

Marriage and Divorce

William Galston, Clinton White House

“You need only do three things in this country to avoid poverty - finish high school, marry before having a child, and marry after the age of 20.

Only 8 percent of the families who do this are poor; 79 percent of those who fail to do this are poor.”

Ruth Bell Graham

“A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.”

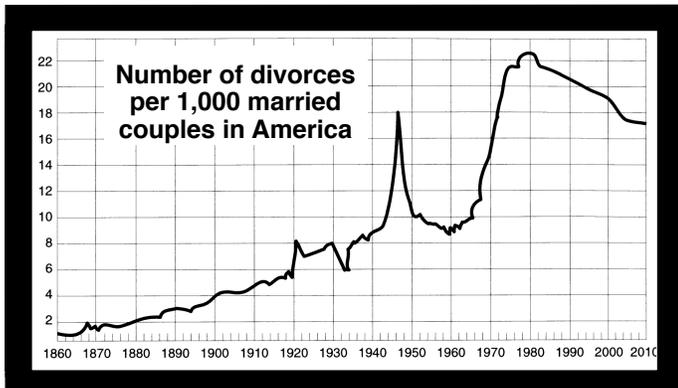
Billy Graham

When asked his secret of love, being married fifty-four years to the same person, he said, “Ruth and I are happily incompatible.”

Dr. Bruce K. Waltke

“The Scripture teaches us to love the person we marry more than marry the person we love.”

The good news
Divorces in the U.S. are decreasing.



The bad news

Nearly 1/2 marriages end in divorce



Percentage of New Marriages which end in divorce (2002)

Sweden	54.9%
Belarus	52.9
Finland	51.2
Luxembourg	47.4
Estonia	46.7
Australia	46
United States	45.8
Denmark	44.5
Turkey	6
Bosnia	6
Herzegovina	5
Macedonia	5
Sri Lanka	1.5
India	1.1

The really bad news
Being a Christian does not make a positive difference.

- Jews 30%



- Born-again Christians 27%



- Other Christians 24%

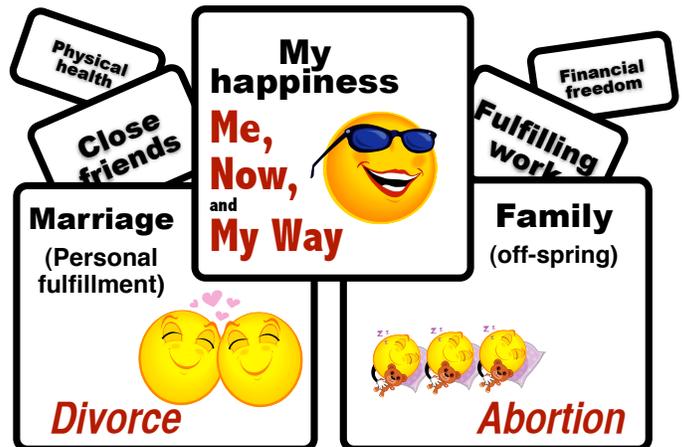


- Atheists, Agnostics 21%



source: Barna Group

Explanation #1 **Our culture is “ME” centered.**



Explanation #2

Christian's view of marriage is too low and their expectations of marriage are too high.

Marriage is designed for my fulfillment

Finding God's will for the right person will secure a successful marriage.

Marriage is expected to meet all my emotional needs.

Christian marriages come with a guarantee.

Explanation #3

Marriage is not associated with ministry.

Genesis 2:24

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.”



Marriage requires a “conversion” from being a **ministry** to having a **ministry**.

Ephesians 5

“²¹ and **be subject to** one another in the fear of Christ. ²² Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **gave Himself up** for her; . . .

³¹ *For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall **become one flesh**.* ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church.**”