

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*Love . . .
bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
1Cor 13:7*



August 1, 2015, Vol. 4, Ed. 7 Trust Jesus ▪ Pray Daily ▪ Seek Unity in Christ ▪ Love Goodness ▪ Share Your faith

Is There Hope for Marriage? by Roberta D'Amico

Some things are certainly changing, like the divorce rate which is approximately 50% overall, the definition of marriage, and what makes a family. What hasn't changed is God's Word on the subject, the negative impact on people, especially children and society, and the poverty level of broken homes.

In the 21st century, the fate of marriage and family is in jeopardy, even in Christian circles. For one thing, marriage has become 'temporary.' Worse, the percentage of married people in America is 51%, down from 72% in the 1960's. So less people are getting married. (Huffington Post) The trend today is to ignore marriage and just live together, which is not a good substitute for marriage. Usually, living together does not carry the same commitment, permanence, and oneness that marriage does.

The other major trend is to broaden the definition of marriage to include any combination and number of spouses. "The government would like to become the head of every household," says Pastor C. S. Cooley, Director of the Holy Grounds Coffee House, "and it contributes to the problem by passing bad laws like no-fault divorce, same-sex marriage, and welfare laws which force dads out of the home."

Does all this matter? Yes! Several pastors were interviewed who had very successful marriages and they offered the following wisdom: marriage is important because it is the basic unit of society. First, it is an institution ordained by God for a purpose. A society is only as strong as its marriages. It is also statistically the best environment in which to raise children. Finally, married people are less likely to experience poverty, more likely to have better health, and shown by studies to be happier.

Psychologically, as married people tend to focus on the needs of the other family members, like the



spouse and the children, their characters will increase in maturity.

Spiritually, the personal relationship with God depends on living in agreement with God's order, and not in rebellion against Him.

Although humans have struggled with their selfish nature since Adam and Eve, it is apparent that people have become more and more lovers of their own selves as we see the Return of Christ approaching (2 Tim 3). So, is there any hope for 'traditional marriage?' Many people say that we don't need traditional marriage anymore, it is obsolete. I disagree. As Christians, we support marriage not only because it is best for all, but also because it is God's ordained order of things. When we rebel against God's decree, we bring disaster upon ourselves, personally, and as a nation (read the book of Jeremiah!)

Having said all that, how is it possible to have successful marriages? Pastor Scott Lively, founder of Redemption Gate Mission Society, says, "Marriage is about honoring your commitment. To say that you made a bad choice is no excuse. Marriage will be happier if both spouses are working together, but if not, a marriage can be your life's challenge. Everyone has life challenges, whether they are health issues, handicaps, children with long-term illness,

psychological or mental challenges, a weakness for alcohol or gambling, gender confusion, the list goes on. Many people have overcome challenges, or used them to serve God.”

As a Christian, we must seek God’s help in every situation and the Holy Spirit’s power to turn it to glorify God. Except in the case of infidelity or serious abuse, even if a spouse is not a believer, couples should stay together and work it out. Pastor Rick Donofrio of Faith bible Church says, “Forgiveness is key. In our 42 years of marriage, we forgave much. We don’t hold grudges, and we don’t let it separate us. It’s a daily process, over and over.”

For an example, consider the servants or slaves in the 1st Century who became Christians. They served their masters as slaves for the glory of God. Jesus is our best example. He submitted to His Father for our salvation. As a further example, as the Husband of unfaithful Israel, He loves her and will redeem her.

Love, contrary to common usage today, is not about how you feel – love is *giving* to the other person. It takes a willing heart and the power of God.

When someone is in the grip of a strong attraction, Godly advice is needed. Young people often do not choose wisely, and tend to be self-centered. Parents need to teach their children as they are growing up that they must honor their commitments and that marriage is not about finding someone to satisfy their needs.

In the area of relationships, people are incomplete. No one person possesses all the needed attributes. In God’s design, what one lacks the other supplies. That is why He made men and women different from each other. Therefore, instead of demanding that the other be like them, they ought



to value the contribution the other makes to create a balance between those extremes. A husband and wife need the ‘other

half’ to complete the whole unit, from which comes children, the expression of their love and the propagation of the human race. Together they present the complete image of God to the world.

This is God’s purpose in the marriage relationship. It is the picture of the relationship between Christ and us, the Church. The physical intimacy of a married couple in love is intended to be a foretaste of the sublime love relationship of a Christian with their Lord and Savior. God gave it to us as a way of showing the closeness and joy of His love for us, while we, the Church, the Bride of Christ, wait to be joined to our Lord and Savior in the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Imperfect as we are, Jesus loves and forgives with total self-giving love. And He asks us to do likewise.

Save the Date for Convoy of Hope!

The big day is Saturday, August 15, 2015, 10 a.m., at Riverfront Park. This year Convoy of Hope will be better than ever, expecting to reach an estimated 7,000 guests, requiring much help. Each of the many events will need a team of volunteers: entertainment, children’s games, lunch, shoes, family photos, haircuts, job & career services, medical and dental screenings, community and veteran’s services, 2 bags of groceries, and a committed prayer team, plus set-up and clean-up, to name just some jobs. So volunteer now! The Volunteer Rally will be at Bethany Assembly of God Church on Friday evening, 7 p.m., August 14th. For information call 413-789-2930 ext. 135.

Ongoing Events Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 11 AM & 2 PM
MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 AM
TUES & THURS PRAYER 11 AM
TUESDAY NIGHT Men’s Bible Study 7:30 PM
WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30 & CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:30 PM
SATURDAY LUNCH 2-4 PM WEEKLY
1ST SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4 PM

For more Information call 413-301-0918
www.redemptiongate.org

Saturday Night Activities

Saturday night activities have changed because Bruce is not able to lead it right now.

Matt will be doing a Band Night TBA.

Cathy Marvici is planning on music the 4th Saturday of the month.