

Marriages approved by God lead to stability

In my last column, I used the scriptures to show how we can be sure homosexual marriages are not approved by God.

Since God performed the first marriage ceremony and sets the standards for marriage, should we not consider what he says is a proper marriage? Would doing so help reduce the high divorce rate we see today?

The first thing to consider is what the Bible says a single person should look for in a potential marriage partner. The first and most important quality is that the other person also serve God.

In Deuteronomy 7:3, 4, God commanded the Israelites: "You shall not make marriages with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons. For they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly."

God commanded his people not to form marriage alliances with people of the nations who served false gods because those of the nations would turn them away from true worship. Paul gave similar admonition to Christians at 1 Corinthians 7:39, telling them to marry "only in the Lord."



sharon corcoran

• use it or lose it

How does this apply to Christians today? Other Bible commands for Christians are involved. At Hebrews 10:23-25, Paul said Christians must meet together regularly to encourage each other and for worship. At 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul wrote that Christians should "have plenty to do in the work of the Lord;" and 1 Peter 2:21 says that Christ left a "model for you to follow his steps closely."

True Christians wouldn't consider spending one hour a week on religious matters to be following Christ's steps. Jesus' life on earth centered around worship of God, and he spent a great deal of time preaching to people and teaching the scriptures.

Likewise, Christians today should center their lives around the worship of God, rather than having as their chief aim in life making a lot of money, having the nicest home, showing off what they have or to have as much fun as possible. If a Christian marries someone who has

such goals, that person could distract him from serving God.

Other qualities a Christian should look for in a potential mate are found at Galatians 5:22, 23: "On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, self-control."

It only makes sense that if these qualities show evidence of God's spirit being active in a person's life, a Christian would seek a mate who displays them.

No one is going to be perfect, so even Christians won't be able to find someone who is always glowing with such spiritual qualities. But it is unwise to marry someone who rarely, if ever, shows them.

Ephesians 5:33 says, "Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself; on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her husband."

A single woman should look for a man who will love her as himself

and who is someone she can respect; a single man should look for a woman who respects him and whom he loves enough to put her interests ahead of his own.

Obviously, only considering one's own interests and selfishly expecting another person to always do what you want is not the proper way to treat a marriage partner. And such selfishness is usually what's behind the causes of divorce.

Titus 2: 2-8 tells us what kind of persons Christians should aspire to be. And while trying to be such a person himself, a Christian should seek a partner who will be that kind of person, too.

Young women are encouraged to be "sound in mind, chaste, workers at home, good," while young men are encouraged to be "an example of fine works, showing uncorruptness in your teaching, seriousness, wholesome speech."

What do those who are already married need to do to have a marriage that is approved by God?

Hebrews 13:4 says, "Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement,

for God will judge fornicators and adulterers."

Married couples should have taken vows and made the marriage legal, rather than just moving in together, and they should be faithful to each other.

Having an honorable marriage includes respecting God's standards as to having only one marriage mate and making a life-long commitment. Adam and Eve were brought together by God, his authority being the only one at the time that needed to recognize that marriage, and they were a couple, just the two of them.

Likewise today, Christians would have a marriage that is legally recognized by the authorities, which Romans 13:1 says have been put in their relative positions by God. And Christians are to have only one marriage partner, that relationship having permanence, since Malachi 2:16 says, "For I hate divorce, says the LORD the God of Israel."

Following God's counsel for Christian behavior makes both husband and wife better partners, and making a legal commitment and striving to live up to it, rather than

always looking for a way out, is bound to make a marriage happier than one in which both partners are only concerned about satisfying themselves.

Marriage partners who have a genuine love and respect for each other are more likely to work together for the good of the partnership rather than just thinking of themselves. And the stability of having God's view of marriage and divorce is bound to make both partners feel secure.

Such conditions make it easier for marriage partners to trust each other and think of themselves as a pair and not continue living as if they were single people who happen to share a house.

And having common goals with regard to major life decisions and religious matters will keep both partners moving in the same direction, rather than drifting apart or fighting each other for control. Really, God's advice in the Bible is needed for a successful marriage and should be valued both by those considering marriage and those already married.

Jehovah's Witnesses assemble in Hastings

Jehovah's Witnesses from 19 congregations, including Goodland, attended a two-day circuit assembly Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 22 and 23, in Hastings, Neb.

The theme for the assembly was "Rejoice in the Hope; Endure Under Tribulation," based on Romans 12:12.

Two symposiums were part of the program. The first was entitled "Bear Fruit With Endurance," in which several delegates were interviewed on how they were able to bear spiritual fruit.

The second symposium, with the

theme "Run the Race With Endurance," showed how a Christian's life course is like running a race.

The symposium showed that, to be successful to the finish, a runner needs to put off every weight so as not to tire out in the race for everlasting life.

Dan Lucas, presiding overseer for the Goodland Congregation, said there were 940 delegates.

The featured speaker, Richard Allen from the World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses in New York, spoke on "In Whose Name Should the Nations Hope?"

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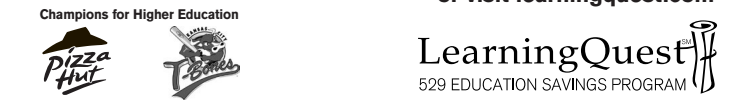
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Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Small Group Ministries
Wednesday: Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Word of Life

Foursquare Church
10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Service Schedule:
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Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.

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Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Glenn Hermanson
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:
Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
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Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Informal Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969
Sr. Warden for emergencies
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder •
Residence: 890-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am
Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

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