



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection October 2019

*Strengthening,
Preserving
& Promoting
Marriage,
Family, Life &
Religious Liberty*

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Matthew 19:4-6

Mark your calendar...

Join us for "2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture."

Thurs., Oct. 10 - Hudson area (Pizza Ranch in Stillwater, MN)

Tues., Oct. 15 - West Bend, Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Oct. 17 - Kenosha, Golden Corral

Register at 888-378-7395 or wifamilycouncil.org/ events.

Marriage: It's Not About Your Happiness

Daddy is leaving. In order for daddy to be a good daddy, he needs to be happy. Daddy's not happy right now. You want daddy to be happy, don't you?"

"I know your dad and I just got divorced, but mommy really wants to marry Sam. I'll be happy if I can just marry Sam—and I know you want a happy mommy."

Parents, please understand this reality: your children are not interested in your happiness. Nor should they be. They are children. Their job is not to make you happy or affirm your choices. Their job is to be children—to honor their parents and be obedient, yes, but to be children, not adults.

What your children are concerned about, even if they can't verbalize it, is their security. To them, mom and dad are the world. When mom or dad leaves, their world is shaken—and shaken badly—and not just for a little while, but for a long time.

Research over the last 30 years reveals a mental health crisis among adolescents. Rates of anxiety, depression, suicide and suicide attempts have steadily increased in this age group.

According to a study published in *Translational Psychiatry*¹ more than 36% of teenaged girls in America are depressed or have suffered a recent major depressive episode. The rate for boys is 13.6%.

According to Mona Charen, writing for the online *National Review*, tests given over as many as seven decades reveal a concerning trend. "Children, adolescents, and young adults have all experienced dramatic increases in anxiety and depression over the past several decades."²

The research reveals that adolescent depression and suicide are strongly correlated with divorce, the aftermath of divorce, and single parenting.



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Pray that the Lord will help all of the relationships in your church, marital and otherwise, to be guided by the principles outlined in I Corinthians 13:4-7:

Charity [love] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Do your relationships manifest this kind of love?

Helpful Resources*

Here are two resources that might be a blessing and help to married couples.

Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments, Winston Smith.

Unpacking Forgiveness: Biblical Answers for Complex Questions and Deep Wounds, Chris Brauns.

*Inclusion of a resource does not mean WFC endorses or agrees with everything an author says.

One of the great social experiments over the last 30-40 years has been no-fault, no-contest divorce. Throw-away marriages legalized by lawmakers across this country who bought the lie that people should not have to stay in a marriage that makes them unhappy. The related idea is that marriage isn't necessary in order to have children—so families never form. And remarriage after divorce, especially when that happens quickly after a divorce, adds another whole dynamic for children to adjust to.

The culture has bought the lie that marriage is simply about adult desires. This is regularly manifested by the all too real conversations like the ones at the beginning of this article.

For Christians this should be Family Living 101. Sadly, too often for even people who claim to be Christ-followers, this matter of adult desires trumping everything else is a problem. Divorce and cohabitation rates in the Christian community are really nothing to brag about.

The wonderful truth is that God's plan for marriage and family really does work. A man and woman first marry and then have children. That's God's good order. Once married, and especially if children are involved, dad and mom do everything they can to stay together, if for no other reason than the well-being of their children.

Parenting isn't really about the parent. It's about the children. If we really believe children are a gift from God, if we really believe they are not trophies or toys or political pawns or a means by which to relive one's childhood, then we take seriously being a parent.

We grow up. We put away childish thoughts and ways, (I Corinthians 13:11). We put other people's needs and desires ahead of our own (I Corinthians 13:5). We endure the hard times, while we work to honor our marriage vows in every way. We seek to make others happy, not ourselves. In doing so, we honor God and we give our children the very best opportunity to grow up whole and healthy—and that should make a parent very happy.

¹<http://www.nature.com/tp/journal/v7/n5/full/tp2017105a.html>

²<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448203/family-breakdown-american-adolescents-mental-health-problems-rising>

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.