

SATAN PROMOTES COHABITATION TO BECOME THE NORM

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Living together outside of marriage or "Cohabitation" is becoming more common in today's society. More than two-thirds of married couples in the U.S. now say they lived together before marriage, and the number of unmarried opposite-sex households overall is rising dramatically.

According to the U.S. Census, from 1996 to 2000 there was a tenfold increase in unmarried couples living together - meaning about 10 million people, or 8% of U.S. coupled households, are living with a partner of the opposite sex.

The high housing costs and tight budgets are often motives for cohabitation. Some see it as a way to save on rent and others see this as an engagement of sorts. These couples are headed for trouble.

People who are cohabiting might end up marrying somebody they might not otherwise have married. People want what marriage signifies: that sense of 'us with a future'. But because of the high rates of divorce for the past few decades and many other circumstances, including decreased rates of marriage, there is really a crisis in confidence about the institution of marriage.

This crisis is reflected in the more recent decline of divorces in the United States - not because married couples are staying together, but because they are never getting married in the first place, according to an annual report released by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University. It found that both the marriage and divorce rates are on a steady decline in the U.S.

Cohabitation is here to stay, unless people decide to follow God's plan for their lives. These plans are found in the Bible. The Scriptures state that there is no place in heaven for the immoral. As society shifts from marriage to cohabitation - which is what's happening - you have an increase in family instability. God organized the family and wants it kept sacred. Anything else is living in a state of sin, and that leads to hell.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association
1541 S. 7th Street * Ironton, OH 45638

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