

Good News About Marriage

Rick Lanning

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)

“For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence,” says the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 2:16)

Yes, God will still judge the “*adulterer.*” And yes, God does still “*hate divorce.*” But there is actually some good news on the marriage front. A new book is out called “*The Good News About Marriage*” written by Shaunti Feldhahn that debunks the oft quoted statistic that the divorce rate in America is around 50%. After doing extensive research on that ghastly statistic, she discovered that is simply not true. The actual number is between 20 to 25% for all first time marriages! The inflated number was based on projections by researchers back in the 70's when so many states were passing no-fault divorce laws. They “predicted” it would hit 50% and that magic number stuck. In reality, divorce rates have never come close to that high number.

It's true, even 1% is a tragedy that should never happen if only every couple would follow God's prescription (read Ephesians 5:22-33). But if three out of every four (75 to 80%) marriages are truly successful, and oh, by the way, “Christian” marriages are even higher (close to 85-90%), then that truly offers hope for couples who are hesitant about making vows that seemingly were putting them into a “survival” mode from the start of their marriage. Our cultural is so influenced by stats and “news,” treating the media as truth proclaimers. They are not. You CAN have a successful marriage and happy life!

Proverb 13:12 says “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.*” Take hope, and take heart, God's way works!