

"THE CHRISTIAN HOME"

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HOW DOES SINGLE PARENT HOMES, FAILING MARRIAGES, AND FAILED MARRIAGES AFFECT CHILDREN?

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!" Matthew 18:6,7 (NASB)

Children at all age levels are negatively affected regardless of race and social class.

1. Children are 5 times more likely to live in poverty when experiencing a failing or failed marriage. This includes children in single parent homes.
2. Children are 3 times more likely to be expelled from school when experiencing a failing or failed marriage. This includes children in single parent homes.
3. Children are 12 times more likely to be incarcerated when experiencing a failing or failed marriage. This includes children in single parent homes.

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WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES AND BENEFITS OF A GOOD MARRIAGE?

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." Genesis 2:18 (NRSV)

1. Protects against feelings of loneliness.
2. Provides the highest levels of sexual pleasure and fulfillment for men and women.
3. Marriage is good for children.
4. Married persons enjoy better health than the unmarried.
5. Married people are happier than unmarried ones of the same age.

WHAT IS GOD'S PATTERN FOR A HEALTHY MARRIAGE?

For wives, this means submit your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. Ephesians 5:22-24 (NLT)

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way husbands, ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. Ephesians 5:25-30 (NLT)

MARRIAGE IS ABOUT INTIMACY BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. TRUE INTIMACY IS FOUND IN:

SPIRIT ONENESS (Trusting Christ alone to meet your personal needs for security and significance).

SOUL ONENESS (Ministering to your spouse in a way that enhances an awareness of your spouse's worth in Christ).

BODY ONENESS (Enjoying sexual pleasure as an expression and outgrowth of a personal relationship).

"But God made them male and female from the beginning of creation. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Mark 10:6-9 (NLT)

SPIRIT ONENESS

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

"I pray that they will be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." John 17:21 (NLT)

SOUL ONENESS

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)

BODY ONENESS

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife. Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 (NLT)

GRACE IS THE FOUNDATION OF A GREAT MARRIAGE.

But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." James 4:6-7 (NLT) Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. Romans 15:7 (NLT)

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)