



Keep your words warm and sweet,
You may have to eat them.

Adrian Rogers

Let's Start 2012 With a Bang for Marriage Ten years ago we signed the Clackamas County Marriage Policy and we had focus. Ten years ago we heard stories of couples going from church to church seeking a hurried-up marriage, only to be told they needed to cool their heels because pastors had agreed to ask couples to a four month waiting time in addition to premarital preparation. Ten years ago the divorce rate began to dip. But... preliminary stats from Oregon's DHS indicate a jump in Clackamas County's 2010 divorce rate* by almost 7%! Times they are a'changing; times they are a'wasting; we've got work to do!

Marriages that are harmonious reflect the image of their Savior. When they don't reflect Him it is because they are not fully yielded to Him. Through Scripture God reveals His heart for His people and their marriages. Scripture needs to be mightily preached, powerfully prayed, and vigorously performed. We at Every Marriage Matters are your support, providing speakers, suggesting resources; and giving encouragement; let us know your needs. Together we can prosper our marriages, in turn prospering our families, our churches, and our country.

* See Marriage and Divorce Statistics attached

FEATURED VIDEO FOR DECEMBER

- **iMarriage** This month there is a humorous look at expectations through a computer program called iMarriage. Check it out on the homepage of www.everymarriagematters.org.

CHRISTMAS

- **The Best Christmas Present: A Healthy Marriage** So, as we think about what the best Christmas present a child can be given, I come to believe is a healthy mom and dad in a healthy, loving marriage. Let's face it. The Wii might break. The computer will be obsolete. The dolls will be replaced some day or not. But the lasting positive effects of a loving family is generational. ((Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union, <http://jacksonville.com/opinion/blog/434851/dr-richard-marks/2010-12-18/best-christmas-present-healthy-marriage>)
- **Healthy Marriage Staffers Offers Tips for the Holidays** People get excited about the lights, shopping and Christmas dinner with family, but also fear the stress that past holidays have taught them to expect. (The (Moshannon Valley, PA) Progress, <http://www.theprogressnews.com/default.asp?read=24886>)

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- **The Second Annual Index of Family Belonging and Rejection** The Index of Family Belonging was 45.8 percent for the United States for the year 2009. The action of parents determines the belonging or rejection score: whether they marry and belong to each other, or whether they reject one another through divorce or otherwise. Rejection leaves children without married parents committed to one another and to the intact family in which the child was to be brought up in. (Family Research Council, <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF11K29.pdf>)

COHABITATION

- **Sleeping Together and Christ's Global Cause** Why do we not feel convicted by the Holy Spirit but do feel convicted by people? People make us feel guilty but at the same time, the Lord has blessed us and used us in some truly amazing ways. (Keep Believing Ministries, www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/sleeping-together-christs-global-cause-

Published monthly by Every Marriage Matters, Oregon City, Oregon

11580978.html?utm_source=Crosswalk_Weekly_Update&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11/14/2011)

DISTRESS AND DIVORCE / RESTORATION

- **Honey, Let's Get a Little Divorced** When it comes to marital longevity, being the adult children of divorce actually has its advantages. Because of remarriage, our sons have seven grandparents, all of whom are motivated to help us because they have experienced how fragile marriage can be. (New York Times, www.nytimes.com/2010/12/05/fashion/05Modern.html?_r=2)
- **I'm In Love With Another Man** Many people – including Christian men and women – find themselves madly in love with someone other than their spouses. (Joe Beam's Love Path, http://joebeam.com/in_love_with_another_man.htm)
- **Is It Okay to Divorce a Spouse With Alzheimer's?** A marriage marked by unshakeable commitment is a beautiful picture of Christ's relationship with the church. (FamilyLife, www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=dnJHKLNNFoG&b=3842485&ct=11222509)
- **Should Marriage Be Easy?** Little more than one half of all families are headed by a married couple. In 1960, it was nearly three-fourths. The decline is attributed to changes in public attitudes over the past half century that have led to increases in divorce, co-habitation, and age-at-marriage. The state of our unions has prompted comments from a number of sources. One is business titan and television celebrity, Donald Trump. (Breakpoint by Chuck Colson, <http://www.breakpoint.org/features-columns/breakpoint-columns/entry/2/17725>)
- **A Grandmother Struggles With Divorce** When an adult child's marriage ends, it's not just the divorcing couple and their children who are hurt. (Huffington Post, www.huffingtonpost.com/marshatlock/a-grandmother-struggles-w_b_798520.html)
- **A Roomful of Yearning and Regret** Start by picturing yourself in the therapist's office with your betrayed husband after you've been found out (and you will be found out). (New York Times, www.nytimes.com/2010/12/12/fashion/12Modern.html?_r=1&ref=style)
- **A Spiritual Mismatch – and the God Who Sees** Any marriage offers occasions on an everyday basis for us to choose the needs of our spouses over our own. (FamilyLife, <http://www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=dnJHKLNNFoG&b=3578581&ct=8057979¬oc=1>)
- **Was Marriage the Biggest Mistake of Her Life?** Unless God intervened, they wouldn't make it. (FamilyLife, www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=dnJHKLNNFoG&b=3781233&ct=11459917)

RESOURCES FOR PASTORS – Vacation and weekend get-away opportunities

- **Life Impact** is a ministry dedicated to keeping pastor families healthy. They offer short-term, low-cost get-aways to pastors and missionaries in a variety of locations, including Sisters, West Linn, Winchester Bay and Costa Rica. See details of the new "Kerith Springs Oasis" in Sisters, OR, attached.
- **Alaska Vacation Packages** offer a free vacation package on a limited, space-available, as-needed basis at their Wolverine Lake facility near Palmer, Alaska, see attached "Free Alaska Vacation for Pastors".

RESOURCES TO PASS ALONG

- **The Top 10 Marriage Blogs of 2010** (The Marry Blogger, www.themarryblogger.com/marriage/the-top-10-marriage-blogs-of-2010)
- **Do Marriage Counselors Do More HARM Than Good?** 80% Of All Private Practice Marriage Counselors in the U.S. Say they Conduct Marriage Therapy... Yet Only 12% Are in a Profession that Requires them to Take Even ONE Course on Dealing With Couples. (Marriage Success Secrets, <http://www.marriage-success-secrets.com/marriage-counselors.html>)

HEALTHY MARRIAGE

- **5 Steps to Rethinking Marriage Ministry** What your church can do to help make marriages work (Outreach Magazine, <http://www.outreachmagazine.com/features/4419-marriageministry.html>)

Published monthly by Every Marriage Matters, Oregon City, Oregon

- **Are You in a Semi-Happy Marriage?** Find out what to do if you're a bit bored but not miserable in your marriage. (YourTango.com, www.foxnews.com/imag/Love/Are+You+in+a+Semi-Happy+Marriage%3F#ixzz1d9vWOTtP)
- **Pinky Swears are Worthless and Other Lessons Divorce Teaches Our Children Well** Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the inception of the no-fault divorce craze. The parents of approximately one million children a year have gotten divorced. 40 years, 40 million kids. Here's a look back at some of the lessons we've taught them along the way. (The Huffington Post, www.huffingtonpost.com/beverly-willett/pinky-swears-are-worthless_b_797704.html)
- **What We Need** Contrary to popular teaching, love and respect aren't gender specific. (Christianity Today/Kyria, www.kyria.com/topics/marriagefamily/marriage/communication/1.23.html)
- **Why Do Traditions Matter?** Family ceremonies and rituals can help you show your children what – and Who – is most important to you. (FamilyLife, www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=dnJHKLNnFoG&b=3781405&ct=4638439)

PARENTING / YOUTH MINISTRY

- **Courageous Fatherhood** It might be the most important lesson I've learned in all my years of prison ministry -- and a new movie hits it spot on. (Breakpoint by Chuck Colson, <http://www.breakpoint.org/bpcommentaries/entry/13/18129>)
- **Teaching Good Sex** The campaign for abstinence in the schools and communities may seem trivial, an ideological nuisance but at its core it is a betrayal of our next generation. We are desperately in need of knowledge, conversation and resources to negotiate the delicious and treacherous terrain of sexuality in the 21st century." (New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/magazine/teaching-good-sex.html?_r=1&ref=magazine)
- **Unfriended! Parenting in a Social Media World** It is hard to believe there are truly new issues, but social media is a creation which the world had never seen until the end of the last century. (KKMS (Minneapolis-St Paul Christian Radio), <http://www.kkms.com/parenting/11646423>)

PREMARITAL PREPARATION

- **Evaluating Your Spiritual Relationship Before Marriage** Your spiritual compatibility with your potential spouse will influence the quality of your future marriage more than any other factor. (FamilyLife, www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=dnJHKLNnFoG&b=3578541&ct=8407495¬oc=1)
- **Single Life – Is It Love ... or Infatuation?** I remember the night I learned the difference between love and infatuation (FamilyLife, www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=dnJHKLNnFoG&b=3578541&ct=9359481¬oc=1)
- **Six Characteristics for a Potential Spouse** What to look for as you contemplate marriage. (FamilyLife, www.familylife.com/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=dnJHKLNnFoG&b=3593987&ct=4639461¬oc=1)

PARTING WORDS

- Marriage is the glue that is holding civilization together. – Act of Marriage videos

Thank you for all you are doing to strengthen marriage.
Respectfully,

Tom Dressel

To unsubscribe or change your e-mail address, reply to everymarriagematters@comcast.net with your request as the subject line. Contact us at 1005 Woodlawn Avenue, Oregon City, OR 97045.

E-mail: everymarriagematters@comcast.net; Phone: 503-655-1489; Web: www.everymarriagematters.org.