**The “Nuclear Family” In Meltdown**

*by Kyle Campbell*

A recent article by Chuck Baldwin discusses Census results which reveal a virtual breakdown of traditional moral values within the United States. The nuclear family, consisting of a married father and mother with children, now comprises only 25% of the family units in this country. Moreover, couples cohabiting without marriage have escalated over 70% in just the last decade.

The Gallup organization found that the moral decline of America is now almost complete. According to Gallup, only 38% of the American people believe that sex before marriage is wrong. Even more disturbing is the fact that almost 70% of those under 30 think premarital sex is acceptable. These kinds of numbers are staggering! It appears America has lost its moral conscience. Is it a coincidence that almost 30% of couples who do get married reject any mention of God or religion in their ceremonies, according to a recent report? The same report states that nearly 50% refuse to use the words “forever” and “obey” in their vows. Dr. William Doherty, director of University of Minnesota’s Marriage and Family Therapy Program, denounces what he calls today’s “consumer marriage.” He laments that traditional vows like, “As long as we both shall ‘live’” have been replaced with, “As long as we both shall ‘love.’”

The question is how long can this nihilistic, hedonistic culture keep itself from total ruination? How long before the longsuffering of a holy, righteous God wears out? Yes, how much longer will America hate her heritage, sully her soul, and violate her virtue? Perhaps a better question is can America be great without being good?

**Can You Convert Them After Marriage?**

*by Greg Gwin*

The American Institute for Church Growth conducted a survey of 10,000 men and women in various religious groups. One of the questions asked how many had married a mate from a different religious background. 62% of respondents reported marrying someone of a different “faith.” The survey then proceeded to ask that 62% about what happened later in their marriages. Here are the results:

**WOMEN:**

• 49% -- converted to their husband’s religion

• 40% -- no change in religion by either husband or wife

• 8% -- converted their husbands

• 3% -- both changed to an entirely different religion

**MEN:**

• 25% -- converted to their wife’s religion

• 43% -- no change in religion by either husband or wife

• 39% -- converted their wives

• 3% -- both changed to an entirely different religion

There are many potential lessons from these statistics, but one really stands out. It is obvious that those who marry a spouse -- thinking that they can convert their mate later -- are usually wrong. While women are more likely to change to their husband’s religion, it still happens less than half of the time.

We especially want to emphasize this point for our young people who are of “dating” age. Keep your eyes wide open. If the person you are considering for marriage is not interested in learning the truth and committing to Christ while you are dating, the chances are very high that they will not do so after you are married. Be careful about imagining that your case will be different. The statistics don’t lie. Few choices you will ever make can rank in importance with your choice of a wife or husband. And, nothing can help to produce a successful marriage like a common faith in the Lord. Think!

**Ten Rules for Bringing Down Children**

*Adapted from B.C. Goodpasture*

*“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth”* (Psalms 127:3-4). We all love our children, and we want to know how to help them best spiritually. It might make a greater impact to see what will, in essence, ruin them.

1. Let them have plenty of money to spend as they like.
2. Permit them to choose their companions without restraint or guidance.
3. Let them spend their Sundays in worldly activities or with friends with no concern for the Lord’s day.
4. Allow them to go out at night and return home as they please.
5. Teach them to expect pay for helping at home and serving others.
6. Let them think that good manners are a substitute for good morals.
7. Do not trouble to interest them in the Bible or convert them to Christ.
8. Make no inquiry as to where and with whom they spend their time.
9. Let them see that you think attendance at services is not important.
10. Never let them hear you pray, especially not for their salvation.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). This is a general principle, not an absolute law. But one can surely see that if you follow these ten simple steps, your children will have little respect for you and little respect for God. Children will develop their own choices, but these are largely determined by the parents.