

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

PART 30 - MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

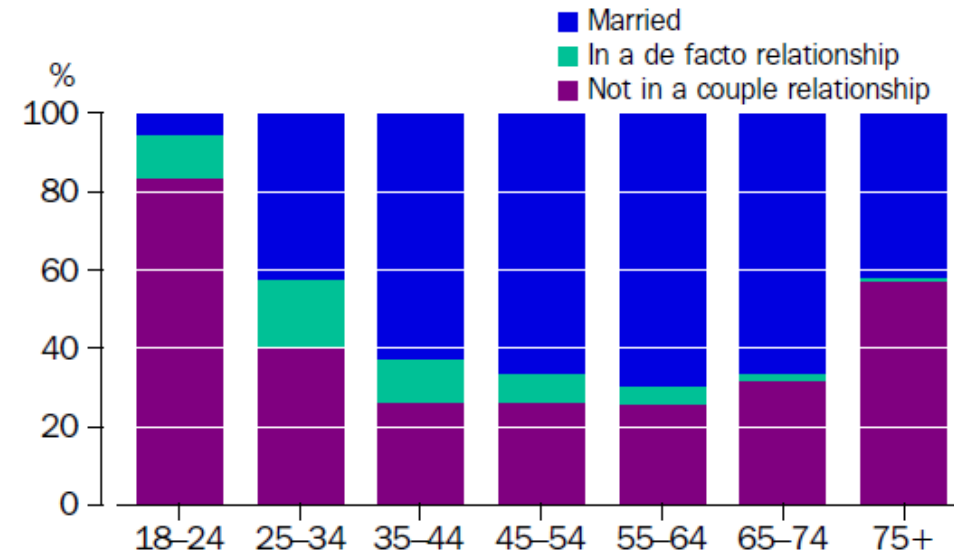
Australian Bureau of Statistics

1.1 SELECTED MARRIAGE INDICATORS(a), Australia, Selected years, 1993–2013

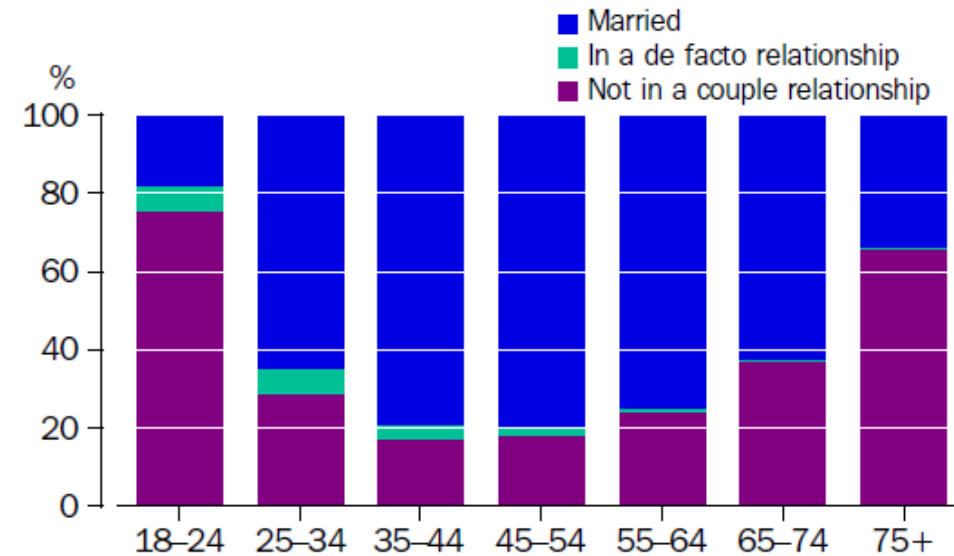
		1993	2003	2009	2010	2011	2012(b)	2013(b)
Marriages registered	no.	113,255	106,394	120,118	121,176	121,752	123,244	118,962
Crude marriage rate(c)	rate	6.4	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.1
Previous marital status								
First marriage both partners	no.	75,968	70,644	84,780	86,330	86,862	88,543	86,075
First marriage one partner	no.	21,123	19,678	20,107	20,128	20,416	20,091	19,338
Remarriage both partners	no.	16,164	16,072	15,231	14,718	14,474	14,604	13,549
Marriage celebrant								
Ministers of religion(d)								
Number	no.	51,947	38,003	39,740	37,251	36,372	34,613	32,600
Proportion	%	57.9	43.4	33.1	30.7	29.9	28.1	27.4
Civil Celebrants(d)								
Number	no.	65,573	46,187	80,340	83,800	85,311	88,599	86,304
Proportion	%	42.1	56.6	66.9	69.2	70.1	71.9	72.5
Relative birthplace of couple(e)								
Both born in Australia	no.	72,532	65,436	69,643	68,588	67,882	69,048	65,603
Both born in the same overseas country	no.	9,021	9,502	14,210	14,585	15,321	15,438	15,727
Born in different countries	no.	31,695	31,444	36,185	37,925	38,45.87	38,687	37,552
Cohabitation prior to marriage								
Number	no.	na	79,311	92,978	95,194	95,228	95,673	91,123
Proportion of all marriages	%	na	74.5	77.4	78.6	78.2	77.6	76.6

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Relationship status by age group — 2006



Relationship status by age group — 1986



Source: 2006 and 1986 Censuses of Population and Housing

Divorce Statistics:

Australian Bureau of Statistics

1.2 SELECTED DIVORCE INDICATORS, Australia, Selected years, 1993-2013

		1993	2003	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Divorces granted	no.	48,363	53,145	49,448	50,240	48,935	49,917	47,638
Crude divorce rate(a)	rate	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
Median length of marriage								
To separation	years	7.6	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.5
To divorce	years	10.7	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.1
Divorces involving children(b)								
Divorces	no.	25,461	26,637	24,268	24,853	23,619	24,144	22,590
Proportion of all divorces	%	52.6	50.1	49.1	49.5	48.3	48.4	47.4
Total number of children	no.	48,107	49,850	45,195	46,337	43,867	44,834	41,747
Average number of children per divorce(c)	no.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8
Relative birthplace of people granted divorce(d)								
Both born in Australia	no.	27,160	30,674	25,922	26,305	24,890	25,301	24,385
Both born in same overseas country	no.	6,220	7,055	7,550	8,064	8,455	8,623	8,180
Born in different countries	no.	14,746	14,223	13,295	13,553	13,194	13,517	12,904
Type of applicant(e)								
Male	no.	17,098	17,229	13,236	13,215	12,924	12,958	12,329
Female	no.	23,630	22,870	18,149	18,083	17,439	17,140	15,684
Joint	no.	7,635	13,046	18,063	18,941	18,572	19,819	19,625

Separation Rates: Australian Institute of Family Studies

Table 1. Rates of relationship dissolution: Cohabitation versus marriage by period in which cohabitation or marriage began

Cohabitation ^a		Marriage	
Year began living together	Separated within 5 years (%)	Year of marriage	Divorced within 5 years (%)
1970-74	24.9	1975-76	6.9
1975-79	30.9	1985-86	7.5
1980-84	33.4	1987-88	7.9
1985-89	33.3	1989-90	8.6
1990-94	38.2	1994-95	8.8

John Piper

There never has been a generation whose general view of marriage is high enough. The chasm between the biblical vision of marriage and the common human vision is now, and has always been, gargantuan. Some cultures in history respect the importance and the permanence of marriage more than others. Some, like our own, have such low, casual, take-it-or-leave-it attitudes toward marriage as to make the biblical vision seem ludicrous to most people.

Mark 10:1~13

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

- An agenda driven question
- Marriage is a covenant
- Marriage reflects a covenant

1. An Agenda Driven Question

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test him ... Mark 10:1-2

2. Marriage is a Covenant

And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” Mark 10:2-4

Parallel Passage

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” Matthew 19:3

What the Pharisees are Referring to ...

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds ***no favour in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her***, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, and if she goes and becomes another man’s wife, and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife, then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.” Deuteronomy 24:1–4

Mishnah – Jewish Oral Tradition

The School of Shammai say: A man may not divorce his wife unless he has found unchastity in her, for it is written, “Because he hath found in her indecency in anything.” And the School of Hillel say: [He may divorce her] even if she spoiled a dish for him, for it is written, “Because he hath found in her indecency in anything.” R. Akiba says: Even if he found another fairer than she, for it is written, “And it shall be if she find no favour in his eyes.”

Mark 10:5–9

And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Edwards

The exceptional measures necessary when a marriage fails are of no help in discovering the meaning and intention of marriage. Jesus endeavours to recover God's will for marriage, not to argue about possible exceptions to it. His opponents ask what is permissible; he points to what is commanded. Deuteronomy 24:1–3, he argues, is not a pretext for divorce but an attempt to limit its worst consequences for women. The divine intention for marriage cannot be determined from a text about divorce.

C S Lewis – Mere Christianity

"The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside of marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union."

Views of Marriage

Consumer

- Emotional relationship
- Less binding
- Your commitment is based on what the other person does for you
- You keep adjusting to me because my needs are more important than a relationship
- If I can get my needs met somewhere else then that is where I will go
- Always marketing and selling yourself
- If you are in a relationship where you need to feel it you are not free – you are a slave to your feelings
- If you are living together that is a consumer relationship

Covenant

- Covenant creates a relationship
- Far more meaningful and far more loving
- It is more loving because it is legal
- It is more committed because it is legal
- Opposite – I will adjust to you because I have made a promise – the relationship is more important than my needs
- My needs are less important than the sustenance of the relationship
- Zone of security and safety where you can be yourself
- When you are committed to someone in spite of your feelings deeper feelings grow
- Covenant relationships bring freedom

Tara Parker~Pope – New York Times

The notion that the best marriages are those that bring satisfaction to the individual may seem counterintuitive. After all, isn't marriage supposed to be about putting the relationship first? Not anymore. For centuries, marriage was viewed as an economic and social institution, and the emotional and intellectual needs of the spouses were secondary to the survival of the marriage itself. But in modern relationships, people are looking for a partnership, and they want partners who make their lives more interesting . . . [who] help each of them attain valued goals.

What About Remarriage?

And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” Mark 10:10–12

3. Marriage Reflects a Covenant

When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD” ... And the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.” So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.” Hosea 1:2, 3:1–3

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25–27