

Marriage Matters

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YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

“Couples who cohabit before marriage tend to be less satisfied with their marriages — and more likely to divorce — than couples who do not. These negative outcomes are called the cohabitation effect.”

Meg Jay, “The Downside of Cohabiting Before Marriage,” *NY Times*, April 14, 2012



In her book *Love Thy Body*, Nancy Pearcey shares how one poll found that almost half of all millennials have given up the hope and perhaps even the desire for a monogamous relationship. Pearcey writes, “The hookup culture is unraveling the social fabric. It produces isolated, alienated adults who come together temporarily for physiological release. By repeatedly breaking up or never connecting in the first place, many people fail to learn how to form the strong, resilient bonds needed to create happy, fulfilling, long term marriages and families.” Nancy Pearcey’s words remind us that the church and family must work together to communicate God’s good and gracious plan for marriage, sex, and sexuality. The future of marriage and marriages hangs in the balance.

Have you ever taken the time to ask your kids what they think about marriage? Chances are, they think about it quite a bit differently than you did when you were their age. Today’s young people are getting married later, and getting divorced more frequently. With cohabitation increasing at breakneck speed, a growing number of young people are opting out of marriage. Because of cultural negativity about marriage, bad examples, and experiencing the brokenness of their parents’ marriage, marriage is something many kids never consider. The boundaries regarding *who* can marry are changing as well, with conversations, debates, and legislation all addressing the growing reality of same-sex marriages. All in all, biblical marriage – as an institution – is in trouble.

Perhaps the negative old marriage clichés have stuck enough to serve as a deterrent. You remember these clichés don’t you? “Marriage is a great institution! But who

wants to spend the rest of their life in an institution!?!” Or how about this one: “Marriage is a three ring circus: engagement ring, wedding ring, and suffering.”

It’s time that we send our kids a different message about the meaning of marriage. No, there aren’t any perfect marriages. The coming together of one broken person with another broken person can be pretty difficult at times. All of us married folks know that far too well. That’s certainly a realistic marriage message that we need to communicate to our kids. And while we’re together, it will at times be hard. It will be so hard, in fact, that there will be times when we *feel* like giving up. And, we will wonder about the decision we made to even get married in the first place. To make marriage work it takes work.

But even more important is our task to define just what marriage *is*. While God does indeed call some to the single life, He also said that it is not good for us to be alone. God made marriage and gave it to us as a gift. It’s a good thing! God also defined the parameters for His gift of marriage. It’s to be a life-long, covenantal, monogamous, exclusive heterosexual union between one man and one woman. Our kids need us to continually engage in show *and* tell when it comes to marriage. We need to tell them that marriage is not some kind of human invention. Instead, God made it for us and gave it to us.

Whether you are a parent who’s married, or single by choice or circumstance, you can and must talk to your kids about the goodness of God’s design for marriage. Our culture never stops talking to our kids about marriage. Neither should you. ✨

Most Followed Twitch Streamers

1. **Ninja**
2. **shroud**
3. **summit1g**
4. **Riot Games**
5. **Syndicate**
6. **TSM_Myth**
7. **ESL_CSGO**
8. **DrDisRespectLIVE**
9. **imaqtpie**
10. **Nightblue3**



Source:
Twitchmetrics.net (May 2018)
Twitch is a live streaming video platform where people watch others play video games online.



QUICK STATS

What Happens Every 60 Seconds on the Internet in 2018:

- 266,000 thousand hours of Netflix videos watched
- 3.7 million search queries performed on Google
- 4.3 million videos viewed on YouTube
- 2.4 million snaps created on Snapchat
- 1.1 million swipes on Tinder
- 973,000 logins to Facebook

(VisualCapitalist.com)

FROM THE NEWS:

IMPORTANCE OF CHORES

Tim Elmore, from Growing Leaders, recently shared the results of the Harvard Grant Study, which is the longest longitudinal study in history. Way back in 1929 to 1944, mentally healthy Harvard sophomores began being tracked in an offer to look for the patterns that foster happy and well-adjusted adults over the course of a lifetime. Several of the students are still alive and are being tracked even to this day. Elmore reports that some of the factors that lead to happiness and being well-adjusted include embracing a community of close friends, having warm and caring parents, and having a happy marriage. But the study also found a connection between being required to do chores as a child and success as a grown-up. And the earlier children start with chores, the better. Parents, we live in a day and age where parents are expected to cater to their children. Don't cave in to the temptation to do everything for them. Create a path to success by teaching them to work hard to the glory of God.

TRENDS:
GAMBLING

Parents, are you talking to your kids about gambling? A recent study published in the *Journal of Gambling Studies* found that young teens who gamble are at a greater risk of struggling in school. With sports gambling and gambling online readily available, the temptations to make a quick buck or two are very real for your impressionable children and teens. Teens who engage in gambling activities after school spend less time on their schoolwork. While negative outcomes like these should be cause for us to intervene and steer our kids away from gambling, there are deeper spiritual issues at work. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. When we come to believe that money is the passport to privilege and freedom from worry, we are engaging in the pursuit of a false redeemer and idolatry. In I Timothy 6:10, Paul tells us that money is the root of all evil. Good behavior should flow from a heart oriented towards obedience to God.

LATEST RESEARCH:
RINSTAS AND FINSTAS

Australian researcher Joanne Orlando has been tracking with teens on how they use social media. Her data shows that 76% of teens in the U.S. use Instagram regularly, accessing it about ten to thirty times a day. She's found that teens often have more than one Instagram account. They will have a "rinstagram" – or "rinsta" – which is their real instagram account. They will also have a "finstagram" or "finsta" that is a fake Instagram account. This practice is now becoming the norm for many teenagers. One of the reasons for using these fake accounts is to dodge the pressure to create and maintain the picture-perfect online profile. Using the fake account allows them to present a more raw and real personality to their smaller circle of close friends. While the practice encourages presentation of one's self in honest ways, the fact that they are secretive accounts means that kids might believe they are somehow protected and secure. Tell your kids that their digital footprint is there forever.

SEXUAL INTEGRITY
INITIATIVE

A resource of CPYU and Project Six19

Sexuality,
Gender, and
Sense of Self

by Jason Soucinek



Gen Z, born in 1995 or after, more than older generations, considers their sexuality or gender to be central to their sense of self. This is important for parents to understand as you have conversations surrounding sex and sexuality. Some might think this serves as a barrier to dialogue. However, instead of viewing it as a wall that stops conversation, it can be seen as an opportunity.

When we talk about sex it allows for us to point to the Sex-Maker, God. It allows us to point to the story God has written us into: The four-part story of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. It's in this story we find that we were sexual before we were ever sinful.

Use this to shape your conversations and help your son or daughter consider the one that is greater than sex, Jesus. In fact, when Paul was writing to Timothy in Ephesus he closed his first letter to him by talking about the source of true life. Paul was letting Timothy know that as people were finding their identity in the riches they possessed, he could point them to something far greater, Jesus.

This is our task as parents. To take the thing where they might find their identity and point to the one that brings true life. Only then can they have a full and complete picture of their sexuality.

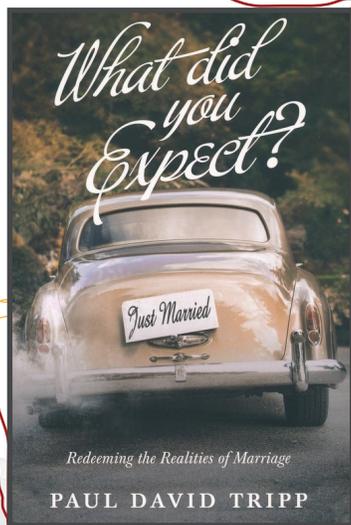
New Podcast

Youth Culture Matters is a long-format podcast from CPYU co-hosted by Walt Mueller and Jason Soucinek.



Listen at
www.cpyu.org/podcast.

Be sure to check out Episode 58 for an interview with Dr. Preston Sprinkle about posture, theology, sexuality, and The Church.



FROM THE WORD

Culture is morphing and changing at breakneck speed. And for those of us committed to living out our faith in every nook and cranny of life, the changes in culture bring a realization that the world is in many ways regressing rather than progressing. As a result, it's easy for us to throw up our hands in lament thinking that everything is spinning out of control.

This is particularly true for us as parents. We hope and pray that our kids won't make bad decisions. Sadly, many opt to follow the voice of the culture as opposed to following the voice of God. When this happens, our faith is oftentimes shaken to the core. And if we're honest with ourselves, we may even wind up questioning God.

When this happens, it's good to remember the words of David in Psalm 11: "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The answer you might expect would be an action plan. You know, a "do this" or "do that" type of response. But that's not the answer that David. . . or we. . . get. Instead, God states the fact that should serve as a sure foundation in the midst of turmoil: "The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord is on His heavenly throne." In other words, God is. He is still God. He is sovereign. And no matter how bleak or dark things look, He is still in control.

Remind yourself of this often. Our trust is in God and God alone. The world and everyone in it is broken. But our heavenly Father is still seated firmly on His throne and in control. What a comfort this is!

"WHEN THE FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO? THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE; THE LORD IS ON HIS HEAVENLY THRONE."

PSALM 11:3-4

HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

It won't take long for you to be disappointed in marriage. It won't take long for your dreams to be dashed. The reality is that you can't escape the brokenness of this world. You won't be able to avoid the sin of your spouse. The Bible teaches that we all bring something destructive into our relationships – sin. But as Paul David Tripp explains in *What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage*, we buy into the delusion that our biggest problem is outside of us. We blame our spouse. We blame our circumstances. We rarely take seriously the nature of our own sin.

Unlike other marriage books that only diagnose horizontal problems, This book fights a much deeper war over the worship of our heart. It's only when we worship God as Creator, Sovereign and Savior that we will ever love as we should. *What Did You Expect?* challenges you to look into the mirror of God's Word and see yourself with clarity. Maybe it's you. Maybe you love yourself more than your spouse. Maybe you love your little kingdom more than God's big Kingdom. When you reach that level of honesty, you're at the edge of real good things for your marriage.

Start working on a marriage of unity, understanding, and love.



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