

According to reports three out of every five marriages end up in divorce. That's an alarming figure. No one should feel good about that.

The Church must never cease in its effort to stem this flowing tide.

I believe that more individuals must take marriage very seriously. In many instances I believe not sufficient time is taken in deciding about marriage.

I also believe that no couple should be married unless they are properly prepared.

Then there is the issue of marriage of convenience - persons who get married with no intention of staying together as husband and wife.

Laughs & Timely Tips

One night as the moon was shining in the Garden of Eden, Eve was feeling romantic, so she snuggled close to Adam. With her eyes twinkling she asked "Adam, so you really love me?" Adam answered, "Who else?"

Did you hear what happen when Saint Peter told the men in heaven to form two lines? Saint Peter said "I want every man who was head of his house to get in one line and every man who wasn't to get in the other line" the men did as he said.

Saint Peter walked happily down the heads-of-the-house line looking over the masculine gutsy men. Then he came to a frail, little Casper-Milquetoast-type man, obviously henpecked. Disgusted, Saint Peter asked, "What are you doing in this line?" The man answered, "My wife told me to get in it?"

In the non-Christian world marriage is breaking down and disappearing. Society wants to replace it with a new type of living. Every Christian husband and wife need to ignore this new attitude and work on their personnel lives, looking out for each other's happiness.

Marriage doesn't have to be a series of shouting matches or a battleground full of friction and turmoil. Marriage can and should be happy. A happy marriage can be heaven on earth; an unhappy marriage is hell on earth. Romance has to be kept alive through a continual process of courtship.

Remember: kindness begets kindness, thoughtfulness begets thoughtfulness, consideration begets consideration and love begets love.

HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Lenten Teaching

The Sacrament

of

Holy Matrimony



The Sacrament Of Holy Matrimony

The Anglican Church believes that Marriage is the union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind. We believe that Holy Matrimony was created and is blessed by God. We hold that it is established by the free informed and mutual consent of the bride and the groom. We believe that marriage is life long - "FOREVER". The Church teaches that in Holy Matrimony a man and a woman are set apart for each other and together enter into a new relationship. This relationship is hallowed or holy, for it is intended to reflect God's love and to be an expression of his purpose.

Through the celebration and blessing of a marriage the church adds the legal acts as are required by law in our country.

Some persons have opted to go to the office of a Magistrate or a Justice of the Peace to get married. The Church would not condemn persons who take this route: But if possible discourages individuals from taking that route and it reminds them that this is a Sacrament of the Church and therefore since it is sacred it ought to be administered by the Church.

In Mark 10:1-12, Jesus teaches us about marriage. In 10:6 and following He says *"But in the beginning, at the time of creation, God made them male and female as the scripture says. And for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife; and the two will become one. Men must not separate them, what God has joined together."* Jesus was very clear as to what should take place. The union would be life long and the two persons (man and woman) should become one, united in love.

Holy Matrimony is Christian Marriage. The bride and the groom enter into a life long union. They make their vows before God and the Church and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their bows.

The Church's Prayer Book gives three reasons for marriage.

1. For the procreation of children to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord and to the praise of His Holy Name. The word "procreation" means to make or create on behalf of someone else. Children are brought into the world by their parents on behalf of God the Creator. Bringing children into this world is not an end in itself. It is not complete unless both parents understand all other duties associate with bringing children into the world and by training them to live as responsible Christian citizens in whatever vocation they choose.

2. The Church maintains the Bible's teaching that sex outside the marriage union is sinful. In marriage the husband and wife express themselves sexually in a responsible manner. This responsibility extends to their faithfulness to each other and all the children of their union. St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 7:9 *"But if you cannot restrain desires, go head and marry. It is better to marry than to burn with passion."* In the Epistle to the Hebrews 13:4 we read *"Marriage is to be honoured by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery"*.

In the Old Testament God forbids unfaithfulness in the marriage. It is the Seventh Commandment which says *"Thou shall not commit adultery."*

3. "The mutual society that the one ought to have of the other both in prosperity and adversity." Marriage is meant to be a sharing relationship in which husband and wife support each other, work together, plan together, play together and encourage each other in good times and in bad times. It is a giving/receiving/giving relationship. Caring and sharing are the operative or key words.

The Church believes that adequate preparation of heart, mind and spirit are as necessary to enduring happiness in a marriage as is training for any job or career in life. The lack of such preparation may lead to unnecessary tension and difficulty. Set times of marriage preparation and counselling must take place before the marriage by the Priest.

Can A Christian Get Divorce?

Very often the answer to this question depends on the person who is answering it. Christians tend to have differing views on the subject of divorce and remarriage.

In Matthew 19:9 Jesus presents divorce on one ground and that is adultery alone. *"I tell you then, that any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than her unfaithfulness commits adultery if he marries some other woman."*

There has been much debate as to what "unfaithfulness" today really means. Can a person be unfaithful by mental cruelty and battery or "beating up" the other partner? Our Church recognizes that because of sin, error and human frailty many married persons become "unfaithful" to the promises and vows which they made on their Wedding Day.