

Divorce Rates Keep Climbing; How Can I Be Sure My Marriage Will Last?

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Judging from the current divorce rate, modern marriage seems to be pretty much of a gamble. I'm twenty and feel I'm a fair judge of character, but then, so were some of the fellows now getting divorced. How does a man go about staking up a future mate?

Of course as long as we are dealing with weak, changeable human beings like ourselves, Bill, there'll always be an element of chance in falling in love and choosing a partner. However, there are several areas of knowledge that will help you reach a reasonably prudent judgment in selecting a mate.

In the first place, you can look at your partner's family background. Does she come from a stable, happy home? Are the other members of the family fairly successful, balanced and healthy? What ideals and attitudes does her family cherish?

Although we're not wholly determined by our family backgrounds, we are all products of our family to some extent and tend to be influenced by the emotional climate, ideals and attitudes of our homes.

What is your partner's outlook on life? What life goals and aspirations does she have? To what social standards does she conform? Is she honest and fair in dealing with you and others? Basic personality traits aren't greatly altered by marriage. People tend to be the same after marriage as before — only more so because of familiarity and intimacy.

What is your partner's attitude toward religion and the moral values related to chastity, marriage and the family? There are many different kinds of Catholics. Some are such only in name, some fulfill the external forms as long as it isn't too inconvenient, and some are sincere and serious in the practice of their faith. Since marriage partners are supposed to aid each other in leading a good life, if you marry a lukewarm or indifferent Catholic, religion isn't likely to increase your sense of unity.



and traits of character should be studied carefully. Does she tend to be moody, jealous, self-centered, domineering? Are there frequent outbursts of temper, childish pouting, or constant insistence on having one's own way? How does she react to failure, frustration, and ordinary disappointments?

Does she blame others at such times, or does she display some insight and self-knowledge? Is she tolerant of others — of parents, different national or racial groups, the weak or handicapped, and so forth?

Remember that the trip to the altar won't modify her character, and what changes may occur later will be gradual and relatively minor. Since she will obviously be on her good behavior while dating, weaknesses and defects revealed then will become more apparent in the intimacy and familiarity of marriage.

If some trait of hers irritates you on a date, it will surely become even more difficult to bear in marriage.

Do you and your partner share roughly similar interests and backgrounds? It isn't necessary to have the same likes and dislikes in all things, but some community of interests and aspirations is necessary if you hope to spend your lives together happily and successfully. Too great a difference in these areas may easily become a barrier between you in marriage since you will have little basis for conversation or companionship, and you will not be striving for similar goals.

There are some of these points to consider in selecting a mate. Of course, Bill, if you insist on finding a mate that is absolutely perfect, you'll probably remain single. Study your partner to learn both her perfections and imperfections.

If you find yourself saying, "I like her except for this trait," you should start looking for another partner. Either you love her with her little faults and failures — for she has some and they are a part of her — or you don't love her enough to spend your life with her in marriage.

Your partner's dispositions

Court Rules

God Not Excluded By Constitution

Oklahoma City — (RNS) — Separation of Church and State does not mean separation from God, the Oklahoma State Supreme Court ruled here in deciding the legality of a non-denominational chapel on grounds of a state institution.

The decision will allow trustees of the estate of the late W. A. Graham, a Pryor banker, to go ahead with plans to construct a \$125,000 non-denominational chapel at Whitaker State Orphans' Home at Pryor.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Williams of Mayes County had brought action to stop chapel plans, contending it was unconstitutional to erect a religious building with the \$1,700,000 Graham had left to city, county and state government. They cited both Oklahoma and federal constitutional bans against using state money for church matters.

"It is a well-settled principle and philosophy of our govern-

ment that we should preserve separation of Church and State, but that does not mean to compel or require separation from God," decreed the court.

"It is well understood that our is a Christian nation, holding the Almighty God in dutiful reverence. It is so noted in our Declaration of Independence and in the constitution of every state of the union," continued the opinion.

Permitted uses of public money were cited such as payment to chaplains in legislatures and congress, in state prisons and in federal troops. Non-sectarian chapels are maintained by the state at mental hospitals and prisons, the court pointed out.



Hand of Steel

Sister Brian Brennan after a visit to the Rehabilitation Institute at Bellevue Medical Center where she is learning to use her new artificial limb. The spunky Franciscan lost her arm in an accident last February, but she has now learned enough to dress herself, tie shoe laces and carry trays. (RNS Photo)

Medical Morals:

Patient's Privacy, Right To Die

Albany — (RNS) — Doctors and nurses who "gossip" about the condition of their patients were scolded by a Catholic priest conducting an institute here on medico-moral problems.

"Some nurses believe there is no restriction on the exchange of secrets among the staff of a hospital," said the Rev. John J. Lynch, S.J., professor of moral theology at Weston College, Weston, Mass.

About 200 Catholic doctors, nurses and chaplains attended the three-day meeting of the 12th medico-moral problems institute, sponsored by the Catholic Hospital Association of the U.S. and Canada.

Criticizing "extra-moral gossip" among doctors, Father Lynch said that a "clinical discussion of cases should not take place on buses."

FATHER LYNCH also chided hospitals that give newspapers detailed reports of patients' conditions. "If reports are re-

leased without the patient's consent, it is an invasion of privacy," he said. "Details should be released not by the hospital but through some representative of the patient."

On the question of the prolongation of life, he said there is a fine distinction between mercy killing and using extraordinary means to preserve life in hopeless cases.

Father Lynch cited the case of a 50-year-old woman in a terminal coma from incurable cancer.

"She could be kept alive with oxygen, but in little more than a vegetable state," he said. "A patient has a right to die in peace. In such a case we would agree with ordinary, but not extraordinary, means of preserving life."

Must We Live In Cesspools?

By AL ANTCAK

Los Angeles — (NC) — Parents have a right to protect their children from immorality, criminality and pornography. It is their duty and it's high time they spoke up.

Drawn from the rough quarry of 20 years' police experience, this advice came from Salt Lake City Police Chief W. Cleon Skousen, former administrative assistant to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

"We've allowed people to say that their right to produce pornography supersedes the right of parents to have their children protected," Mr. Skousen told a press conference.

He spoke to reporters before addressing 1,400 members of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women in the Beverly Hilton's huge ballroom.

"Those who want to live in cesspools claim this as a right to which the entire community must be subjected," the police chief said. "It's high time for parents to speak up."

The 16-year veteran of the FBI said parents should have a sense of God-given stewardship over their children. Parents should realize, he said, that it is their duty to raise good citizens. This duty, he emphasized, belongs to parents — not to the police, the courts, the schools, the Church, "although they'll all help."

Chief Skousen, father of eight children, was asked his opinion of such influences as immoral movies as a detriment to the work of American parents.

"The degrading of human tastes," said Mr. Skousen, "is always the result of making objectionable patterns of life acceptable."

He said these patterns became "institutionalized by suggestion." Then the pattern ceases to be an exception in the community, and "becomes the thing to do," he said. Police have found this true in connection with certain sex crimes, he declared.

Chief Skousen listed various causes as contributing to a decline in clear thinking and morality.

1. Lack of sound philosophy of life.
2. Irreligion in schools.
3. Psychiatric propaganda not supported by experience or examination, denying free will and destroying the sense of guilt.

"Some psychiatrists say that if we don't remove morals as barriers to normal living we'll all end up in the insane asylum," Chief Skousen said.

A reporter challenged him. "What would you do then, just abolish prison psychiatric services and replace them with stern moralistic lectures?" the reporter asked.

Chief Skousen replied that he is not advocating abolition of psychiatric services but that he does want re-evaluation of unrealistic psychiatric approaches.

"The approach of some psychiatrists cannot be sustained either by experience or by examination of the problem," the police chief said.

He said some criminals given this unrealistic psychiatric help were "reformed" to the extent that they declared they had got rid of their guilty feelings and knew now that they should be more careful in immoral conduct — but did not admit they should halt it.

Chief Skousen said that as a police officer he believed the rehabilitation of a criminal involved three things: recognition of the evil, repentance and resolve never to do it again.

"Our greatest weakness is the lack of a sound philosophy of life," Mr. Skousen said in summarizing.



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