

Marriage 101

Pastor Kempiz Hernandez

“Back to the Basics”

Session 1:

The Crisis and Foundation of Marriage

For the first time in history, Western civilization is confronted with the need to define the meaning of the terms “marriage” and “family.” What until now has been considered a “normal” family, made up of a father, a mother, and a number of children, has in recent years increasingly begun to be viewed as “one” among several “options,” which can no longer claim to be the only or even superior form of ordering human relationships. The Judeo-Christian view of marriage and the family with its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures, has to a significant extent been replaced with a set of values that prizes human rights, self-fulfillment, and pragmatic utility on an individual and societal level. It can rightly be said that marriage and the family are institutions under siege in our World today, and that with marriage and the family, our very civilization is in crisis.”

Consequences...

1. In the US, more than half of all “couples” have “moved in together” before getting married. The divorce rate for couples that live together first is significantly higher than those that do not.
2. For women under the age of 30 in the US, more than half of all babies are born out of wedlock.
3. The US has the highest divorce rate in the entire world. While stats vary, it is estimated that the current divorce rate is between 40-50% of marriages that end in divorce. This means that one in two couples will end in divorce
4. The marriage rate in the United States has fallen to an all-time low. As of 2013, it is sitting at a yearly rate of 6.8 marriages per 1000 people.
5. Approximately 1 out of every 3 children in the US lives in a home without a father.
6. Close to 50% of high school students have intimate relations.
7. The US has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the entire world. Twice as high as Canada, more than 3 times as France, and more than 7 times as high as Japan.
8. Instead of being raised by parents, children are being raised by movies, television, and video games. The average young American will spend 10,000 hours of playing video games before the age of 21.
9. There are more than 3 million reports of child abuse in the US every single year. The US has the highest child abuse death rate in the developed world.
10. In a massacre that is almost unspeakable, more than 56 million American babies have been slaughtered in this country since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.
11. Approximately 47 percent of the women that get an abortion each year in the United States have also had a previous abortion.
12. The number of American babies killed by abortion each year is roughly equal to the number of U.S. military deaths that have occurred in all of the wars that the United States has ever been involved in combined.
13. About one-third of all American women will have had an abortion by the age of 45.

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The current cultural crisis, however, is merely symptomatic of a deep-seated spiritual crisis that continues to gnaw at the foundations of our once-shared societal values. If God the Creator, in fact, as the Bible teaches, instituted marriage and the family, and if there is an evil being called Satan who wages war against God's creative purposes in this World, it should come as no surprise that the divine foundation of these institutions has come under massive attack in recent years. Ultimately, we human beings, whether we realize it or not, are involved in a cosmic spiritual conflict that pits God against Satan, with marriage and the family serving as a key arena in which spiritual and cultural battles are fought. If then, the cultural crisis is symptomatic of an underlying spiritual crisis, the solution likewise must be spiritual, not merely cultural."

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' (V 27) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them. (V 28) God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' (V 29) Then God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; (v 30) and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food;' and it was so. (V 31) God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:15-17

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. (V 16) The LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; (v 17) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'

Genesis 1:18-25

(v. 18) Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.' (V 19) Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was it's name. (V 20) The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

(V 21) So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. (V 22) The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

(V 23) The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.'

(V 24) For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. (V 25) And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.