



Grace Bible Chapel

Lord's Day, November 8, 2020

Pastor Ken's Nuggets

Living (Shacking) Together The Truth About Cohabitation

Marriage And Cohabitation:

The number of adults who have lived with a romantic partner is now higher than the number who have ever been married; married adults are more satisfied with their relationships, more trusting of their partners.

Young Adults – 18 – 29:

Young adults are particularly accepting of cohabitation – 78% of those ages 18 – 29 say it's acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together, even if they don't plan to get married. Roughly half of those ages 30 – 49 say the same, as do majorities of those ages 50 and older. Fifty two years ago, in 1968, living together with an unmarried partner was rare and frowned upon. Today, 69% of Americans say cohabitation is acceptable even if the couple doesn't plan to get married. Today, the media applauds all alternative living arrangements. Only 14% say it's never acceptable for unmarried couples to live together.

Religious Affiliation:

Views about marriage and cohabitation are also linked to religious affiliation. About three-quarters of Catholics (74%) and white Protestants who do not self-identify as born-again or evangelical (76%) say it's acceptable for unmarried couples to live together even if they don't plan to get married. By contrast, only 47% black Protestants and 35% of white evangelical Protestants share this view.

Views Of The Non-Religiously Affiliated:

Among those who are not religiously affiliated, fully 9 -10 say cohabitation is acceptable even if a couple doesn't plan to get married, and just 31% say society is better off if couples who want to stay together eventually get married.

Co-ed Dorms:

Colleges in the United States started having co-ed residence halls back in the 1970s, and today, about 90% of all schools have at least one co-ed dorm building. More than 150 colleges, including Brown University, Stanford University, The University of Pennsylvania, Oberlin College, Clark University, and the California Institute of Technology now allow some students to share a room with anyone they choose – and they mean anyone. These co-ed dorm rooms are typically called “gender-neutral housing.”

(References: Pew Research Center; Heritage House; The Moral Collapse of the American Family)

Six Popular Reasons For Shacking:

- 1. Believing that marriage “is just a piece of paper”**
- 2. Compromising with a partner who doesn't want to be married**
- 3. Giving the relationship a “trial run”**
- 4. Economic or practical reasons**
- 5. Fear of “a long-term commitment”**
- 6. Fear of a divorce**

A Biblical Response To No. 1

A contract for the purchase of a vehicle or a house is just a piece of paper. And yet the second most important commitment you'll make in your life, you cheapen it to just a piece of paper. You place more faith in obtaining a driver's license which is just a piece of paper than you're willing to place into that which is holy. A main purpose for God's creation was that of permanent, monogamous marriage between one man and one woman (Gen. 1:26-28; Mat. 19:3-6. Any other type of sexual relationship is wrong – whether premarital, extramarital, homosexual, incestuous, or anything else. God states “He will judge” these immortal and illegal affairs (Heb. 13:4).

A Biblical Response To No. 2

To the professing believer, God states by the pen of the apostate Paul; “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14).

A Biblical Response To No. 3

“Be not deceived: Evil communication (companionship) corrupts good manners” (1 Cor. 15:33). Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body” (1 Cor. 6:18).

A Biblical Response To No. 4

Poverty rates are much higher among couples who live together than among married couples. Unmarried couples have 68% less wealth on average than married couples. God's Word is true. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed” (Amos 3:3). This timeless principle should caution you against any union with immorality and unrighteousness as it's foundation.

A Biblical Response to No. 5

There are those who don't believe in long-term commitments only when it comes to marriage. However, they are quit to make long-term commitments concerning home loans, bank loans, student loans, etc. “A doubled minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8). Why would you associate yourself with such a fickle-minded person. Be a disciple in-deed (John 8:31).

A Biblical Response To No. 6

There are those who are concerned that getting married will lead to divorce. Statistics show that the opposite is true. Only one one-sixth of couples who live together stay together for three years or more; only one in ten survives five or more years. Sixty-seven percent of people who shack never get married at all. Shacking couples that do get married have almost a 50 percent higher rate of divorce than married couples that do not shack together first. “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of your heart” (Ps. 37:4). “Wherewithal shall a young man (woman) cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word” (Ps. 119:9).