

The Morality of Cohabitation

10-6-13

Today many people have taken the position that marriage is no longer necessary or important to being a couple or family. Instead, many people have turned to "Cohabitation"; living together as a husband and wife (with an implicit sexual relationship) but not actually being married. Taking the attitude that "everyone does it", cohabitation is now very a common practice.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development reports: "*Cohabitation, once rare, is now the norm: The researchers found that more than half of all first marriages between 1990 and 1994 began with unmarried cohabitation. They estimate that a majority of young men and women of marriageable age today will spend some time in a cohabiting relationship.*"

Long ago, when God spoke about the values of marriage, He said:

"You have wearied the LORD with your words.....in that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them"" Malachi 2:17

The Bible identifies "cohabitation" by another name: fornication. Fornication is a sexual relationship outside of marriage between unmarried people. Fornication is a form of sexual immorality, something mentioned repeatedly throughout the Bible as a sin against God.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Cohabitation/fornication cannot be taken lightly; it has a devastating effect on your spiritual wellbeing. According to the Bible, it destroys the holiness of your body:

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:18-19

Cohabitation/fornication insults the institution of marriage by forsaking it, thereby insulting God.

Cohabitation/fornication robs marriage of its gifts, specifically, of the virtue of virginity meant for marriage.

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

It would be a terrible misunderstanding to believe that sexuality is of itself wrong. God created humans as sexual beings, with the purpose of nurturing that attribute to bond a husband and wife in marriage:

But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. Malachi 2:15

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

God insists that there be a sexual relationship within marriage as His plan for the human race; we can see how cohabitation would “weary the Lord with your words”, by taking what is good and making it an offense to God.

Apart from the spiritual devastation of cohabitation, there is also a terrible price paid in a worldly sense. One of the greatest deceptions today is that most people believe living together before marriage is wise; in fact, statistics ABSOLUTELY bear out that cohabitation hurts relationships. Couples who marry after living together are 50% more likely to divorce than those who did not.* Children of cohabiting parents are five times more apt to live in poverty, and 22 times more likely to be incarcerated*

It misses the values of marriage. It destroys marriage and family. It contaminates the body and soul.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers.... will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10