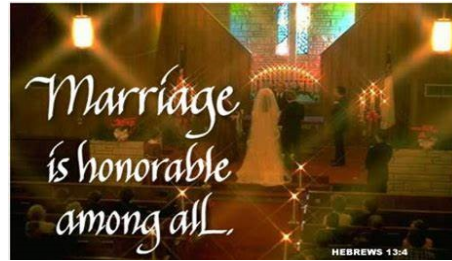




Lewiston Church of Christ

May 3, 2020



Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Fellowship – Joe Bieren

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee’ Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

Numb to the Numbers

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all” (Hebrews 13:4)

Statistics are all the rage these days. No matter what you think about the pandemic or what should be done about it, you can cite statistics to support your case. Some used computer models to make scary predictions that led to a near global shutdown. Others cite 30 million lost livelihoods in just over a month to call for ending the shutdown. On one hand, the US leads the world in testing and in total Coronavirus deaths. On the other hand, we are reportedly 10th in deaths in proportion to our population.

Go figure.

I recently heard a statistic that alarms me more than those cited above. The US marriage rate just fell to an all-time low mark since the 1800s when we began counting—only 6.5 unions per 1,000 people.

Let’s put that in context. In 1900, our marriage rate was 9.3 per 1,000. Ten years later, it was 10.3. By 1920, it was 12.0. Then came the Great Depression. Our marriage rate hit a new low in 1932, dropping to 7.9 per 1,000. But after World War II, the rate doubled to 16.4. Wow! From 1950 to 1986, our marriage rate stabilized just above ten. It fell to 9.9 in 1987 never to hit ten again. Since then, it has been in gradual decline.

Some argue that a falling economy is the reason. However, our national marriage rate continued to fall even when the economy was riding high. This is a values issue more than a money matter. Psychiatrists speculate that “stress” is the reason, but stress is nothing new. Some blame our toxic culture, impacting Christians and non-Christians alike. Yes, that’s a problem. Some just go numb to the numbers.

Christians see marriage as a pre-cultural institution created by God for His pleasure and our flourishing. It concerns us that marriage is losing honor among young people and fewer families are forming. Refreshing exceptions abound but this trend stands. But no matter what, Jesus’ church must maintain her respect for marriage without diminishing singles. Healthy, wholesome marriages are an economic, social, psychological, intellectual, and spiritual blessing for children, each spouse, their friends, extended family, the community, and the whole culture. Oh yes, they bless the church too.

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