

Trials of the Christian Life

The Struggle is Real



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Marriage: The Struggle Between Two Sinners

Some sobering statistics:

- Half of Americans ages 18 and older were married in 2017, a share that has remained relatively stable in recent years but is down ___ percentage points since 1990. One factor driving this change is that Americans are staying single longer. The median age at first marriage had reached its highest point on record: 30 years for men and 28 years for women in 2018, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- As the U.S. marriage rate has declined, divorce rates have increased among older Americans. In 2015, for every 1,000 married adults ages 50 and older, 10 had divorced – up from five in 1990. Among those ages 65 and older, the divorce rate roughly tripled since 1990.
- The number of U.S. adults cohabiting with a partner is on the rise. In addition to the half of U.S. adults who were married, 7% were cohabiting in 2016. The number of Americans living with an unmarried partner reached about ____million in 2016, up 29% since 2007. Roughly half of cohabiters are younger than 35 – but cohabitation is rising most quickly among Americans ages 50 and older.
- Support for the legalization of same-sex marriage has grown in the past 10 years. In 2007, Americans opposed legalizing same-sex marriage by a margin of 54% to 37%. In 2017, more favored (____%) than opposed (32%) allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally.
- On average, the length of a marriage in the U.S. is _____ to _____ years.

MR. AND MRS. JOB

There is only 1 verse in the entire Bible about Mrs. Job and yet we learn a lot about her. This is the time Job needs her the most. Now more than ever, these two need to operate as one to comfort one another as they BOTH have lost everything. How does she do? Job 2:7-10

Biblical responsibilities of a wife

She is to submit to her husband – Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1, 6; Titus 2:5.

She is to _____ her husband – Titus 2:4.

She is to reverence her husband – Eph. 5:33.
(Respect, esteem, a godly fear).

She is to help her husband – Gen. 2:18.

Mrs. Job

She questions his behavior and then gives rotten advice.

She shows no compassion now that he is physically ill.
Luke 6:31-36; Luke 10:30-37; 1 John 3:17.

No respect for her husband or God as she would rather have him turn against God and be dead.

In this moment she is a help meet for _____.

Job's Response – 2:10

Biblical responsibilities of a husband

He is to love his wife – Eph. 5:25.

He is to know his wife – 1 Peter 3:7.

He is to dwell with her – 1 Peter 3:7.

He is to _____ her – 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Tim. 5:3-17; Eph. 6:2.

He is to provide for her – 1 Tim. 5:8.

He is to teach her – 1 Cor. 14:35.

He is to protect her – Eph. 5:23; Matt. 12:29; Pro. 18:10; 2 Sam 7.

Job

Despite her poor advice and obviously harsh attitude, he does not speak _____ or foolishly to her.

He knows this is not representative of her true character. (speakest AS).

They have built a life together. He doesn't leave when things get tough.

He does not call her foolish. He does not get _____ with her.

She and her children have been well provided for.

He uses this tragedy as a teachable moment. Life is not always easy. God _____ adversity.

He protects her from herself and from the Lord.

ABRAHAM AND SARAH

- He makes Sarah lie about being his wife to protect himself. He allows her to be taken into Pharaoh's house - Gen. 12:10-20.
- Sarah gives her handmaid to her husband to wed even after God promised that they would bear a child. (trying to force God's plan man's way) - Gen. 16.
- He makes Sarah lie again about being his wife. God again protects her - Gen. 20. (NOTE: 20:12 – half-truth)
- Abraham fails at protecting his wife. They both fail at submitting to God's plan.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

- She was hand-picked by God. No doubt that God wanted them to be husband and wife – Gen. 24:1-15.
- Rebekah has a compassionate and servant's heart – Gen. 24:18-20.
- She brought Isaac great comfort – Gen. 24:67.
- Fast forward several years to a time where their children are grown. Rebekah hatches a plan to deceive her husband Isaac because she favors Jacob – Gen. 27:1-40. (lie, cheat, steal)
- She again deceives Isaac to help Jacob while teaching him to run from his sin instead of repenting and seeking forgiveness – Gen. 27:43-46.
- Rebekah fails at submitting, reverencing, and helping.

HOSEA AND GOMER

Hosea 1-3:

- God tells Hosea to marry a woman of whoredoms. She represents an unfaithful Israel and how God feels heart broken by their infidelity.
- They have three children, and then Gomer leaves him to play the whore once again.
- Heartbroken, Hosea searches the land for her, finds her, and restores her.
- Gomer fails all her responsibilities but Hosea _____ . – Matt. 24:12.

A godly marriage does NOT mean that you do not have problems. It does not mean that you will never treat each other poorly. Everyone fails at their God given responsibilities in marriage. What a godly marriage DOES mean is that you show each other grace (not harboring ill feelings or bitterness), you show each other love, and you are always quick to forgive and _____..just as God does with each of us.