rear your children alone. I want to encourage you. Your God knows your heart and hears your cry. He has already sent you The Great Deliverer, His very own precious Son Jesus who wants to live inside of you through His Holy Spirit (Ex.3:7-10).

He is the God of the fatherless, the widows and the strangers (Dt.10:18; 14:29; 16:11,14; 24:17 and many other Scriptures). Your God is well able to be the best Husband to you and the best Father to your children if you will only allow Him.

Keep in mind that as a born-again person, you are a peculiar people, a totally different breed, living under completely different laws (1.Pe.2:9; Col.1:13-14). You and your children are meant for signs and wonders for the world around to see and marvel at your God's love and ability to protect you and provide for you (Isa.8:18).

All these statistics were taken among unbelievers, so CHEER UP! If you truly and fully rely on your God, He will show Himself as the Mighty One who will deliver you and your

children from all oppression (Zep.3:17).

Nonetheless, marriage between one man and one woman is God's perfect design and should always be desired, cherished, honored and protected.

Tragically, there are people who hate marriage and want so much to get out of it that you hear counsels like this one:

What should you do when your best friend runs away with your husband? - Miss her. Pity her.

Wow! That doesn't sound like this wife enjoyed her marriage very much. Most probably, she didn't know how to live it according to God's design. That's why things went so sour. As God says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" – that is, knowledge of God's Word and God's ways (Hos.4:6).

Our God is a wonderful, good God and the wise Creator of this entire universe. Think about how everything just works together in perfect harmony - that is, until man messes with God's creation and changes processes he often doesn't even fully understand!

God actually upholds all things by the Word of His power (Heb.1:3). The Bible says,

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (Heb.11:3)

His power and wisdom are immeasurable and just unfathomable for our small brains! We should simply decide to believe Him and entrust our lives into His loving hands, which we will do if we are reasonably wise.

3

MARRIAGE IS GOD'S IDEA

Think about it for a moment. This wise Mastermind, this Designer and Creator of all the stars and galaxies, the One who calls them all by name, He is the very same One who designed and created marriage (Isa.40:26; Ge.2:24; Mk.10:7). Wow!

Marriage is not just somebody's idea so you can comment and decide whether you want to consider it good or bad. **Marriage is the eternal design of the eternal Creator of humanity.** Considering this, don't you think that He will know best what is fitting for His creatures?!?

Why should you believe the trend of this age and follow the course of this world? Do you know what God says about people who walk according to the course of this world? He says they are dead in trespasses and sins! He says they walk according to the devil, who is the prince of the power of the air and who works in the sons of disobedience! He says such people are children of wrath and obey only the desires of their flesh and mind! He says they do and fulfill the lusts of their flesh! He says they are enemies of the cross of Christ! He says they make themselves enemies of God (Eph.2:1-4; Phil.3:18-19; Jas.4:4)! Wow! This is not at all a good report and definitely not fitting for a Christian!

Praise God, He has done everything possible to save you out of this perverse generation and make you a child of God with His very character (Phil.2:14-15; 1.Jn.3:1-2,10). How then can you think and act like the world and condone "boyfriend" and "girlfriend" having sex before marriage? God calls it fornication

and commands us to put to death this work of the flesh (Ga.5:19; Col.3:5). He even warns us that things like fornication and all uncleanness and covetousness should not even be named among us (Eph.5:3)! This is how much God hates fornication, and how much He expects you to hate it, too!

I will never forget my shock as a teenager when in our class of Lutheran religious education in Germany, one girl spoke up against this truth of God's Word. She argued heatedly with our religion teacher, saying that God could not force her "to buy a cat in a sack" (a German expression meaning, something not previously tested). She insisted that before marrying somebody, she had to find out "if we are compatible in bed".

To my even greater dismay, the teacher did not know how to refute her argument with God's Word. He just chuckled and left the matter open. Our entire class was polluted with this devilish lie! Since our religion teacher was not born again, he had neither the revelation of God's Word and truth, nor the hatred against sin and satan, nor the spiritual authority to destroy this seed of satan before it could take root in the young students' minds. What a tragedy!

I was not yet born again, either, and therefore I didn't have facts to contradict her words - but deep down inside, I knew it was terribly wrong. I still regret keeping my mouth shut in that situation. Please, for God's and for people's sake, never be silent when you hear such comments! Speak up against this destruction of innocent lives! You CAN do it! You MUST do it!

Not too long ago, I met this ex-classmate in a school-get-together. What a sad thing to see! I had always admired her since she used to be one of the most beautiful girls in our class, very attractive, charismatic and always sparkling with joy and mischief. Now she was only the empty shell of her former beautiful self. There was a deep sadness in her whole being. She had gone through two or three divorces and was living alone at

the moment. It seems that all her testing didn't help her much, don't you think?

Please understand: The Bible is very right when it declares that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1.Jn.5:19). What does that mean? Well, it means that as the declared god of this world, satan influences people's minds with his wicked lies that bring nothing but heartache, misery and destruction. How could it be any different, since he is a murderer from the beginning as well as a liar and the father of lies (2.Co.4:4; Jn.8:44)?!

A liar! A murderer! To such a character Adam gave the authority over this earth which God had entrusted to Adam! This is the tragic reality. Can you now understand why there is so much suffering, deception and killing all over this world? It is not God's fault. Please never blame God for Adam's high treason. Remember, it was Adam who made satan the god of this world, not God!

Knowing the horrible suffering His beloved creation would have to endure under satan's reign, God had no other go than to send His one and only Son to die on a cruel cross. Only through His holy, innocent sacrifice, He could redeem all those who would voluntarily declare Him the Lord of their lives. YOU decide on whose side you want to stand... but let me warn you:

This very same god of this world intends to kill your marriage before it can even begin. He wants to destroy your innocence and purity through sex outside marriage. He wants to break your heart through relationships without any commitment. He wants to harden your heart through the deceitfulness of sin so that you can never enjoy the deep, passionate, dedicated and pure God-given first love with your God-given spouse. He wants to mar the image of God in you with anything he can deceive you into doing.

You don't need to allow this to happen! You actually have authority over satan and all his evil works! You can resist him, and he will flee from you (Jas.4:7). In fact, all you have to do is to just say a big "NO"! You are in this world, but you are not of this world, and you don't have to follow the ways of this world (Jn.17:14-16)!

You are too precious to waste and spoil your life instead of saving yourself for that one person who is willing to pledge his or her life into your hands and take responsibility for your life. You have been saved out of this perverse generation, rescued and bought with the precious Blood of the one and only Son of God (Ga.2:20; Eph.2:1-10; 1.Pe.4:1-3; Eph.4:17-5:12; 2.Co.6:14-17; 1.Pe.1:17-19; Ro.1:18-32). See what He says:

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Heb.13:4)

Why will God judge? Well, He will judge sin to prevent innocent people from being destroyed, broken and contaminated by these sins. Did you know that in the USA alone, there are around 20 million new infections of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) each year, and the number is growing year by year? Did you know it costs the government nearly 16 billion US\$ just in direct medical expenses for the over 110 million affected people in the USA alone? What an unnecessary suffering and plundering of a nation!

The price of rebellion against God's design

Let's just take the example of syphilis^v. This cruel disease is only transmitted through sexual contact, and it runs rampant especially in the so-called LGBT community, the lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals and transgenders who work so hard to make us believe that their lifestyle is a joyful, happy, healthy thing.

Let the statistics speak for themselves...

Syphilis is believed to have infected 12 million people in 1999 with greater than 90% of cases in the developing world^{vi}. It affects between 700,000 and 1.6 million pregnancies a year resulting in spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, and congenital syphilis^{vii}. In Sub-Saharan Africa syphilis contributes to approximately 20% of perinatal deaths^{viii}.

Can you imagine? 20% of babies dying inside their mother's womb or during the first 28 days after their birth were cruelly murdered by this one sexually transmitted disease, syphilis?!? How many more might be killed by any other of the many sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs)? How does syphilis spread, and where is it most prevalent^{ix}? See here:

In the developed world, syphilis infections were in decline until the 1980s and 1990s due to widespread use of antibiotics. Since the year 2000, rates of syphilis have been increasing in the US, UK, Australia, and Europe primarily among men who have sex with men^x.

A fact sheet^{xi} from the American Center for Disease Control (CDC) on sexually-transmitted disease (STD) surveillance in 2014 shows a "troubling rise in syphilis infections among men, particularly gay and bisexual men." Trend data show rates of syphilis are increasing at an alarming rate (15.1 percent in 2014). While rates have increased among both men and women, men account for more than 90 percent of all primary and secondary syphilis cases.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for 83 percent of male cases where the sex of the sex partner is known. Primary and secondary syphilis are the most infectious stages of the disease, and if not adequately treated, can lead to long-term infection, which can cause visual impairment and stroke. Syphilis infection can also place a person at increased risk for

acquiring or transmitting HIV infection. Available surveillance data indicate that an average of **half of MSM (men who have sex with men) who have syphilis are also infected with HIV**.

Can you see the tragedy? And this is only one of the many different STDs that exist in the world. Don't you think God knows about STDs better than we do? Don't you think He has His good reasons for telling us to keep our purity for the one and only love of our lives? Why then do you insist in withstanding God's wise counsel? Remember,

12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12)

And God says it again, just to make sure you really get it:

25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 16:25)

You got it? I sure hope so...

And there is something still much more serious than the normal, well-known STDs, the sexually transmitted diseases. Think about the horrible suffering brought upon innocent women and children through HIV/AIDS! Women mostly contract it through their sexually unfaithful husbands and pass it on to their children, still in the womb or later through careless contact and contamination with body fluids.

Can't you see the tremendous protection God's design of marriage provides for the whole of humanity?!? Can't you see God's great love expressed through His wise protective boundaries? Can't you see that satan, the great destroyer and hater of humanity, is doing a wonderful job all over the world by trying to discredit and ridicule God's holy institution of marriage?

Some people, however, will still not want to marry, and they have their reasons and excuses for it, like these ones:

Why do dogs never marry? - They already live a dog's life!

A dog's life... Well... this is another subject altogether! Dogs really do NOT marry, and that is precisely the reason why they live a dog's life, meaning, a miserable life!

Our self-appointed watchmen here, our cute and intelligent stray dogs, teach us daily lessons about the blessings of marriage. They live in a clearly determined social structure, associated in a family setup called "pack". When any sound startles them, they all run and tackle the enemy. At other times, they peacefully mind their own business - that is, until mating season sets in.

Hormones produce an irresistibly sexy scent in the ladies, and immediately all gents go crazy. Days and nights they scream and bark, fighting off competitors, guarding and mating their females. When the sexy scent diminishes, we always have to cure and pamper them. In these few days, they turn into a shadow of their beautiful, healthy self. They lose up to half of their weight, are full of bleeding, pestering wounds and can, if not vaccinated, even acquire serious diseases like distemper, canine hepatitis, parvovirus or rabies.

What about the females? Do they enjoy their free sex life with so many hot pretenders? Do they relish being the center of male attention at least for a few days? I guarantee you, NO! Also the females are extremely worn out after this ordeal. In both sexes, their immune systems often break down after a hectic mating season.

And what about the psychological benefits of free sex? Forget it!!! We actually have to comfort and pamper them when they come back, totally exhausted. Our female Miracle used to hide under beds and chairs, screaming and shivering at the sight and even at the sound of a particularly cruel pretender. Her mother had her skin torn off her back so badly that only the pink

flesh remained. Oh no. They do NOT enjoy their sexual freedom.

What happens afterwards? The females are left alone to struggle through pregnancy and child birth. The males won't help to provide food. After all the toll her body already took by forming so many pups inside, the female has to chase and kill to feed her puppies. If the male appears at all, it is to threaten her away from her food and eat it all alone. Nice, isn't it?

Sounds familiar also in the human world, doesn't it? Oh yes, it does... outside the safe haven of marriage! How many girls thought they found the true and faithful, caring love of their life, only to discover that he was off and gone the moment she told him she was pregnant! Unfortunately, the same story of suffering and heartache repeats itself over and over again all over the world. Why? Only because we don't want to listen to God's wise design of marriage!

Back to our poor suffering dogs who unfortunately don't have a Bible to teach them morals and a better lifestyle. After six months, the whole thing starts all over again. Oh yes. Both males and females really live a dog's life. Maybe a stable marriage would be a better and healthier solution?!

Yet even with all these considerations, there are still people who don't believe in marriage. They crack jokes like this one:

Did you know there is no marriage, no husband and no wife in heaven? - Yeah... That's precisely why it is called heaven.

How tragic! What a misconception of our loving, wise Creator's beautiful idea of marriage! How much hurt speaks through such jokes... but praise God, there is healing even for the most hurt person! There is salvation even for the most depraved sinner! Hallelujah!

IS MARRIAGE GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERYBODY?

Well, I would say, according to God's very first task given to mankind, yes. See what God did right after creating them male and female:

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Ge.1:28)

If you want to live in God's blessing and favor, you need to do things God's way. Selecting your child's eye- and skin-color, IQ and even gender from a sperm-bank or through an internet catalogue, doing in-vitro-fertilization or renting a womb for nine months is NOT God's idea of being fruitful and multiplying. Just the fact that it is scientifically possible does NOT mean that it is pleasing to God.

I accepted Jesus as my Savior during my last year at university. Human genetics, bio-engineering and the like were my favorite subjects before my salvation. I was very tempted to specialize in these subjects, but even before my salvation, I somehow felt no peace about it. Deep inside, I just knew that I had no right to tamper with God's perfect creation. I am eternally grateful to Jesus that He didn't allow me to succumb to this temptation to "play God" and "engineer" life. Thank You, Jesus!!!

See here God's perfect design for life:

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man

should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Ge.2:18)

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Ge.2:24)

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD (Pr.18:22)

This is God's general plan for His creation.

There are, however, exceptions like the great Apostle Paul who decided to remain unmarried for the cause of the Gospel (1.Co.7:7). He wanted to give his undivided attention to God's ministry (1.Co.7:29-35). He didn't want to be tempted to try to please anybody more than the great Lover of his soul, his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I suggest you study the entire chapter of 1st Corinthians 7. It is very clear and extremely interesting, as is the conversation our Lord Jesus had with His disciples:

10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given" (Mt.19:10-11)

Very interesting! Can you see it? Our Lord Jesus Himself said that not all can accept staying alone, but only those to whom it has been given! Remaining unmarried and enjoying it is a special gift from God. Therefore, if you don't have this specific "gift of celibacy", as the Church calls it, please don't try to resist God's design for humanity. Such resistance would ultimately only bring great turmoil into your body, mind and soul.

As you may remember, I never wanted to marry. I simply

didn't see marriage as something desirable, and much less after Jesus came into my life. I was so happy and fulfilled with His love and so excited and busy trying to win souls for His Kingdom that marriage only appeared to be a distraction, a disturbance and even a hindrance for my desire to serve Him.

Maybe to make me change my mind, God showed me with many examples the great difference between married and unmarried men. Even if the marriage was nothing special, not very exciting or "eternal honeymoon-like", married men looked different and behaved differently. There was a stability, a security, a serenity about them that I could not find in their unmarried counterparts. Somehow, unmarried young men from their end-twenties onwards just looked a little sloppy, and their behavior was a bit sluggish. There was a sense of insecurity about them, as though unconsciously they were very aware that something was missing in them, and as though they felt almost ashamed about it.

This was not the case with girls or women, though. The only thing they used to complain about was the social stigma and the fact that married women didn't like to invite them anymore for fear that their husbands might cast an eye on them. To me, it was just another proof to the truth of God's Word at the very beginning of creation:

18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Ge.2:18)

So the general rule of thumb is: Unless God tells you personally and with various confirmations that He wants you to remain unmarried for His cause, a good God-fearing husband or wife is God's plan and purpose for you. In case you have not yet found that "soul mate", that suitable spouse, please do study my book "Toward Marriage - Your Navigator to your Happy Haven", available at www.ezekiahfrancis.org.

Let's come back to our Apostle Paul who obviously had that "gift of celibacy", the God-given ability and determination to remain single. The very same apostle Paul who served Jesus without ever marrying after his spectacular conversion counsels others,

8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am;

9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion (1.Co.7:8-9)

Isn't this a crystal clear, wise counsel? Please notice: Paul doesn't say, let them masturbate; he doesn't say, let them find a sex partner; he says, **let them marry!**

In former times, both men and women used to join a monastery if they had suffered some hurt or disappointment in love matters. This is very tragic since this step was all too often born out of a momentary emotional uproar, not out of true love and devotion or a clear call of God.

The result of such decisions was and still is that people who didn't receive this special grace of God to remain unmarried try to subdue their natural impulses and "somehow manage". It breaks my heart to imagine the human suffering, the guilt and shame they must feel when they are not able to "keep their flesh under"! How easily this self-imposed celibacy can lead to a horrible double-life and cover-up and finally to full-fledged hypocrisy!

I'll never forget my shame and pain when one of these scandals came to the light and was discussed widely in the international news media. Together with my husband, we were traveling through Dubai International Airport on our way to India and had to see everywhere the public disgrace of what most cultures understand as Christianity. But is that really CHRISTianity?

ARE YOU REALLY A CHRISTIAN?

Let me tell you here very clearly what Christianity really is. Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. Christianity is not an effort to be a good person but a total change of our innermost nature. Christianity is not a nice lifestyle but a complete change of government, even a change of kingdoms. Nobody becomes a Christian by being born in a Christian nation, not even by being born into a Christian family.

Becoming a Christian requires a personal decision to make Jesus Christ the one and only supreme Boss, Lord and Savior of one's life. If we invite Him, He comes into our life and slowly starts transforming us from the inside out. In this whole process, we have full control over how much we want to allow Him to change us.

Our God is and always will be a Gentleman. That is why sadly, you see many truly born-again believers in Jesus Christ still displaying their old sinful nature instead of the loving, joyful and peaceful nature of their Lord Jesus Christ (Jn.1:12; 10:26-28; Ro.12:2; 1.Co.15:50; Eph.4:17-5:12; Col.1:13-14; Ga.5:22-23).

This and nothing else is the reason why we see so many horrendous acts being done by individuals or even nations we consider to be Christian. In "Christian" Germany, for example, we have probably less than 2% of people who would fit Jesus' definition and requirement for being a Christian (Jn.1:12; 10:27; 15:12-14; 1.Jn.3:1-18). This is what our Lord Jesus Christ tried to explain to Nicodemus, a great religious leader of His time, in

these words:

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (Jn.3:3-5)

Can you see it? People who have not been born again, born of God, cannot even see the Kingdom of God which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Ro.14:17)! How much less can they enter it, live in it and display its character if they cannot even see it!

See how the Bible describes the coming of Jesus into this world and the possibility of a personal decision to accept and receive Him as Lord:

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (Jn. 1:11-13)

Born of God! Given the right to become a child of God! And

there is still more:

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins (Col.1:12-14)

Qualified to partake of the inheritance of the saints! That means, partakers of the inheritance God gave through His Son Jesus who died and rose again! That means, the inheritance is already given - to YOU, if you are a child of God! It means, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (Ro.8:17; Eph.3:6)!

Partakers of the inheritance in the light! No more darkness pushing you and overpowering you! No more sin! No more fear! No more hiding!

And there is more: A complete change of kingdoms! A total change of citizenship! Out of the dominion of the devil! Into the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of light, the Kingdom of love!!!

And there is STILL more: Forgiven of all sins! Redeemed through the Blood of the very Son of God Himself! Spared eternal hell, freely given eternal heaven! WOOOOOW!!!

THAT is CHRISTianity.

Can you be a good spouse?

Now the question: CAN YOU be a good spouse? That depends upon where you position yourself. I don't think in your own self, in your old nature, you can ever be a good spouse. As long as your big fat ego sits on the throne for each and every

decision you take, how can you selflessly lay down your life for your spouse as the Bible and true marriage commitment demands?

But let me encourage you: Even marriage will work so much better if your old, selfish nature is taken out and you become a born-again citizen of God's Kingdom! What is God's Kingdom? See here:

17 for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men (Ro.14:17-18)

Acceptable to God! Approved by men! That makes you approved also by your beloved spouse! So the way to becoming a good spouse is to become a citizen of God's Kingdom of love, peace joy! Sounds good, doesn't it?

When you become a citizen of God's Household, a member of God's family, you receive God's very nature, His own Spirit who brings into your innermost being God's character, the fruit of the Spirit:

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Ga.5:22-24)

All of these wonderful attributes are nothing you would need to strive for. It is a blessing that comes into you automatically as you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. All you need to do is receive it... accept it... believe it... expect it... display it... enjoy it! Hallelujah!

People do desire to change their lives and become better people. Many even long to be born a second time and start all over again, thinking they won't make the same mistakes and can create a happier life for themselves and for others. They try to achieve a new beginning in all kinds of ways. Sadly, many don't know that in our own strength and fallen nature, we can never live a truly happy, perfect and selfless life.

Praise God, knowing our utter inability to change our life for the better, our Lord Jesus Himself offers exactly this miracle so freely to us. Instead of expecting you to change, He wants to come inside of you and live His pure, perfect, powerful life in and through you. Wow!!!

It is my heart's desire that you may take advantage of this best offer ever extended to humanity and begin to live in heavenly bliss right here on this earth.

You can become a good spouse!

In fact, wouldn't you like to pray with me right now and turn your life over to the direction and protection of God? Wouldn't you like to receive His Presence with all His attributes into you right now? Pray with me,

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,

I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that You came into this world as a man. I believe that died on that cruel cross to deliver me from sin and satan.

Please forgive me and cleanse me of all my sins. Come into my heart. Be my Lord and my Savior.

From today onward, I belong to You. I obey only You.

Satan, I want nothing to do with you any longer. I cancel any invitation me or my forefathers have given you. Get out of my life! Jesus Christ is my Lord and Deliverer.

Dear Lord Jesus, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit right now. Help me to live for Your glory. Make me a blessing to You and to everyone around me.

In Jesus' Name!

Amen!

Hallelujah!!! Welcome into the family of God! Welcome into a better marriage!

Welcome HOME!!!

6

WHY SOME WON'T MARRY

Let us come back to our subject. So who are those people to whom it has been given to accept an unmarried life, according to our Lord Jesus? See it in His own words:

12 For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it (Mt.19:12)

According to our Lord Jesus, there are people who are born without the ability or desire to marry, most probably because of some physical defects or deep emotional wounds, and in certain cultures even because of their social status and the family they are born into.

Some people are just not interested in marriage; others are so hurt by life and bad examples that they prefer to stay alone; and still others simply want to serve God without distractions.

In my life, I used every second as an unmarried woman to serve Jesus. That is the reason why my life as a believer was always full of joy and enthusiasm. I habitually sought first the Kingdom of God, and He added all the other things to me, like material things, understanding friends and whatever I needed at any given moment (Mt.6:33).

I could talk for many days about all the miracles Jesus did for me, like prompting a believer car mechanic to buy a broken

car with exactly the motor I needed BEFORE my motor broke down, and bringing that brother to me the very day my car broke down... and instructing that brother to repair my car completely free of charge... or allowing my car to be broken into in exactly the way that would make the insurance company to buy me a new CD player when I had prayed for Jesus to send me somebody to repair my old one... while at the same time giving a Christian car dealer the job of repairing my car when they needed some money... I have experienced hundreds and thousands of miracles of His love, care, protection and provision.

Yes, there are people who will not marry. In my opinion, however, you need a clear calling to remain unmarried! You do not need a clear calling to get married, since marriage and multiplication is God's general plan and design for humanity.

If you decide to remain unmarried without God's clear indication, you run the risk of falling into loneliness and frustration when all your friends marry and you don't "fit in" anymore. You probably know God's counsel from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun:

8 There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his labors, nor is his eye satisfied with riches. But he never asks, "For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?" This also is vanity and a grave misfortune.

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion; but woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep

warm; but how can one be warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Eccl.4:7-12)

Of course, today we have chocolates and expensive electronic toys to reward us, anti-depressants to lift us up and electric blankets to keep us warm, but don't you think a spouse is the better option? It definitely is if you have a threefold cord, meaning a marriage with God fully involved and intertwined between the two of you.

So - should you marry or not? Well, my counsel is the same as for each and every situation of life: Follow the example of your Lord Jesus who said,

42 ...nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done (Lk.22:42)

Then live your life happily for Him day by day. I can guarantee, you will walk straight into His perfect plan for your life!

7

MARRIAGE IS GOD'S PROTECTION

In 2012, a study was made on the development of children in orphanages. Even though many of these orphanages provided family-like setups, still the difference to children growing up in complete families was stunning.

At the early age of 4 1/2, more than 40% of orphanage children had anxiety disorders and 4% had major depressive disorders. Many also exhibited signs of autism. Brains of children who had remained in institutions had less white matter - the type of tissue that connects different regions of the brain - than orphans who were placed in foster care or children living with their own families. Such reductions in white matter have been found in numerous neurological and psychiatric conditions, including autism, schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

Orphanage-raised children show delays in mental and physical development, are more at risk for health problems and substance abuse like addiction to drugs or medications, and struggle more to re-enter society once they are released from the orphanage^{xii}.

As science confirms again and again, a healthy marriage and family setup is the best asset and protection you can ever give to your child. I use to say in my seminars that no gifts, no tools, no education and no skills you could give to your child can ever do more for them than the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical health happy parents provide automatically and without any effort.

Please understand: If your child sees you struggle and fight for your right in marriage, this child will grow up with many fears and insecurities and won't be able to experience balanced emotions.

The emotional harm is especially deep if the child hears one or both parents consider a divorce. This just takes the foundation away from under a child. Such a child feels like falling into a bottomless pit of fear, anxiety, anger, shame and even guilt. He or she feels forced to grow up and fend for himself or herself at a much too early age and will not be able to provide a peaceful, secure environment for his or her spouse and children later on in life. Wow!

Yet these are only the physical and psychological sides of the issue. Much more important is the spiritual side. Strife, anger, hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness, fornication, illegitimate child birth, abortion, adultery, divorce, depression, suicide, murder and the like are spiritual forces that can attach to entire family lines and cause the same havoc in one generation after the other.

If you have any background like this or if you see such a pattern in grandparents, uncles, aunts or other relatives, I strongly recommend you work through my book "How to break cruel curses" (available at www.ezekiahfrancis.org).

Praise God, Jesus has become a curse for you so that God's fullest blessings can be yours in Jesus Christ (Ga.3:13-14). You don't need to become a victim to whatever satan did or would like to do in your family line. You can break any legal right satan has been given and receive the perfect love, joy and peace Jesus died to give you (Ga.5:22).

No matter what is your situation right now - your marriage and family life CAN become the heavenly bliss God intended it to be!

Never bow to suffering. Never consider suffering a normal part of life. Jesus suffered once and for all for sin and sinners (Heb.10:12,14). Now it is up to you to accept His free offer and enjoy the life He bought for you (Jn.10:10). Of course, just like with a zebra crossing, this protection works only inside marriage, the boundaries set by your wise Creator, and not outside of it.

Do you remember the two Hebrew midwives who saved the male children alive? Do you remember how much God honored their determination to protect innocent life? Do you remember how God blessed and rewarded them? Did He give them any financial incentive? Did He make them rich and famous? Did He give them better jobs or higher positions in Pharaoh's system and worldly kingdom? No! God rewarded them by providing households for them (Ex.1:15-21)?

A household, a secure marriage, a happy haven is the blessing of God and the most wonderful protection for humanity. Wow!

MARRIAGE IS A BATTLE

A good marriage is one of the most important spiritual victories you can ever achieve. It is the foundation of any healthy, happy, successful, fruitful life and of any lasting ministry. Constant battles, frictions and misunderstandings in your marriage undermine not only your spiritual health but also your physical, mental and emotional health. It is obvious that marriage, this place where you should be able to just relax and rejoice, is a thorn in the flesh to anybody who wants to harm you.

Marriage and family are satan's foremost targets in these End Times. Why is this? Well, it is simply because if children don't grow up in a healthy environment, they cannot become healthy adults who can form healthy families. So if satan wants to destroy humanity, it is only obvious that he will love to start by destroying the foundation humanity stands on, which is healthy marriages and families.

Fighting for your marriage implies therefore much more than just your personal happiness; it is a question of salvation and survival or doom and destruction of your entire nation, and yes, even of humanity itself.

Marriage is a real spiritual warfare, and this warfare will increase as we enter the very last of the Last Days. Somebody put it this way:

Every person is a freedom fighter... Immediately after marriage

This is actually a very sad misunderstanding of reality. It

shows me that this person has completely neglected or even denied the spiritual aspect of marriage.

Marriage is not a battle between two people but a battle between two kingdoms. Marriage is a battle between God's Kingdom of love, truth and abundant life and satan's kingdom of lies, strife, hatred and death.

See how our great Apostle Paul puts it:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph.6:12)

Can you see it? You don't wrestle against your spouse! You wrestle against satan, the great confounder and divider.

Some years ago, Jesus showed me this fact in a vision. I saw a couple fighting, pointing fingers, accusing and condemning each other. They were so absorbed in their shouting at each other that they didn't even notice the little demon standing in front of them. He was thoroughly enjoying the drama and laughing so hard that he had to hold his hurting stomach. What a tragedy!

Imagine! When you fall prey to satan's insinuations and fight with your spouse, you actually give him and his demons a free first-row ticket to their very favorite circus or cinema function!

After some time, one of the spouses in my vision suddenly noticed the little demon laughing at them. He immediately turned away from the spouse and toward the demon. Both of them did a 90° turn to face the demon and took each others' hand. In a sudden unity, they unanimously rebuked the demon. It was wonderful to behold!

This ugly little thing that had just been enjoying itself at the

MARRIAGE IS A BATTLE

couples' expenses suddenly became very small and fearful. With an ugly little squeak, it turned around on its heels and ran away as fast as it could. Hallelujah!

Dear friend, this is the reality of the spiritual world. God has given you full authority over all the power of the devil, and nothing shall by any means harm you (Lk.10:19). All you have to do is take your shield of faith and stand in the evil day (Eph.6:10-18).

God's promise that satan will flee from you if you just resist him, steadfast in faith, is absolutely true and also very much applicable in your marriage (Jas.4:7; 1.Pe.5:8-9).

So it is actually true that every person is a freedom fighter, not only at the beginning but all throughout marriage. The only difference is that the goal is freedom from satan and his onslaughts, not freedom from the person you love.

If you keep this in mind, a happy marriage will be your reward.

9

MARRIAGE IS STIMULATING AND SATISFYING

God's and your arch enemy tirelessly tries to cheat people into believing that marriage is boring, but sexual liberty is exciting. What about this so highly praised sexual freedom of singlehood or cohabitation (meaning, living together without being married)? The numbers might surprise you.

About 40% of married people state they have sex at least twice a week, compared to 20-25% of single and cohabitating men and women. Over 40% of married women consider their sex life emotionally and physically satisfying, compared to about 30% of single women. For men, it's 50% of married men who are physically and emotionally content versus only 38% of cohabitating men^{xiii}.

In today's world, people seek their stimulation often more in the media and in the internet than in the real world. Does this kind of visual and acoustic stimulation really improve people's sex life? Does it really give them more satisfaction than God's "old-fashioned" design of marriage?

Well, a study from as long ago as 2011 shows that in Japan where everybody has constant access to all kinds of sensual content via smartphones and computers, 36% of teens aged 16-19 had no interest in sex with a real partner. Many reported even feeling aversion at the thought of it^{xiv}.

Can you see that anything outside God's design of marriage between one man and one woman is simply not the right and healthy kind of stimulation?

Researchers stress again and again that marriage and just living together are not the same. One reason is that cohabitating couples are less likely to be sexually faithful because they lack the commitment a marriage requires. Faithful partners do not need to worry about STDs (sexually-transmitted diseases), are more likely to work to improve their sexual relationship, and do not have to worry about sexual jealousy.

No wonder that married couples can enjoy God's precious gift of sex with much greater freedom and abandonment, without any fears and worries in the back of their minds disturbing their pleasure. Oh yes, our God is a wise Creator and a loving Father!

So please, for your own benefit's sake, don't believe satan's lies that sex outside marriage is more exciting. It is NOT. Or well, it might feel stimulating for you if you are one of those people who enjoy playing Russian Roulette with their lives, or if you love pouring petrol over yourself and then trying if the cigarette lighter is working...

You get my point. Unless you are on a real suicide mission, consumed with hatred against yourself and your health, better follow God's guidance than the world's standards.

The book of Proverbs gives you very clear counsel and commands:

1 My son, pay attention to My wisdom; lend your ear to My understanding,

2 That you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge.

3 For the lips of an **immoral woman** drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil;

4 But in the end she **is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a**

two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell.

6 Lest you **ponder her path of life - her ways are unstable**; you do not know them.

7 Therefore hear Me now, my children, and do not depart from the words of My mouth.

8 Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,

9 Lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one;

10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner;

11 And you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed,

12 And say: “How I have hated instruction and my heart despised correction!

13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

14 I was on the verge of total ruin, in the midst of the assembly and congregation.”

15 Drink water from your own cistern and running water from your own well.

16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets?

17 **Let them be only your own**, and not for strangers with you.

18 Let **your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the WIFE (WIFE!!!) of your youth.**

19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, **let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.**

20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths.

22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.

23 He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

Oh! What clarity! What truth! Your heavenly Father wants your pleasure and not your destruction! If humanity would heed only this one chapter of God’s Word, how much misery and heartache, hatred, sickness, suicide and murder could be completely avoided.

Oh yes, our God is a wise and loving God, not the “pleasure-buster” satan likes to portray Him as!

10

MARRIAGE IS ENLIGHTENING AND ENRICHING

Did you know that after much study and research, somebody found out the truth about the profound changes marriage brings even into our social standing? See the result of his studies:

What really happens when a man and a woman get married? - The man loses his bachelor's degree and the woman gains her master's degree.

Definitely, marriage shakes up everything in our life. You will be totally shocked to find out how many things you did NOT know about the opposite sex, no matter with how many opposite-sex-siblings you grew up! You will have ample opportunity to learn new surprising facts each and every day.

If you decide to enjoy the stretching experience, you will love your marriage and be grateful for the mental stimulation it provides for you daily.

Not only that, marriage also makes your children more intelligent and more able to behave wisely in society. It is just logical that children who had the example of two opposites blending together into one will grow up into more stable personalities and be able to show more understanding for opposite points of view.

You don't believe me? Try any serious discussion with a person who grew up in an intact marriage; then try the same

discussion with somebody from a broken home. You will be surprised at the difference in perception, willingness and ability to see a matter from different angles.

Marriage also definitely enriches our life in many areas. See how serious Naomi took her task as a widowed mother-in-law even in her great pain when both her sons also died. She was determined to ensure her daughters-in-law would be enriched and not suffer widowhood and poverty as she herself would have to suffer.

Due to her advanced age, there was no hope for her to find another husband, but she insisted her daughters-in-law should not share her cruel destiny.

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 **The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.**" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

10 And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"

12 Turn back, my daughters, go - for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

13 would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands?"

No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!”

14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law” (Ruth 1:8-15)

We know from God’s Word that Ruth refused to leave Naomi. Willing to give up all hope for another marriage, she decided to serve her mother-in-law until her death. Please read an in-depth study of this tremendous woman of God in my book “Toward Marriage - Your Navigator to your Happy Haven”, available at www.ezekiahfrancis.org.

We never hear about Orpah again, but we know that Ruth truly found rest in her husband’s house, a husband she as a widow could not have expected, a kind, just and loving man called Boaz.

This marriage did not only provide rest and riches for Ruth and Naomi, it also brought the heathen woman Ruth into the direct ancestry of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world: Her son Obed would become the grandfather of God’s great King David, the man after God’s own heart (Ruth 4:17; 1. Samuel 13:14)!

Wow!

11

MARRIAGE IS SANCTIFYING AND CRUCIFYING

There is no doubt about it: Marriage is surely the best way to sanctification. A woman of God who married for the first time when she was already in her fifties used to warn young people in a half-serious, half-joking manner: “Please, make sure you only get married if you are really serious about holiness and sanctification. Marriage will definitely crucify every little bit of ego you didn’t even know was still in your life.”

How true! Marriage really teaches us to put others first, to live true servanthood, to lay down our lives for our spouse and children, and to love unconditionally like our great role model Jesus did.

Marriage is a school you can’t escape from. Marriage is the place where no mask can stand, no cover-up can endure. Marriage is the place of total truthfulness and transparency. Marriage is the place where we discover ourselves in ways we never thought possible before. Marriage is the place where two individuals are blended together into a beautiful, perfect unity that ultimately displays the very glory, love, wisdom and power of God (Eph.5:32).

Wow. What a tremendous privilege and opportunity... and what a challenge! Somebody said it so fittingly:

Marriage is when a man and a woman become one; the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

This is a great joke, but it is even a greater truth! Marriage

throws you into a mixer and shaker and blends you into a smoothie with another person, a totally different personality. Marriage gives you the privilege of looking at yourself and deciding what you want to keep and what you prefer to discard and replace with your spouse’s attributes. Marriage gives you the tremendous opportunity to become a better person. Wow!

Of course, this process is not easy. It is definitely painful to be shown character traits and habits that need to be changed. What will you do? Will you kick and fight? Will you insist on your ways? Maybe you did so all your life whenever somebody took the risk of trying to correct you. Maybe that’s the reason why you are still so touchy and difficult to handle that nobody likes to be close to you. Marriage gives you the chance to be softened and sweetened.

One word of caution: You should definitely resist when somebody who didn’t really commit his or her life to you wants you to change according to his or her taste. You have absolutely no reason or obligation to change for somebody who walks into your life today and may walk out again tomorrow. You will not become one with just anybody. You become one only with your spouse, your rightfully married life partner.

Here again, marriage is such a blessing! Think about it. The person who (in your eyes) so cruelly fights against you is actually the person who was willing to take care of you and stay with you until your last breath. The person who seems to hate and reject you so totally is actually the person who loves you more than anyone else and was willing to entrust his or her life into your hands. The person who demands a change in your attitude or character is actually the person who vowed to lay down his or her life for you.

Can you see it? What a blessing to be confronted and corrected by someone who loves you, someone you chose as a life partner, someone who promised to stay with you and not run

away at the first opportunity. Wow! Don't you think you can safely entrust your life to such corrections and truly change? Of course, God Himself says,

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:11)

God understands that it will take you a little training to accept the discipline, but it is well worth it! See what happens to a person who is not willing to accept this process of death to self and resurrection as a new entity:

1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment (Pr. 18:1)

Wow. How well our Creator knows our selfish hearts and desires! How clearly He describes such a person as raging against all kinds of wisdom and judgment!

32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding (Pr. 15:32)

Of course, this word speaks about God's instruction and rebuke, but in a marriage as God intended it to be, you will very often hear God's voice through your spouse or be God's mouth-piece for your spouse.

What a blessing! What a safety! What a love!

12

MARRIAGE IS HEALTH-PROMOTING AND LIFE-PROLONGING

God's and your arch enemy satan is very worried that you might discover the benefits of marriage and of lifelong faithfulness to one spouse. He has devised wise-sounding but cunning slogans to fool people out of the blessings of God and into short-term relationships that bring nothing but heartache, emotional and physical pain, health problems and financial loss (Pr.2:16-19; 5:3-20; 6:23-35; 7:6-27).

You can hear people quote satan's tricky lies and destructive schemes in jokes like these:

Why buy a whole cow just to get a little milk?

Sounds very logical, doesn't it? But see what God says even twice in His wise collection of Proverbs:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Pr. 14:12; 16:25)

How true...

Thanks to modern science, the countless health risks of having multiple sex partners are a well-known fact. Just one example is the sexually transmitted human papilloma virus which considerably increases the risk of cervical cancer and other cancers^{xv}.

Countless studies have shown that married people live longer than unmarried people^{xvi}. Interestingly, people living

together in a promiscuous relationship without being married didn't show the same health benefits^{xvii}. That is no surprise to me. It simply shows that since they didn't choose to submit to God's design of marriage, they just didn't qualify for His benefits, either. Logical, isn't it?

Our God created marriage for us to enjoy heavenly bliss together. Actually, our marriage should display Christ and the Church (Eph.5:31-33). Only in the perfect union of two single people, the fullness of God's character can really be displayed.

Marriage should be a joy and a relaxation for both partners. If you look at it scientifically, statistics say that marriage prolongs life expectancy in both partners^{xviii}, and more markedly so in men^{xix}.

A research conducted by the University of Louisville, Kentucky, examined 90 previous studies from the last 60 years that involved about 500 million people. The study found out that the risk of mortality between unmarried men (those who have never married at all) and those who have been married throughout their lives was 32% higher for the former. Further, the researchers found out that unmarried men are likelier to die 8 to 17 years before the married ones^{xx}.

In women, divorced and never married women have much shorter life expectancy than married and widowed women, with married women having the highest life expectancy^{xxi}. Additional studies are finding that married couples experience lower levels of heart disease, cancers, flu, Alzheimer's, depression and stress^{xxii}.

Marriage also reduces the risk of stroke and heart attack in otherwise comparable life situations. Here again, the benefit is mostly on men's side, as God said at the very beginning of creation:

...It is not good that man should be alone... (Ge.2:18)

Some reasons for these health benefits might be the healthier meals married men get at home compared to their unmarried counterparts who have to manage with restaurant meals, plus better social assistance (towards married couples than towards singles), faster access to health benefits, and the support system that married couples enjoy by default.

Researchers even speculate that married men are probably encouraged or nagged to do something for their own health and tend to take lesser risks like alcohol abuse, all-night-partying etc. than the single ones^{xxiii}.

MARRIAGE IS MIND-MENDING AND HURT-HEALING

Married people also score much higher in mental health than their unmarried counterparts. Married men are half as likely to commit suicide as single men, and one third as likely as divorced men. Widowed men under 45 are nine times more likely to commit suicide as married men^{xxiv}.

Married people report lower levels of depression and distress, and 40% say they are very happy with their lives, compared to about 25% in single people. Married people were half as likely to say they were unhappy with their lives.

Single men drink twice as much as married men, and one out of four say their drinking causes problems. Only one of seven married men says the same. One out of six single men abstains from alcohol, but one in four married men do^{xxv}.

A very important stress buster in marriage is the possibility to share our problems and burdens as well as our joys. In Germany, we have a beautiful saying: “Shared sorrow is half sorrow, shared joy is double joy”. This is confirmed by God’s eternal Word, which says,

2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Ga.6:2)

A good example of the mind-mending, hurt-healing capacity of marriage is our patriarch Isaac, the father of Jacob who after his encounter with God became God’s Israel. You can read both their intriguing life stories in the Book of Genesis, chapters 17 to 49, but let me highlight here only one verse:

67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death (Genesis 24:67)

Wow. Isn’t that great? One of the deepest hurts in human life is the loss of a mother. People say that life is never again quite the same when the person who carried us for nine months in her womb and cared for us her entire life is suddenly gone. The loss of a mother touches the deepest parts of our personality, our feeling of belonging, our deepest security, our very foundation in life.

Of course, Jesus Christ is the One filling all these deep areas of our lives, but isn’t it wonderful to see the deep inner healing a spouse could bring to God’s chosen and appointed patriarch?

There is a reason for that, though. Isaac didn’t just marry anybody. His conception was a miracle, prophesied long before, awaited so long that it seemed totally impossible it would ever happen. His name was given by God Himself. He was a very special person with a very special purpose - just like YOU!!!

Are you aware that no person on this earth is an accident? Are you aware that God has a plan and purpose for every life He created? You are special! You are pre-planned and before-ordained (Romans 8:28-31)! Your God has been thinking about you and planning your best life even before the foundation of this world (Ephesians 1:3-4)!

Of course, that plan also includes the right marriage partner for you, the one who will bless and comfort the deepest areas of your being.

Is marriage good? Oh yes, definitely yes. Marriage with just anybody you may fancy? Oh no, definitely no. If you want the heavenly bliss your God planned for you, you must make sure

you marry the right person God planned for you. Logical, isn't it? And it is not difficult at all to find that person. You can order your personal check-list at www.ezekiahfrancis.org. It is called "Toward Marriage - Your Navigator to your Happy Haven".

In it, I explain in depth how Isaac made sure he married the right person God had prepared for him. Just like in my case or in Ruth's case, that person was not the next-door neighbor but a person from a far-away nation.

Did I or any of these Bible characters have to search, strive, struggle and suffer? No way. We just entrusted our lives into God's hands and reaped His mind-boggling reward.

I guarantee you, you can do the same, and you will reap the same rewards!

14

MARRIAGE IS PLEASURE-PRODUCING AND RELAXATION-RELAYING

Even the sexual relationship in marriage is a real blessing from heaven. It is scientifically proven that it eliminates tension by releasing hormones into the bloodstream that counteract stress hormones. These cause a general feeling of satisfaction and well-being which soothes and comforts mind and body. Heart health, prostate health, immune response, bladder control, skin complexion, mood, sleep patterns and weight control are all benefitted by a healthy sex life inside the safe haven of marriage^{xxvi}.

Healthy sex also boosts the hormone oxytocin which causes the release of endorphins, powerful natural opiates which are your body's own painkillers^{xxvii}. Many athletes and high performers from all walks of life have discovered that they perform better physically and even intellectually after a satisfying sexual encounter with their spouse the night before the challenge.

Of course, all of this is God's idea. He is the inventor of our entire make-up, the mastermind behind our sexuality. In His eternal Word, He encourages and even challenges us to enjoy the sensual pleasures He has created for us.

I have heard of people who feel shy to read Song of Solomon, God's beautiful love poem in the Bible. Some of the words are actually much stronger in the original Hebrew and "domesticated" for the English reader. Even then, the excitement and passion that speak through them is God's desire for everyone - but as always, INSIDE of marriage. Just relish this fiery love:

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth - for your love is better than wine... A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, that

lies all night between my breasts... You are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have dove's eyes... I am lovesick... His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me... O my dove, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely... Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep which have come up from the washing... Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely... Your two breasts are like two fawns... You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace. How fair is your love, my sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, and the scent of your perfumes than all spices! Your lips, o my spouse, drip as the honeycomb; honey and milk are under your tongue; and the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed... Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits... I am lovesick! Turn your eyes away from me, for they have overcome me... How beautiful are your feet in sandals, o prince's daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a skillful workman. Your navel is a rounded goblet; it lacks no blended beverage. Your waist is a heap of wheat set about with lilies. Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle... Your neck is like an ivory tower... A king is held captive by your tresses. How fair and how pleasant you are, o love, with your delights! This stature of yours is like a palm tree, and your breasts like its clusters... I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me... Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave. Its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it..."

Wow! Who would not love such a love! Who would not desire such a desire! Yes, you can find it - inside God's loving, protective boundaries.

MARRIAGE IS MONEY-MAKING AND CREATIVITY-CREATING

Company owners know very well that happily married workers are their greatest asset. They get sick less often, are more creative, more relaxed and create less interpersonal relationship problems at work^{xxviii}.

Divorce, on the contrary, robs both men and women of wealth. Even in Germany, a nation where the laws try to protect both men and women in the case of divorce, many divorced men told me that their life was "over". When I asked why they used such a strong expression, each one of them told me of the tremendous strain they had to take to pay what the government required for a divorced wife and the children from that broken marriage. Studies show that both men and women have financial disadvantages from single life^{xxix}.

A study from USA found that 60% of people under poverty guidelines were divorced women and children. Married couples, on the contrary, are better off financially^{xxx}. Married men are more likely to get promotion and miss work less^{xxxi}. Women also earn more money if they are married^{xxxii}. What would be the reason? Will companies pay their workers more just because they are excited about their marriage, or because they feel compassion that they have to feed and educate children? I don't think so. The reason for the better payment is definitely the better performance due to the mental peace created by a secure, settled lifestyle.

On the contrary, I have seen women go through great turmoil and wanting to leave their husbands. Can you believe

that money was actually the reason they didn't file for divorce? Yes, even unbelievers know that a divorce devastates much more than just two souls, it also depletes the bank accounts of both parties. Have you ever noticed that even God's wise Word connects marriage with money? See here:

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

Of course, marriage also has its challenges, but I will never forget the difference between married and unmarried women I witnessed as a student during my vacation jobs. How much insecurity, worries and anxieties the unmarried ladies displayed every day! "Will he call me? Is he interested in me or in my money? Does he have some other girlfriend? Will he be willing to marry me someday, or will he drop me like a hot potato after sucking all the juice out of me?"

Not to speak of the divorced women, often with children! How many hassles! They had to shoulder all the problems alone, for themselves and for their children, without a man to speak on her behalf to teachers, landlords, bosses or government agencies! The only worry of the married women, on the contrary, was the never-ending question: "What should I cook today? What do you cook today? Oh! Will you give me your recipe?"

Oh yes, even the secular world has to admit that marriage was a good and wise idea of our Maker.

You can see the same also in the Bible. Ruth and Naomi were rescued from their utter loss and poverty when rich relative Boaz agreed to take Ruth as his wife (Ruth 4:14-15). The successful businesswoman portrayed as a virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 not only provided for her household and bought and sold fields, she also made her husband look good in the city gates, which means, in the political arena. Definitely, marriage is a blessing even in the financial and creative areas.

MARRIAGE IS CULTURE-CONSERVING AND INTELLIGENCE-INDUCING

Gunther Geipel, a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Germany, wrote a very convincing paper on homosexuality and the parsonage^{xxxiv}. In it he refers to anthropologist Joseph D. Unwin (1895 - 1936) who investigated the correlation between sexual restrictions of a society and its cultural standard.

Unwin studied eighty 'uncivilized societies' as well as the highly developed cultures of the Babylonians, Sumerians, Athenians, Romans, Anglo-Saxons and British to find out the influence of the sexual norms of a society on its culture.

The result was compelling: The greater the sexual restriction, the higher was the cultural, educational and intellectual level. The lesser the sexual restriction, the lower was the cultural, educational and intellectual level. There is no exception to this rule^{xxxv}.

Unwin goes so far as to state that any attempt of enjoying sexual liberty as well as a high cultural level is not possible for any longer than for one generation. Wow!!!

This shows that as always, even already in Old Testament times, God gives YOU the right to choose:

19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live (Dt.30:19)

Can you see it? Your privilege of free will doesn't only affect

you as an individual. The choice you make doesn't only determine the intellectual standard of your own life, but also that of your children and ultimately of your entire society.

When I was a teenager, I was often offered drugs, both at school and even in our Lutheran church. Do you know why I refused them even when they were offered to me as a gift? I somehow understood that my God had given me a good brain, and I didn't want to destroy it. I was not yet born again. I was just a nominal church-goer, but I had the full authority to say a big NO to sin, satan and destruction. Hallelujah!

Although my parents' marriage wasn't perfect, they decided to stay together, and I thank God for it! Having both father and mother accept and live out God's design of marriage is definitely a blessing and creates a safe haven for children.

Other children and teens in my surroundings who came from troubled homes or broken families did not have that desire to resist evil nor that push to perform and excel. They easily succumbed to drugs and alcohol, illicit sex affairs and all kinds of brain- and future-destroying habits.

Of course, their academic performance was greatly hampered as they allowed other things to occupy their brilliant minds and distract their attention.

I was heartbroken when I learned about recent statistics from Harvard, one of the most renowned (and most expensive!) universities worldwide. Harvard is world famous as an educational hotspot that turns out the elite that will govern the future of our world. Do you want to hear the statistics?

An article from September 2015 states that forty to fifty percent of Harvard students have sought mental health services at Harvard University Health Services at least once^{xxxvi}.

These numbers do NOT include those that seek help

outside, maybe because of shame and fear of being stigmatized.

Dr. Caroline Leaf, a leading brain specialist from South Africa, puts the number of Harvard students suffering from depression so debilitating that they couldn't function as high as 80%^{xxxvii}!

Can you imagine? What a future can they have if they destroy their brains with antidepressants and other substances? What a future can they create for the world that is looking up to them to become their future leaders? What could be the reason for such horrific statistics?

I believe the main reason is found in another annual survey from May 2015. This survey states that at Harvard, 58% come to university as virgins, but only 25% graduate as virgins! A whopping 33% of students loses their virginity during their studies at Harvard^{xxxviii}!

Do you think they would have married? Definitely not during their education. Can you see how unbiblical sexual behavior destroys culture, mental health and intelligence, not only in the long run, but even short-term?

Now that you know the tremendous effect your sexual behavior has on so many other lives, can't you decide to contain yourself inside the clear boundaries of marriage which your Creator God so lovingly designed?

17

MARRIAGE IS CHARACTER-CREATING AND RESILIENCE-REQUIRING

In Germany and other nations with a Christian foundation, the government still gives tax benefits to married couples and even child allowances to help people form a family. Isn't this interesting? It is actually a very wise thing to do, since healthy families are the building blocks of a healthy society.

There is, however, somebody who is not at all happy about that. God's and your arch enemy satan is working overtime to discredit the God-given institution of marriage and to destroy every blessing the nations derive from it.

As always, he is very eager to deceive the nations and to blind the mind of the unbelievers so that they cannot see the tremendous danger the destruction of marriage and family means to the social fabric of the entire human race.

His declared goal is to steal, kill and destroy people by keeping them outside of God's clearly and lovingly marked blessing-areas (Mt.24:24; Jn.10:10; 2.Co.4:3-4; 1.Ti.4:1-3; Rev.20:10).

See how God Himself warned us about the End Times in which we are living right now:

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. and from such people turn away!

6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts... (2.Ti.3:1-6)

Can you see it? Of course, this foretold and now happening change in people's character is one of the reasons why marriage is becoming increasingly difficult to live out successfully. Imagine having to live with a person of such character traits!

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2.Ti.3:12-13)

Don't we see this happening more and more as days go by? We have now the highest incidence of persecution against Christians this world has ever seen. Did you know that in this 20th century alone, more Christians have been murdered than in all the other nineteen centuries of Church History together^{xxxix}?

Government authorities and also many well-meaning believers warn us or counsel us to "be moderate, be tolerant, don't be such a black/white-painter, allow for some gray areas in life," and the like. In more and more nations, simply speaking Bible truths and values is considered "hate speech" and heavily persecuted. Fines and jail time are the least, but the repercussions for speaking God's Word can amount to life threats and even murder, sometimes disguised as accidents or suicides. What is

God's answer to this threat? Well, His apostle Paul wrote to his young disciple Timothy,

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom:

2 Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3 For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (2.Ti.4:1-4)

God didn't say, let them just run into perdition. Being the loving God He is, He still asks us to keep proclaiming His truth and His salvation to whoever will hear. How beautiful!

Did you know that God also already warned about the End Times affecting marriage in an even more direct way? See this:

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**,

2 **speaking lies in hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 **forbidding to marry**, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth (1.Ti.4:1-3)

Don't we see this already happening? Of course, the expression "forbidding to marry" refers to a marriage between one man and one woman, since the entire Bible knows no other thing than this as marriage. What does God say where such anti-marriage-teachers get their inspiration? Well, read the above Bible verses again... It is very clear, don't you think?

Now YOU will need to make your decision. Your loving Father God has given you the precious gift of a free will. Exercise it and step into a blessed marriage!

YOUR MANUFACTURER KNOWS...

Why is marriage so special? How is it possible that just by obeying God's Word and committing our life to only one person of the opposite sex, all these blessings can be unleashed upon us? What is the secret of the success marriage brings into lives?

The secret is simply that the manufacturer knows how his product functions best. If you buy any appliance, don't they give you a manual that tells you in which conditions you should use it - temperature, humidity, voltage...? Then WHY do you find it so offensive when YOUR manufacturer tries to put YOU into the perfect conditions where YOU function best and last the longest? Ever thought about it?

To help you comply with His instructions, God explains like a loving Father through His prophet Samuel,

22 ...Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king (1.Sa.15:22-23)

Can you see it? You don't need to do all the offerings and sacrifices every religion demands from its followers. Only one thing is required of you:

5 You shall **love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 And **these words** which I command you today **shall be in your heart.**

7 You shall **teach them diligently** to your children, and shall **talk of them** when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 You shall **bind them** as a sign **on your hand**, and they shall be as frontlets **between your eyes.**

9 You shall **write them** on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Dt.6:5-9)

Love God. Love His Word. Teach His Word. This is your only requirement. In the New Testament, Jesus adds the command to love your neighbor as yourself (Mt.22:37-40). Just loving God and loving people is all God requires of you. This is the fulfillment of the Law (Ro.13:9-10; Ga.5:14). Wow! How easy!

Teach future generations the "user manual", the "working conditions" for human life. Remember,

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king (1.Sa.15:23)

Have you ever heard of anything good coming out of witchcraft, iniquity or idolatry? Never. It may look attractive in the beginning, but very soon you reap a harvest of demonic attacks and possession, curses on your family line, drought, poverty, family destruction and so much more.

Because your loving Creator God wants to protect you from all these disasters, He humbles Himself to the point of begging you to obey His Word! When He saw that you were unable to do so, He even sent His own Son, the Living Word, to live and die, resurrect and finally live IN YOU as the fulfillment of the Law. Wow!!!

Obedying God's Word is the wisest and healthiest decision you will ever make in your life! If you reject His Word, though, He rejects you from being king, as it happened to King Saul of old. Wow! Does this still apply in New Testament times?

Praise God, we don't lose our salvation and our kingly position that easily, unless we consciously chose to deny Christ; our special place near God's heart, our "My little son"- or "My little daughter"-position, however, is a different story. That precious closeness, that secret communication still belongs to those who draw near to Him and hear His heartbeat (Jas.4:8; Jn.13:23-25).

As a parent, won't you also keep your obedient child closer to your heart than a rebellious one, even if you try to be unbiased? With whom would you share your secrets, your joys and sorrows? Well, your God is just the same (Ps.25:14; Pr.3:32).

So WHY would He command you to teach His Word to the coming generations? To keep them happy, healthy and long-lived, of course!

As your Manufacturer, your God knows best...

...HOW HE DID NOT MAKE YOU!

Let's start with how your loving Manufacturer did NOT make you. Remember? In the very beginning, He created Adam and Eve? Let me help you... it is Adam and EVE, NOT Adam and Steve...

Oh yes, men and women are different, very different. That can really frustrate you if you don't know that the wise Manufacturer must have a special purpose with it. Trust me - He does! To make sure you know that all these differences are His idea, He Himself stated at the very beginning of creation even twice:

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Ge.1:27)

2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created (Ge.5:2)

Doesn't it sound like He wants to reassure you, "I know you are different... I made it this way"? If you love and trust Him and His Word, you will not fall prey to a very deadly trap of satan that would cut your life short by a whopping 20 years^{x1}!

Have you heard this seducing voice telling you, "Oh, you know, only a person of your same sex can really understand you...Forget religion... These old fundamentalists don't know modern life... God wants to deny you something good..." (Ge.3:1-5). This deception of the old serpent has become politically acceptable nowadays. Governments of nations struggle

with the question if they should grant homosexual couples the same privileges as “traditionally married” couples, which means, one man and one woman. They vote on whether or not to allow homosexual couples to adopt children.

Have you considered that “same sex couples” can NOT procreate in a natural way? Homosexual sex is called sodomy after Sodom and Gomorrah of old (Ge.13:13; 18:16-22; 19:1-29; Dt.29:23). Do you remember their sin? It was homosexuality^{xli}. Do you remember the outcome? It was destruction, just like in ancient Rome and other decadent societies. How much satan must hate humanity that he tries to finish us off like this!

Why do so many people suddenly think they are “trapped in the wrong body” and need “gender reassignment surgery”? Well, some people are really born with sex chromosome abnormalities, maybe due to radiation, exposure to chemicals or even malnutrition of the mother during gestation. That can be tested very easily with a simple saliva test. Many companies even offer DNA testing kits to use at home and send back to the laboratory.

Such genetic variations, however, occur only in 1 out of 900 to 1 out of 5000 births^{xlii}! Why should YOU be one of them? And even IF you are - cannot the God who heals the sick and raises the dead easily fix that small abnormality?

The shocking rise in homosexual, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender tendencies, however, is definitely created by the hype in media and even school syllabuses. Why should you confuse children and teenagers by even putting before them options their wise and loving Creator never offered? Why should you make 3-year-olds in Kindergarten undress and touch the genitals of other children? Why should you ask them what THEY WANT to BE when their Creator has already determined

who they ARE? Just look at the “equipment” they are born with...

Let me tell you my experiences from Christian ministry. I have seen both men and women set free from homosexual or lesbian tendencies and lifestyles. One young man’s testimony touched me very deeply. I believe his life story is key to understanding sexual aberrations and gender confusions. Here is his story.

When he was a small, tender boy, he used to witness violent fights between his parents. He vividly remembers his father beating his mother, throwing her on the floor by her hair, even kicking her with fists and feet. In his little brain, this small boy took a decision that would later on act like a vow. He determined never to become “such a monster” like his father. He promised himself he would never hurt small, inoffensive women like his mother.

Later in life, this noble intention almost destroyed his life. From smallest childhood onwards, he struggled to accept himself as a male. He preferred the company and plays of girls. Boys instilled fear in him. He gradually distanced himself more and more from his own sex. A time came when he started wearing women’s clothes, at first only at home, later also in public. He was considering an operation that would convert him into a woman when Jesus came into his life.

After his salvation, God’s precious Holy Spirit showed him the root of his confusion and agony. Step by step and in many prayer- and worship times, Jesus brought healing and deliverance to this precious young man. Today, he is happily married and the father of two sweet girls. He still cries with gratitude when he tells his testimony and how Jesus rescued him just before taking the irreversible step of having a “gender reassignment operation”.

In my experience, gender confusions normally go back to such childhood traumas. It could have been a sexual assault committed against the child. It could have been as little as touching them in an inappropriate manner. It could have been just a remark long forgotten by the person who uttered it and maybe even by the person who received it. Such things stick deep inside the tender soul of a child and dictate their complete future. How dangerous are words! How true is God's admonishment to us,

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Pr. 18:21)

If you or a loved one struggle with such issues, take heart. There is complete healing, deliverance and restoration in the mighty Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Nobody needs to live in this turmoil of emotions, constantly fighting against what God intended for their lives.

Tragically, there are people today who even teach that God created some people like this. The reason why such doctrines can arise is the same addressed by our Lord Jesus when He spoke to the Pharisees of His time:

24 Jesus answered and said to them, 'Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?' (Mk. 12:24)

If you really want to know the reason for and God's opinion about such matters, please study prayerfully and with an open mind God's Word through His Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16-32:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by

faith."

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of

the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;**

29 being filled with all **unrighteousness, sexual immorality**, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Ro.1:18-32)

We have seen very clearly how our Manufacturer did NOT make us. Now let us see...

Let us start at the very beginning, with the creation of man and woman. It is the Trinitarian God who decided to make man in His image and likeness. **Man and woman together are created in the image of God. Man alone is not the image of God, neither is woman alone.** Remember God's first mention of mankind in the very first chapter of the Bible:

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Ge.1:26)

As you see, God spoke about MAN, but then immediately, He spoke about THEM. The Hebrew word for "man" which is translated in some Bibles as "mankind" is "Adam". So this "Adam" included both the male and the female part of humanity.

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Ge.1:27)

Why should God make such a clear distinction? Was it not enough to say that He created mankind? Well, it is to make clear to us that there is definitely a lot of difference between the two. So please, don't be too surprised! Your spouse will REALLY be VERY different from you. God said it at the very beginning! Yet only when man and woman come together and become one, God's full image becomes visible to the world. See God's crystal-clear Word:

31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church (Eph.5:31-32)

Here you have the main reason why satan, your and God’s arch enemy, hates marriage with all his might and does his best to mar and discredit it. Can you see why having a happy marriage is of much greater importance than just for your personal enjoyment? Your happy marriage automatically draws people toward Christ. What a simple, easy and beautiful way to evangelize the world! You can enjoy your marriage and at the same time cause God to throw a party in heaven for every sinner saved through your life testimony (Lk.15:7)!

So please, for Heaven’s sake, DO marry and be willing to put some effort into making your spouse happy. You automatically make God happy by doing this. Time invested into your marriage is never wasted time but a very wise way to wage spiritual warfare. Defeat the devil with every laughter, kiss and embrace - given to your own spouse, of course!

Now, what is the purpose of all these God-given differences between the sexes? Is it to upset and torture us? No way! One very obvious purpose is to avoid boredom. Imagine how boring it would be to spend your entire life with a person just like you. There would be no challenge, no need to question your own beliefs, and therefore no personal growth.

Another purpose is to complement each other with the precious gifts each one of us is lacking. Think about it. God made one human, Adam, but very soon, He saw that Adam as an “all-in-one” was not happy. He needed a partner, a creature of

his likeness, to be able to share life with and to complement each other. So in His eternal wisdom, God didn’t create another person, a separate being. He just operated on Adam and took out a part of him. Wow! That part, which was now of course missing in the man, became the woman.

So actually, you are really only “complete” when you find and join your missing part. Somebody said it just a tiny little bit differently:

A man is incomplete until he is married. After that, he is finished...

Let us see in some more detail exactly how God created man and woman.

7 And the LORD God formed (yatsar) man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (Ge.2:7)

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed (yatsar) every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken

from man He made (banah) into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said: “This is now 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 mother and be joined (cling) to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (Ge.2:19-25)

There are many very interesting points to notice in these verses. First of all, notice that God didn't just speak “every beast of the field and every bird of the air” into existence, but He “formed” them, just as He “formed” man.

This word “formed” is the Hebrew word “yatsar”, which means, “to form, fashion, frame”, through the squeezing into shape^{xliii}. Have you ever noticed that God uses the exact same word for the creation of animals and for the creation of man!? Well, dear sister, that might very well give you the answer to some longstanding questions...

When God created the woman, however, the story was different. The Hebrew word “banah” used for the “making” of the woman means “to build, rebuild, establish, cause to continue” and even to “build a house (ie, establish a family)”^{xliiv}.

Her creation was much more complicated and sophisticated than the creation of man. When He wanted to make a helper comparable for His man, God couldn't just take some dust and make something out of it. Why not? Simply because He had already fully given Himself into Adam by breathing into His nostrils the breath of life (Ge.2:7). Now He had to take something out of Adam and make or build it into another person.

By that, God actually distributed Himself into two human beings - male and female, man and woman.

What a miracle! What a wonder! Truly, we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps.139:14)!

So dear wife, I have good news for you: You were not made primarily from dirt like your dear hubby. You were made from very refined dirt that had not only already been squeezed and formed into a fully functional human being but was also invigorated with the very breath of God. Wow! It is therefore no exaggeration to say that women are truly God's luxury model! That is why it is said that Adam and Eve had this little conversation in paradise:

Eve to Adam: You know why God created you before creating me? He wanted to create a sample before creating the masterpiece!

Let me also reveal to you a very well-kept secret here. Has anybody ever told you what happened right after the creation of Adam? No? Well, then let me now tell you this ancient secret.

After creating Adam, God stepped back a little bit, took a good long look at Adam, then scratched His head and said, “No way! I can do better than this!”

What? You don't believe me? You really need a proof for this? Well, just read your Bible! During all the six days of creation, we see God examining His creation daily. The Bible records at each inspection, “and God saw that it was good” (Ge.1:4,10,12,18,21,25).

Only one time God was so pleased that the Bible records, “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Ge.1:31). Do you know when this took place? It was at the end of the sixth day, when God had finished His Creation and had brought a beautiful wife to His man Adam!

In Genesis chapter 2, where we get a more detailed record of the creation of humanity, we see that in between all the “goods” and the “very good” there was actually one time where God had to say “not good”.

How can that be? God Himself had to call His own creation “not good”? What was wrong in God’s eyes? See for yourself:

18 And the LORD God said, “**It is not good** that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Ge.2:18)

We have already seen what happened right after this.

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him (Ge.2:19-20)

Doesn’t God make it just so absolutely crystal clear from the very beginning of creation? An animal is NOT a suitable substitute for a spouse! Unfortunately, millions of people do use animals, be it to fulfill emotional needs and longings with a sweet, undemanding, faithful pet animal or be it even for some perverted sexual desire.

On a lighter note: Who wouldn’t like to take a deep look into man’s soul? Ladies, how would you like to know what a man expects from a relationship? Here a man opens his heart and lets us know why dogs are called man’s best friends:

Why dogs are better than Women

- *If you pretend to be blind, your dog can stay in your motel room free of charge.*
- *The later you are, the more excited dogs are to see you.*
- *If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.*
- *People think fat dogs are cute.*
- *Dogs don’t notice if you call them by another dog’s name.*
- *A dog won’t hold out on you to get a new car.*
- *If a dog is gorgeous, other dogs don’t hate it.*
- *If a dog smells another dog on you, they don’t get mad ... they just find it interesting.*
- *Dogs like it when you leave lots of things on the floor.*
- *On a car trip, your dog never insists on running the heater.*
- *A dog’s disposition stays the same all month.*
- *It’s legal to keep a dog chained up at your house.*
- *A dog’s parents never visit.*

- *Dogs do not hate their bodies.*
- *No dog ever put on a hundred pounds after reaching adulthood.*
- *Dogs don't let magazine articles guide their lives.*
- *Dogs agree; to get your point across, you have to raise your voice.*
- *Dogs like to ride in the back of pickup trucks.*
- *Dogs like to do their snooping outside, rather than in your wallet or desk*
- *Dogs are not allowed in expensive shops and boutiques*
- *If a dog leaves you, it won't try to take half your stuff.*
- *Dogs can't talk.*
- *Dogs enjoy heavy petting in public.*
- *You never have to wait for a dog; they're ready to go 24 hours a day.*
- *Dogs like to go hunting.*
- *Another man will seldom steal your dog.*
- *A dog will not wake you up at night and ask you, "If I died, would you get another dog?"*

Ladies, I hope you could glean from this joke a few points on how NOT to nag a man? I trust you will truly become your husband's best friend now .

Even though this man tells us so convincingly why dogs are a better choice, our Creator God found only one way to solve man's loneliness:

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said: "This is now 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 mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (Ge.2:18-25)

MARRIAGE IS SIMPLY DIVINE

Can there be anything more divine than going to sleep peacefully... having God perform a perfect operation on you... waking up to God bringing the most gorgeous spouse to you... feeling ecstatic with love at first sight ... immediately recognizing her as part of you ... leaving all else and cleaving to her... feeling no need to hide anything... sharing freely without any shame... WOW! Simply divine!

And as though of all this was not enough, God immediately topped it up with a worldwide blessing:

28 Then God blessed **them**, and God said to **them**, “**Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Ge.1:28)

Woooooooow!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Can you see it? The blessing was for THEM to MULTIPLY... not for one person alone... not for some same-sex-couple that cannot multiply... it was for God’s wise and perfect design, for biblical MARRIAGE.

One last Scripture for you to enjoy:

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD (Pr.18:22)

So please, do yourself the favor to obey God’s design. Do take the time to find God’s person and do things God’s way. He will definitely honor your obedience. ENJOY your happy marriage!

Let's keep in touch

You might still have some questions I didn't deal in this book. I would be interested in knowing your questions and happy to answer them in my next book.

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18. Dunamis
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20. Wonder Way to Wonder World - Tongues

ENDNOTES

ⁱ1) BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS/ RUNAWAYS/ HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS/CHEMICAL ABUSERS/ SUICIDES

· 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes (Source: Center for Disease Control)

· 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census)

· 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes (Source: National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools.)

· 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes (Source: Rainbows for all God's Children.)

· 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census)

2) JUVENILE DELINQUENCY/ CRIME/ GANGS

· 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes (Source: Criminal Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403-26, 1978)

· 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes (Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept 1988)

· 85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home (Source: Fulton Co. Georgia jail populations, Texas Dept. of Corrections 1992)

· California has the nation's highest juvenile incarceration rate and the nation's highest juvenile unemployment rate. Vincent Schiraldi, Executive Director, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, "What

Hallinan's Victory Means," San Francisco Chronicle (12/28/95).

Children from fatherless families are also:

- 5 times more likely to commit suicide.
- 32 times more likely to run away.
- 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders.
- 14 times more likely to commit rape
- 9 times more likely to drop out of high school.
- 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances.
- 9 times more likely to end up in a state-operated institution.
- 20 times more likely to end up in prison.

ⁱⁱ The Critical Importance Of Responsible Fatherhood, Murray Davis, Chairman, Dad's of Michigan, to the Joint House Committee Hearings, November 5, 2001, Detroit, Michigan

ⁱⁱⁱhttp://www.pgepsychiatry.com/images/d/d0/Consequences_of_Divorce_for_Adults_and_Children.pdf

^{iv}The Case For Marriage, Waite and Gallagher

^v<http://syphilis.emedtv.com/syphilis/syphilis-statistics.html>

^{vi}Stamm LV (February 2010). "Global challenge of antibiotic-resistant *Treponema pallidum*". *Antimicrob. Agents Chemother.* 54 (2): 583–9. doi:10.1128/AAC.01095-09. PMC 2812177

^{vii}https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congenital_syphilis

^{viii}https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perinatal_mortality

- ^{ix}<https://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/stats.htm>
- ^xhttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidemiology_of_syphilis#cite_note-ST10-2
- ^{xi}<https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats14/std-trends-508.pdf>
- ^{xii}<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jul/24/science/la-sci-orphan-brains-20120724>
- ^{xiii}<http://www.psychpage.com/family/brwaitgalligher.html>
- ^{xiv} Study from 2011
- ^{xv}<https://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/stdfact-hpv.htm>
- ^{xvi}<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/apr/17/couples-healthier-wealthier-marriage-good-health-single-survey-research>
- ^{xvii}<http://cleveland.cbslocal.com/2012/11/14/study-married-couples-live-longer-healthier-lives-than-singles/>
- ^{xviii}<http://www.ibtimes.com/single-people-likely-die-much-earlier-their-married-peers-302411>
- ^{xix}<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/11/prweb10138194.htm>
- ^{xx}<http://slowties.com/24/lifespan-of-single-men-vs-married-men/>
- ^{xxi} Lillard, L.A., & Waite, L.J. (1995). "Til Death Do Us Part: Marital Disruption and Mortality." *American Journal of Sociology*, 100, 1131-1156
- ^{xxii} www.drkarensherman.com
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- ^{xxiv} Smith, Mercy, and Conn, 1988
- ^{xxv} Miller-Tutzauer et al, 1991
- ^{xxvi}<http://www.webmd.com/sex-relationships/guide/10-surprising-health-benefits-of-sex>
- ^{xxvii}<http://www.womansday.com/sex-relationships/sex-tips/8-surprising-health-benefits-of-sex-102017>
- ^{xxviii}<http://community.focusonthefamily.com/b/jim-daly/archive/2012/04/18/do-happily-married-people-make-better-employees.aspx>
- ^{xxix} James P. Smith, *Marriage, Assets and Savings*, Rand Corporation, 1995
- ^{xxx}<http://www.mediate.com/articles/psych.cfm>
- ^{xxxi}<http://www.fryp.org.uk/relationships/love/importance-of-marriage>
- ^{xxxii} Kostiuk and Follman, 1989, and Shaw, 1987
- ^{xxxiii} Waite, 1995
- ^{xxxiv}<http://www.leiterkreis.de/file/Homosexualitaet%20und%20Pfarrhaus.pdf>
- ^{xxxv} Unwin, J. D., *Sex and Culture*, Oxford University Press, London: Humphrey Milford, 1934
- <http://www.kath-info.de/pornografie.html#unwin>
- ^{xxxvi}<https://www.harvardindependent.com/2015/09/mental-health-at-harvard-how-was-your-day-harvard/>
- ^{xxxvii} Dr. Caroline Leaf, *Switch on your Brain!* Chapter 9
- ^{xxxviii}www.newsweek.com/58-harvard-came-school-virgins-quarter-leave-way-336847
- ^{xxxix}<https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2014/02/27/must-read-more-christians-died-for-the-faith-in-the-twentieth-century-than-in-the-previous-nineteen-centuries-of-christian-history-combined/>

^{xi}<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/yet-another-study-confirms-gay-life-expectancy-20-years-shorter>

^{xii}<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/yet-another-study-confirms-gay-life-expectancy-20-years-shorter>

^{xiii}http://anthro.palomar.edu/abnormal/abnormal_5.htm

^{xiii}Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionary, 03335 and 03334 yatsar

03335 yatsar {yaw-tsar'}

probably identical with 03334 (through the squeezing into shape),

([compare 03331]); TWOT - 898; v

AV - form 26, potter 17, fashion 5, maker 4, frame 3, make 3,

former 2, earthen 1, purposed 1; 62

1) to form, fashion, frame

1a) (Qal) to form, fashion

1a1) of human activity

1a2) of divine activity

1a2a) of creation

1a2a1) of original creation

1a2a2) of individuals at conception

1a2a3) of Israel as a people

1a2b) to frame, pre-ordain, plan (fig. of divine

purpose of a situation)

1b) (Niphal) to be formed, be created

1c) (Pual) to be predetermined, be pre-ordained

1d) (Hophal) to be formed

^{xiv}Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionary, 01129 banah

01129 banah {baw-naw'}

a primitive root; TWOT - 255; v

AV - build 340, build up 14, builder 10, made 3, built again + 08735 2,

repair 2, set up 2, have children + 08735 1, obtain children + 08735 1,

surely 1 (inf. for emphasis); 376

1) to build, rebuild, establish, cause to continue

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to build, rebuild

1a2) to build a house (ie, establish a family)

1b) (Niphal)

1b1) to be built

1b2) to be rebuilt

1b3) established (of restored exiles) (fig.)

1b4) established (made permanent)

1b5) to be built up (of childless wife becoming the mother

of a family through the children of a concubine)