

## Marriage is Beautiful or Is It??? Steve Wright

2008-06-16 10:06:48 by Steve Wright



When Tyler (my youngest son) was in early elementary school he asked me this question on the way home from school one day. "Dad, Why would a man want to marry another man?" His dad a pastor, attending a Christian school and in church more than the average bear. Our children are hearing so many conflicting opinions concerning one of the greatest gifts that God has blessed us with-Marriage.

Is the institution of marriage a forgone conclusion in the lives of young people today? I wanted to provide you with some research that will help you understand the battle a little bit better. I hope the research provided here will give you a glimpse of why it is so important that children are taught a healthy Biblical framework of marriage.

### 1. Why would we need to get married? Why not just live together?

"Marriages are down 20% over the last decade." Source-CNN Highlight News June 9, 2008

"Marriage may no longer be a more perfect union" [SOURCE](#)

"Marriage license applications in Oklahoma County declined to their lowest number in at least two decades." [SOURCE](#)

"Researchers have reported that couples that live together prior to getting engaged have an increased risk for divorce and marital distress." [SOURCE](#)

"Family fragmentation costs U.S. taxpayers at least \$112 billion each and every year." [SOURCE](#)

"The marriage rate in 2005 (per 1,000) was 7.5, down from 7.8 the previous year." [SOURCE](#)

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, unmarried couples account for some 5.5 million households in the U.S. Evidence also shows that couples who live together may not discuss important or troublesome issues in their relationship." [SOURCE](#)

"Divorce Myth 2: Living together before marriage is a good way to reduce the chances of eventually divorcing.

Fact: Many studies have found that those who live together before marriage have a considerably higher chance of eventually divorcing. The reasons for this are not well understood. In part, the type of people who are willing to cohabit may also be those who are more willing to divorce. There is some evidence that the act of cohabitation itself generates attitudes in people that are more conducive to divorce, for example the attitude that relationships are temporary and easily can be ended." [SOURCE](#)

"Divorce May Be the Price of Living Together First" "Couples who lived together before marrying have nearly an 80 percent higher divorce rate than those who did not and they seem to have less regard for the institution." Monday, June 9, 2008

## 2. Why would we want to have kids? Won't they interfere with my life goals?

"At the age of 27 this young woman at the height of her reproductive years was sterilised to "protect the planet". Incredibly, instead of mourning the loss of a family that never was, her boyfriend (now husband) presented her with a congratulations card. While some might think it strange to celebrate the reversal of nature and denial of motherhood, Toni relishes her decision with an almost religious zeal. "Having children is selfish. It's all about maintaining your genetic line at the expense of the planet," says Toni, 35. [SOURCE](#)

"Childless By Choice - childless couples an emerging demographic - Statistical Data Included. That's 4.1 million women saying no to motherhood in 1995." [SOURCE](#)

Children 'bad for planet' HAVING large families should be frowned upon as an environmental misdemeanors in the same way as frequent long-haul flights, driving a big car and failing to reuse plastic bags, says a report to be published today by a green think tank. [SOURCE](#)

Many studies have shown that children create strains between couples. But while this report indicates children may bring a drop in a measure such as marital happiness, [SOURCE](#)

### INCIDENCE OF ABORTION

Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended, and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion. Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion. Finer LB and Henshaw SK, Disparities in rates of unintended pregnancy in the United States, 1994 and 2001, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2006, 38(2):90-96. Jones RK et al., Abortion in the United States: incidence and access to services, 2005, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 2008, 40(1):6-16.

## 3. Who is marriage for-man and women or whoever wants to be called "married"?

LOS ANGELES — Two things are certain in California's mounting legal showdown over same-sex marriage: Gay couples will wed this month, and, come November, voters will decide whether the state's constitution should exclude them from such unions. [SOURCE](#)

Massachusetts has recognized same-sex marriage since 2004, and California since May 15, 2008, [SOURCE](#)

### Same-sex marriage

Dozens of states had ballot measures on same-sex marriage during the midterm elections in 2006, and the issue looks to heat up again as candidates campaign for 2008. [SOURCE](#)

BOSTON - Less than seven months after same-sex couples began tying the knot in Massachusetts, the state is seeing its first gay divorces. [SOURCE](#)

## 4. Can we walk away from family when it is no longer convenient for our lifestyle?

The divorce rate in America for first marriage, vs second or third marriage  
50% percent of first marriages, 67% of second and 74% of third marriages end in divorce, according to Jennifer Baker of the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri." [SOURCE](#)

"Interviews with young adults suggest that they want their initial marriage to last, but are not particularly optimistic about that possibility," Barna noted. "There is also evidence that many young people are moving toward embracing the idea of serial marriage, in which a person gets married two or three times, seeking a different partner for each phase of their adult life." [SOURCE](#)

Evangelicals shift toward acceptance on divorce.

For increasing numbers of clergy, a divorce no longer generates the kind of career-killing hue and cry of decades ago, in part because plenty of people in the pews have experienced divorce themselves. The shifting views on divorced clergy reflect a growing concession among rank-and-file conservative Christians that a failed marriage is no longer an unforgivable sin. For many evangelical Christians, the line seems to have shifted from a single acceptable reason for divorce - adultery - to a wider range of reasons that some say can be biblically justified. [SOURCE](#)

PRINCETON, NJ — More Americans than ever believe divorce is morally acceptable, with the percentage who say this jumping to 70% in Gallup's 2008 Values and Beliefs survey, up from 59% in 2001, and breaking

the previous high of 67% in 2006. PRINCETON, NJ — More Americans than ever believe divorce is morally acceptable, with the percentage who say this jumping to 70% in Gallup's 2008 Values and Beliefs survey, up from 59% in 2001, and breaking the previous high of 67% in 2006.

#### **5. What are the roles within the family? Who is in charge? Who does what?**

"Like so many women raised at the tail end of feminism's first wave, I assumed that my spouse and I would enjoy a relationship based on equality. Equality is an overworked word, but to me it meant sharing the income, chores and child care.

So when my husband asked me the other day, "Did your concept of 'equality' ever include supporting the family?" I had to admit that my answer was no.

I wanted it to be yes. If men could provide for their wives and families, as they have traditionally in many cultures, why shouldn't women feel just fine about assuming that role themselves? Why didn't I?" [SOURCE](#)

However, sex, gender identity, and sexual identity refer to different aspects of oneself. Therefore, one may be any combination of sex (male/female), gender (masculine/feminine), and sexual identity (straight, bisexual, lesbian/gay.) In recent history, people oppressed on the basis of different sexual identities (bisexuals, lesbians, gay men) and people oppressed on the basis of gender identity have formed communities which are partly separate and partly overlapping with one another. Because of this historic separation, someone who is a member of one of these communities does not necessarily understand and prioritize the issues of others of these communities. One who belongs to more than one of these communities may feel welcome in both, but usually neither addresses all one's needs or the way that one's needs from different communities overlap or interact. [SOURCE](#)

Some feminists hold that the sex/gender distinction is not useful. For a start, it is thought to reflect politically problematic dualistic thinking that undercuts feminist aims: the distinction is taken to reflect and replicate androcentric oppositions between (for instance) mind/body, culture/nature and reason/emotion that have been used to justify women's oppression (e.g. Grosz 1994; Prokhovnik 1999). [SOURCE](#)

Park Day School is throwing out gender boundaries.

Teachers at the private Oakland elementary school have stopped asking the children to line up according to sex when walking to and from class. They now let boys play girls and girls play boys in skits. And there's a unisex bathroom. Admissions director Flo Hodes is even a little apologetic that she still balances classes by gender. Park Day's gender-neutral metamorphosis happened over the past few years, as applications trickled in for kindergartners who didn't fit on either side of the gender line. One girl enrolled as a boy, and there were other children who didn't dress or act in gender-typical ways. Last year the school hired a consultant to help the staff accommodate these new students. "We had to ask ourselves, what is gender for young children?" Hodes said. "It's coming up more and more." [SOURCE](#)

This cross-dressing man - who gained worldwide attention as the subject of a "Gay Terrorist" joke email - has a right to dress this way, but should he be allowed to use the woman's restroom? [SOURCE](#)

Staff at a public school in Highlands Ranch are preparing to accommodate the second-grader, who wants to attend classes dressed as a girl and be addressed with a girl's name. The school will allow the boy to use a unisex bathroom, and they are giving parents packets of information on transgendered people. [SOURCE](#)

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## A Captivated Heart..... Steve Wright

2008-07-10 12:07:42 by Steve Wright

How would you define beauty? Culture seeks to define it everyday for us. Walk through the grocery line and see the magazine covers. Commercials parade a glamor look that is frustrating at best.

**I Samuel 16:7** *"Man judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."*

I was reminded in an [article](#) recently of what a Godly picture of true beauty should look like. Billy Graham at Ruth's funeral said "I wish you could look in that casket because she's so beautiful," said Graham, clinging to his walker. "She was a wonderful woman."

I could almost hear these words in his powerful voice. "She's so beautiful."

**Proverbs 31:30** *"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."*

You may have seen [Larry King's interview](#) with Billy Graham when Billy talks about true beauty.

"KING: You've been married to Ruth, Billy Graham, for **61 years**. How is her health?"

GRAHAM: Her health is not very good. She's an invalid. She can get up a couple times a week and go to her hairdresser and for she is — the woman that she is, she is a strong woman. I don't think I could have ever married anybody that would have been more helpful to my work and ministry than she has been and she is still is very bright. We have wonderful conversations. We have a time of *prayer every night and Bible reading* and we watch Larry King.

KING: With all of your travels, did she raise the children?"

GRAHAM: Mostly. It's been exaggerated. I haven't been away from home as much as some people have said. I was away from home 50, maybe 60 percent of the time and that's quite a lot but somebody said it was 90 percent but it hasn't been that much.

KING: Would you want to go before her?"

GRAHAM: Well, I'd like to see us hold hands and go together **because I love her so much**. And I love her more now — **interestingly, I love her more now, and we have more romance now** than we did when we were young. We both agree to that, and...

KING: **You have romance?**

GRAHAM: Yes, we can look each other through the eyes. We don't have the physical love, but we have eye contact that tells you I love you and there is not a single day, not a single night after "Larry King" that I don't say "I love you" and I love her with all my heart. But there's two bedroom. I have one. There's a bathroom in between. So I go around to my room. She has a nurse that takes care of her, and I have one too, and — I have had. I have a nurse now with me in New York to try to keep my on track with my medications.

KING: Have you ever Billy, been tempted? By that — I remember once you told me you would **never** permit yourself to be in a room with another woman with the door closed.

GRAHAM: That's right. That is correct.

KING: Any room, office, any room. Anywhere.

GRAHAM: Except the nurse now.

KING: Except the nurse, of course. Have you ever been tempted?"

GRAHAM: No - I have, I'm sure, but I can't remember it because I believe that there is no temptation taking you but such is of God, that he allows you to be tempted, but you are able to overcome it with the help of the Lord. And I think that's been true. I've never been tempted to the point that I would do something wrong. I can't remember that. I have been — love to see a beautiful woman like every young or middle-aged man. Not as an old man so much. I like to see the beauty, the inner beauty of people, but the other beauty is something of the past."

Key points.

1. "61 years of marriage"
2. "We have a time of *prayer every night and Bible reading*"
3. "**interestingly, I love her more now, and we have more romance now** than we did when we were young."
4. "there is not a single day, not a single night after "Larry King" that I don't say "I love you" and I love her with all my heart."
5. "I like to see the beauty, the inner beauty of people"

Just a few things for us young bucks to strive for.

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## Speaking of Beauty... Steve Wright

2008-07-11 12:07:17 by Steve Wright

I ran across a [funny blog](#) the other day that had a few futuristic pictures of what some have labeled “the most beautiful women of our day”.

Beauty truly is fleeting.

Wives, you may want to send this to your husbands.

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## When Men Were Truly Men... Steve Wright

2008-07-13 09:07:59 by Steve Wright

In a day when men's heart affections are pulled in so many directions it is refreshing to read the stories of those mentors of the past that led with great conviction. B. B. Warfield was certainly one of these men. Busy? Yes! Most would consider the 1887 to 1921 Presidency of Princeton no small task. He followed in the great footsteps of Jonathan Edwards and many others.

What I did not know until recently through the [great writing](#) of Dr Kim Riddlebarger Ph.D was that "during their stay in Europe an event occurred that would forever change the Warfield's lives. While walking together in the Harz mountains, Mr. and Mrs. Warfield were caught in a violent thunderstorm. Annie Warfield suffered a severe trauma to her nervous system from which she never fully recovered. She was so severely traumatized that she would spend the rest of her life as an invalid of sorts, becoming increasingly more incapacitated as the years went by. Her husband was to spend the rest of their lives together giving her "his constant attention and care" until her death in 1915 (Allis, "Personal Impressions of Dr Warfield," 10)."

"It was his tremendous energy which perhaps, more than any other single factor, contributed to Warfield's wide reaching influence. As Kerr notes, one of Warfield's most important forums was the book review, so often overlooked as an important "bully pulpit." "Book reviewing is, I think, one of the most important means of theological communication," adds Dr. Kerr, and somehow the Princetonian managed to publish over 780 of them in various publications, of which 318, were "very substantial critical reviews." (14).

Warfield's remarkable literary output is, no doubt, in large measure due to the frail condition of his wife and his amazing devotion to her. With the pen he was a formidable foe, but as O. T. Allis recalls, "I used to see them walking together and the gentleness of his manner was striking proof of the loving care with which he surrounded her. They had no children. During the years spent at Princeton, he rarely if ever was absent for any length of time" (Allis, "Personal Impressions of Dr Warfield," 10). Machen recalled that Mrs. Warfield was a brilliant woman and that Dr. Warfield would read to her several hours each day. Machen dimly recalled seeing Mrs. Warfield in her yard a number of years earlier during his own student days, but notes that she had been long since bed-ridden (Stonehouse, [J. Gresham Machen](#), 220).

According to most accounts, Dr. Warfield almost never ventured away from her side for more than two hours at a time. In fact, he left the confines of Princeton only one time during a ten-year period, and that for a trip designed to alleviate his wife's suffering which ultimately failed (Bamberg, "Our Image of Warfield Must Go," 229). As Colin Brown incisively notes, Warfield's lectures on the cessation of the charismata, given at Columbia Theological Seminary in South Carolina shortly after her death, are quite remarkable and demonstrate "a certain poignancy [which] attaches itself to Warfield's work in view of the debilitating illness of his wife throughout their married life" (Colin Brown, [Miracles and the Critical Mind](#), Eerdmans, 1984, 199). Though Warfield may have been known to many as a tenacious fighter, the compassion he directed toward his wife, Annie Kinkead Warfield, demonstrates a capacity for tenderness and caring that is in its own right quite remarkable.

In the mysterious providence of God, it was the nature of his wife's illness and his devotion to her, that ironically provided the greatest impetus for his massive literary output. Personally vital and energetic, "he did not allow" his wife's illness "to hinder him in his work. He was intensely active with voice and pen" (Allis, "Personal Impressions of Dr Warfield," 11). Thus his creative energies were focused in two directions: his writing and the classroom. As caretaker for an invalid wife, Warfield spent many hours each day in the confines of his study."

Today marriage appears to have more options than Baskin-Robbins. We read daily of men walking away from their wives and their children. The temptation that "other things" are real, are more satisfying and more fulfilling is as passing as the fruit that Eve so desperately tasted.

The truth is that very few things in this life will cross over into eternity. May God give men today the grace to see those things which are eternal and that brings Christ the most glory in this short life. May these lasting riches captivate our hearts and set straight our desires and may our faithfulness stir future generations to put their hope in Christ.



## Lasting Mariages.... Steve Wright

2008-07-21 12:07:29 by Steve Wright

I was surprised when I read a study a few weeks ago that stated that marriages were down 20 percent over the past 10 years. Obviously this trend cannot keep this pace but a concern for me is that children today are losing a vision for what God has intended for His glory and their good.

Dennis Rainey shares great insight in an [article](#) written on this very subject. I would encourage any parent to read this article and use it for a resource to encourage their children with a Biblical vision for their future.

God has placed in our hands the incredible responsibility to model and teach those precious immortal ones that look to us for eternal truth. What a sad day it is for a child not to have loving parents that could speak this truth into their life. Sadder still is it for the child whose Christians parents are distracted with so many lesser things who do not take the time or understand the weight of eternity for instructing their children.

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## Oh Father, Where Art Thou? Steve Wright

2008-07-22 12:07:24 by Steve Wright

Merio Seigle wrote a well research article that I would like to share with you. This article is called "[Where Have All the Fathers Gone?](#)". My hope is that you will be able to use this research while you are exhorting others to consider the consequences of walking outside of God's design. Every child deserves a father.

"A devastating epidemic is leaving a trail of broken hearts and broken dreams in its wake. What is this tragic outbreak? It's the epidemic of disappearing fathers, who are sorely needed. by Mario Seigle

To read the rest of the article [click here](#).

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## Second Life affair leads to real-life divorce for David Pollard, aka Dave Barmy

2008-11-19 07:11:11 by Steve Wright

From The Times November 14, 2008

A couple have divorced after the husband was caught having a “virtual affair” with a female character in an online game.

David Pollard and Amy Taylor met in an online chat room in 2003 and married after discovering a shared love of the internet game *Second Life*.

In the game, players create characters known as avatars, which then interact with others in a virtual world. To his wife's horror, Mr Pollard's interaction included virtual infidelity with a female character playing the role of a prostitute. Ms Taylor said yesterday that her husband had been guilty of the “ultimate betrayal”, even though he had never met the real person behind his online affair.

Mr Pollard, whose *Second Life* character is called Dave Barmy, and Ms Taylor, who calls herself Laura Skye, apparently spent as much of their marriage interacting on Second Life as they did in the real world.

**Ms Taylor, 28, filed for divorce on the ground of unreasonable behaviour after her husband admitted falling in love with the virtual female character. She discovered the affair after a rare [break from her computer](#).**

The sanctity of marriage is now being challenged by the pixilated existence of Second Life. Right when you thought things couldn't get stranger. Perhaps if David had spent as much time on his real marriage as he did his... nevermind. That would be to simple and old fashion to actually work.

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## A Message for Every Marriage...

2008-09-17 08:09:37 by Steve Wright

This is a message that my close friend and co-author recently sent to me. I believe it will be a great encouragement to your marriage.

In this [message](#) from Luke 6, Dave Harvey echoes Jesus's call to "be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." Drawing on thoughts from chapter 5 of his book, *When Sinners Say "I Do,"* Dave leads us from exploring the expanse of God's mercy to applying this exalted truth in the daily realities of married life. In doing so, he expounds on the holy call to make marriage a place for the ministry of mercy from one sinner to another. Marriage becomes sweet when sinners connect the dots between God's mercy and their marriage.

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