

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

January 21, 2007

Marriage is honorable

by David King

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

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

Despite whatever warts and blemishes may have afflicted it over the millenia, the institution of marriage has endured as the foundation of stable societies. Human experience has demonstrated over and over — sometimes unintentionally — that societies cannot prosper if this core relationship is not honored.

On a personal level, people do not have to be married in order to get rich, be happy, or go to heaven. But being married sure makes the journey a lot easier.

That's why marriage was the first social institution created by God. And that's why countless generations in every society have preserved it in one form or another. The customs and rituals may be different throughout history, but the basic premise has always remained inviolate: marriage and family are the glue that make stable societies possible.

But in recent years, among more progressive thinkers in our culture, that basic premise has come under attack. Marriage is increasingly dismissed as a relic from more tribal times, an outdated mode of living that stifles human freedom, and often creates more problems than it solves. This new view of marriage, of course, paves the way for cohabitation, gay marriage, and a variety of other non-traditional living arrangements.

Last week, the *New York Times* published an article that trumpets the decline of marriage. Leading with the shocking headline, "51% of Women Are Now Living Without Spouse," the article asserted that for the first time in our history, "more American women are living without a husband than with one. . . . In 2005, 51 percent of women said they were living without a spouse, up from 35 percent in 1950 and 49 percent in 2000." The article went on to quote numerous women who were quite happy with their single/divorced/widowed status. The bottom line, according to one professor, is that "there is no going back to a world where we can assume that marriage is the main institution that organizes people's lives."

But before we beat our breasts and wail at this sad development, we should take a closer look at the numbers behind this startling report. According to one reviewer who took the time to study the census data upon which the report was based, the pool of "unmarried women" included millions of teenaged girls between the ages of 15 to 19. The report also included several million women whose husbands work away from home, or serve their country in the military, as well as millions of widows who spent much of their adult lives in married bliss. In other words, the claim that the majority of women live without husbands — ergo, marriage is dead — is bogus, another example of journalistic malpractice.

Despite the efforts of cynics to kill it, marriage is still honorable among all, and will remain so until the end of time.