

Something to Pray About

November 2012 – Cindy Sears

Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.
—Hebrews 13:4 NRSV

Promoting Marriage

The fragmentation of our society is appalling, and many of the problems stem from the break-up of the basic building block of society: the family. As the family goes, so goes the culture and society. For decades now, marriage has been under attack. It is time for the Christian Church to promote marriage again as a worthy goal of every Christian man and woman. After all, God made us for relationships—with Him and with each other. And the basic relationship is marriage and family.

Encouraging our young adults to put off marriage until they have finished their educations and had time to “live a little” is just asking for trouble. Education never stops and with online learning available, it no longer needs to be a deterrent to early marriage. Studies have shown that the longer one remains single, the more one becomes “set in one’s ways,” which makes adjusting to marriage that much more difficult. Since young people have strong sex drives, delay of marriage leads to all sorts of complications and sin, including the spread of disease, the murder of unborn children, and children without fathers or mothers or a stable and secure home life. Would it not be better for society and us as individuals to help young married couples succeed, than to spend inordinate amounts of our tax dollars cleaning up the mess caused by “free” sex?

The secular culture’s ideas about love that young people have been taught by television, movies, and books about that one true “soul mate” that they will know the minute they meet the person also causes problems. The idea portrayed is that if I just get that feeling inside, I will know this is the one. Honey, that feeling is a sexual urge that comes naturally and has very little to do with whether or not you and he/she are compatible. Why do you think pornography is so pervasive? Our current culture also promotes one of Satan’s number one lies: that you need to have sexual relations before marriage to determine if you and your potential partner are sexually compatible. Hog wash! Although adjustments have to be made, God made you compatible; the woman is naturally compatible with the man. The number one reason marriages break up is over money; so, you would be better off asking for his or her credit report than sleeping with the person you think is the one.

Besides, that sexual urge was given to you by God for one purpose—to solidify the marriage. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24 NKJV). Because the sexual relationship is both a physical and spiritual bonding (see 1 Corinthians: 15-16), it can easily cause you to bond with someone who will cause you all sorts of problems. If you leave sex out of the dating process, you will be more level-headed and better able to assess the other person’s personality and character; and you won’t be averse to asking for a credit report. As Christians, we have one other most important thing to determine about a potential partner: do they believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Being unequally yoked is no joking matter. A Christian man will love his wife as Christ loves the Church; a Christian woman will be subject to her husband as to Christ. (see Ephesians, Chapter 5.) This is not a subtle form of servitude. It makes sense that in a relationship of two people, someone should have the authority to be the tiebreaker. This makes it even more imperative that a woman choose her mate carefully and prayerfully. And the husband should enter the relationship knowing that he is totally responsible for the physical well-being and spiritual growth of his mate. Also, there is no law against a wife expressing her opinion or arguing for her way. Besides, anyone who has

lived awhile in the South's mostly matriarchal society, understands that the woman has considerable power to get what she wants. So, I am not advocating that we return to housebound wives and mothers. A modern marriage can be stronger and have more equality to it and still remain biblical. (see Proverbs, Chapter 31.)

Strong families lead to strong communities. Stable families lead to stable communities. If we want our society to be strong and stable, we need to help our children see the advantages of marriage—both for women and men—and teach them how to decide whom to marry. The marriage relationship is too important to leave to chance. So, it would be wise of us as the Church to constantly bombard our young people with the biblical principles of marriage, so that both the man and woman know what their role ought to be in the relationship. Lessons on child rearing would also help. The Church needs Christian couples who raise their children in the church and in the faith; society needs these strong families to make communities stronger and more stable, and to support our churches, businesses, and institutions; for as the family goes, so goes the Church and society.