Causes Of Divorce Before Marriage

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CAUSES OF DIVORCE BEFORE MARRIAGE
Matthew 5:31-32

INT:

About 1 of every 3 marriages in U. S. crumbling on rocks. In face of text, divorce has increased 800% since 1860.

CAUSE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: F. B. I. says; "90% of youth's problems today stem from parental dis-unity and parental lack of supervision." ADULT DELINQUENCY!!!

Most, if not all, marriages FAIL before they are made.

Logic: If they had the true basis for marriage (true love) then the marriage would have lasted regardless.


Lesson: Four causes of divorce before marriage. Are others

I. IGNORANCE AND LACK OF TRAINING FOR MARRIAGE.
A. America's No. 1 problem today: "We are teaching our children how to make a LIVING, but not a good LIFE."
   1. Proof: 37,000,000 American kids have no Rel. educa.
   2. Proof: Divorces in the world 1 of 3 in '63 or 33%. Since 1966 ACC students have had 1/5 of 1% divorces.
      Since 1936 Harding has had 1 divorce per each 300!!!
B. Whole problem rests in violation of II Tim. 2:15. Any life that God will approve can be LIVED WITH.

II. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHER.
A. Charles Lam Markmann in "Knickerbocker Weekly" cited the cause of America's divorce rate. Got it from a French woman in U. S. "For you Americans everything is a game: Making money, making war, making love, making homes."
   1. Too many couples play the Game of Marriage like a slot-machine: They marry and cross their fingers hoping to hit the jack-pot rather than draw a lemon.
   2. Eph. 5:22 tells girls to marry only the man she is willing to be subject to, the rest of her life.
   3. Eph. 5:25 tells boys to marry only the woman you KNOW you can love as intensely as Christ loved the church!!
   4. Puppy love, love at first sight, etc. at best can only be a good start. Long enough engagement needed, to know.

III. PROMISCUOUS LIVES BEFORE MARRIAGE.
A. Ideal Image of Marriage is often crushed by the violation of the marriage relationship before married.
B. God knows why He inspired the writing of I Cor. 7:1-3.
C. "It is better to say NO before marriage than RE-NO after.
D. Never have I had one person to ever say illicit relations before marriage made them respect or love their eventual spouse MORE. In spite of it. Ashamed.
IV. SECRET MARRIAGES.

A. Secrecy is the cloak usually used to hide sin.

B. Marriage is too high and holy a divine relationship to hide it in the shadows of doubt and suspicion.

C. Secret marriages (not forced) are a betrayal of several things: or child-like fleshliness.
1. Love, confidence and sacrifices of parents.
2. Own self-respect and integrity, Always a doubt.
3. Character of your mate: If a lovely girl, clean morally, upright spiritually, then Why the need for Cover Up & Secrecy?

4. God's design for your influence. Matt. 5:16. Influence should shine as brightly as the candles during the church wedding ceremony.

D. Caution: If mate will betray parents and God's wisdom; may well betray your confidence too.

INV: God has designed life to include the following:

1. Every creature hear and obey gospel. Mark 16:15-16.
2. Every creature marry and have happy home. Gen. 2:24.
3. Work at happiness for others and get more of it for ourselves.
4. God wants more husbands and wives and less "just married couples."

Invitation extended to all in this audience who need to draw nearer to God and the Beautiful Way of Life He gives us.
CAUSES OF DIVORCE BEFORE MARRIAGE

Matthew 5:31-32  Acts 20:26-27

1. Your reaction to the following 3 things?
   a. 1 of each 3 youth in audience die of cancer before age 30. You give to elem. cancer? Much?
   b. 1 of each 3 die of arteriosclerosis? Give-research.
   c. 1 of each 3 die of broken heart? Welcome prevention.

2. Test on thinking regarding Christ's Authority? M.28:B
   a. Agree to follow as long as suits fancy; desires?
   b. Agree to follow regardless of my emot. feelings? Hope it is the latter! MUST BE to be Christian.

3. Problem: 1870 only 1 marriage in every 3 end.. divorce 1968 almost 1 marriage in every 3 end.. divorce
   Pop. growth: 300%. Divorce growth? 2,000%.

4. Question: Do YOU feel the same need I do to tell our young people WHAT CAUSES divorce, even before Marriage?
   Elders feel this need: Request review of subject?

Lesson: CAUSES OF DIVORCE BEFORE MARRIAGE.

I. IGNORANCE AND LACK OF TRAINING FOR PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE
   A. "We are teaching our children in America how to make a good living, but NOT a good LIFE!!" Anon.
   B. Proof: a. How many HOMES giving reliable course??
      b. What High Schools doing to prepare youth
   C. CHRISTIAN COLLEGES TRYING TO HELP AND DO HELP!!!
      a. Offering courses in Christian Home. Good start!
         ACC: record was 1/5 of 1% from 1906 to 1962.
      HARTING: record 1 div. per 300 marriage
   D. CAUSE: Failure to comply with II Timothy 2:15.

II. IGNORANCE OF EACH OTHER.
   A. Knickerbocker Weekly magazine: "For Americans everything is a game. Making money, making love, making war, making homes and making lives. All is play!"
   B. Too many marrying like playing the slot machine; marry, cross fingers hoping to hit the jack-pot instead of three lemons. More lemons than bonanzas.
      I Cor. 15:33. II Cor. 6:14-18.* Titus 2:4. TP3:7.

   A. OBSERVATION: No matter how prevalent or popular, human not built to emotionally glide over sin!!!

1. (Chances any teenage girl who marries (50/50%) is expecting a baby out of wedlock.
2. If both still in H. S. chances 80% illegitimate child.
3. 40% marriages in U. S. annually involve teens.
4. 50% of that 40% divorced within 5 years. 225,000 divorcees.
   8 mil. divorces
5. Comment to parents: "It is impossible to encourage your young teenagers (13 - 19 yrs) to go steady, attend beach parties, and dances, etc. and not expect to encourage sexual involvement simultaneously." Great contradiction 1957-1967 !.......

C. FINDING: Too far too soon sure divorce formula!!

IV. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SOLUTIONS?

A. THINK AHEAD:
   1. Take time to KNOW your prospective mate. 
   2. Select one who is harmonious as possible in values, education, background, goals and dreams.
   3. Take nothing for granted—work all bugs out first!
   4. Select a Christian if want BEST chance for success.

B. PLAN AHEAD! Reason: explaining divorce hard!

   What?
   1. Tell friends? Failed to make successful match? 
   2. Tell parents? You did not rear me right?
   3. Tell mate? I don't love you any more? Don't care?
   4. Tell Judge? Incompatible, extreme mental and emotional cruelty—when is really adultery? ??
   5. Tell Lord? I didn't think? I didn't plan???

   2. Tell children? Don't love you enough to...

   INV: CHALLENGING STATEMENTS:

   There will never be a divorce in a Christian home!
   There will never be a divorce in a Christian couple!
   One or both is un-Christian when divorce comes.


   AND HAVE:

   Little or NO chance of divorce ever!!!

   HOW become Christian? John 3:3-5.
   Acts 2:38.

   Judgement: Thank you Lord,
   trained right, dated right,
   married right, Happy home. Great!
Where He Leads Me I Will Follow
READ MATTHEW 11:1-19

Bible Thought: “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

TEENAGERS are more than the church of tomorrow. They are a part of the church today. Their statements are sometimes the painfully true echo of the church as a whole.

Our teenagers were asked to answer questions about what they believe. One 15-year-old wrote:

“I think divorce is right, though I know the Bible is against it.” (Bible against right???)

Many of us seem to think this way about the Bible. The Bible is all right, as long as it doesn’t interfere with what we already believe or want to do.

But what if we had been with those disciples of John the Baptist who went to see Jesus, and listened to his words, and watched him perform miracles?

Would we say, “I know that Jesus teaches one thing, but I believe something else?”

Through the Bible, we have seen Jesus. We have heard his words. We have read the solid testimony concerning the miracles he performed.

“Shall we say, “Jesus is the Christ, but I’ll live my life the way I want to live it?”

Or shall we say, “Jesus is all the world to me,” and by our lives show that we believe it and mean it?

Hymn: “Jesus Is All the World to Me.”

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for your great love. Give us the faith and strength to humble ourselves before you. May we always allow ourselves to be led by your Word, knowing that your way is always best for us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

—DICK CUPP, Redwood City, Calif.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24

The Practical Way

READ MATTHEW 11:20-30

Bible Thought: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:4,5).

Is Christianity practical? Or is it unworkable idealism? Do you talk and think of the Christian life as a beautiful but impractical theory? Do you read God's Word only to enjoy the sublime language and the beautiful thoughts expressed? Or are you a realist? Is his Word an answer? Is it to be used to solve your problems? Is it true that he will help you—that he is actually with you when you call and that he is nearer than breath?

"Life is real, life is earnest" and Christ gives it a purpose and a goal. He does not compel but his way offers life, love, and relieves us from anxiety and fear. When a person comes to know this he is impelled to come to Christ.

No more will he be a slave to evil thoughts and desires but free to live with others in peace because peace is his through love—received and appropriated by faith in Christ.

Christianity is a possible way with Christ's presence to strengthen. It cannot be lived without him. It is not enough to believe. You must receive him, obey him, and rely on his strength. Then your burden will be less because he shares the load!

The Christian life is practical and simple—not always easy, but rewarding every day because of faith, love, and hope. I thank God that for more than eight decades his love has sustained me.

Hymn: "O, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." 80 yrs. +

Father, may we realize that we actually live and move and have our being in thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—Irene Young Mattox, Oklahoma City, Okla.

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And Have:

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Acts 2:38.