

## THE INSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY - INTRODUCTION

God created the “family” relationship when He instituted “marriage” in the beginning of man (Gen. 2, 4). From the beginning, marriage and family have formed an important foundation for all societies. Learning respect for authority and respect for other human beings while living in harmony in local communities start in the home. Children respecting parents as they have these values instilled in them when maturing help sustain societies from one generation to the next. (cf. Prov. 1:8, Eph. 6:1, Rom.14:1-7, I Pet. 2:1)

Today, the “*nuclear family*” is under attack throughout the World. The nuclear family is the household of two parents and children. Transforming how our society views the family is a goal for many in our day.



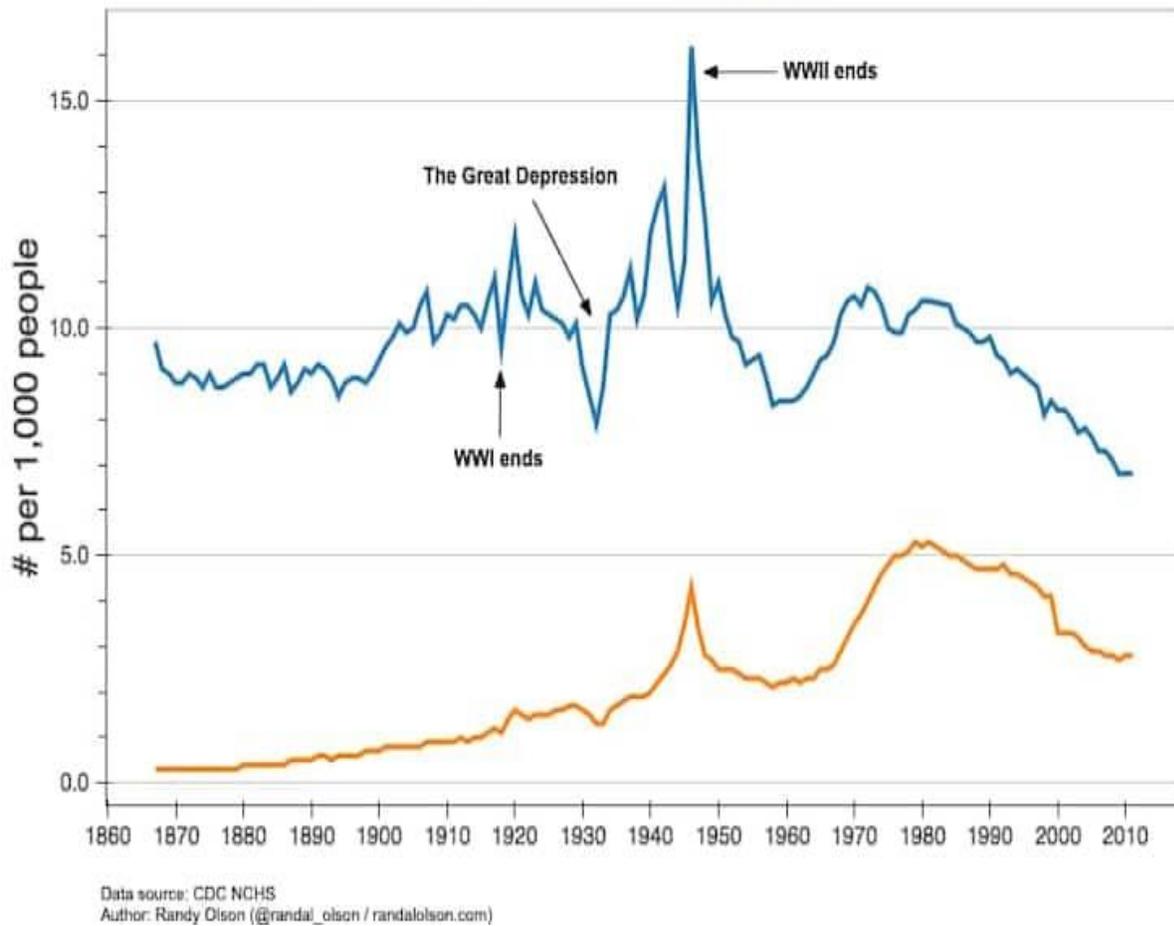
The “Movement of Black Lives Matter (M4BLM) is a collective of over 50 organizations with a variety of goals to “transform” our society. In the beginning, BLM had a 27% approval rate in 2016, but after the George Floyd killing in Minnesota, its approval rating rose to 57%. Black Lives Matter has more goals than just “transforming” the police. They are determined to “transform” the family.

1. Before taking it down from their website they were united to “Disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure.”
2. “Family Friendly... but family extended to more of a “village” responsibility look. *We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.*
3. A Picture is worth “a thousand words” - Young college age student, expanding “gender” rights, etc.

## **SAME SEX MARRIAGE**

1. A New York gay club located in Greenwich Village was raided June 28, 1969. The raid sparked the “gay rights movement.”
  
2. Backlash on homosexuality led to President Bill Clinton to sign the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996. This law prohibited the recognition of same-sex marriages at the federal level.
  
3. Over the next decade, many states banned same-sex marriage,
  - a. Vermont instituted same-sex civil unions in 2000
  - b. Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage in 2003.
  
4. “Cultural Wars” in George W. Bush and Barack Obama Presidencies
  - a. Barack Obama was elected on a platform of liberal change in 2008 - did not fully endorse same-sex marriage at the time of his election.
    - (1). Obama did state his opposition to DOMA and instructed his Justice Department to stop defending it in 2011.
  
5. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled DOMA unconstitutional
  - a. At same time refused to hear the case regarding a California ban – effectively making same sex marriage legal in California.
  
6. June 26, 2015 - same-sex marriage is made legal nationwide with Supreme Court ruling of Obergefell v. Hodges

## 144 years of marriage and divorce in the U.S.



### DIVORCE IN OUR COUNTRY

#### 1. Since the turn of the 21st-century, the divorce rate continues to decline.

Since 2000, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, and Minnesota have stopped reporting divorce rates, but it is still clear that the number of divorces is declining all over the US. By 2010, the rate of divorces dropped to 3.6 for every 1,000 people, and in 2017 the rate reached 2.9 with only 787,251 divorces — the lowest it has been since 1968.

## 2. History of Divorce in our country:

- a. Legislation in many states after Independence from England (1780-1790)
  - (1). Connecticut permitted divorce for: "...fraudulent contract, adultery, desertion for three years, or prolonged absence with a presumption of death."
    - (a). In 1843, the state added two additional grounds for divorce: "habitual drunkenness and intolerable cruelty."
    - (b). in 1849: "Life imprisonment, infamous crime involving a violation of the conjugal duty, any such misconduct as permanently destroys the happiness of the petitioner and defeats the purpose of the marriage relation"
- b. California's first divorce law in 1851 allowed for divorce of grounds of: impotence, adultery, extreme cruelty, desertion or neglect, habitual intemperance, fraud, and conviction for a felony.
- c. First divorce in Texas is considered by some as being granted in 1838: March 24, in Harrisburg (later Harris) County- granted to Susanna Dickinson because her then husband John Williams, who she married on November 27, 1837 beat her and her daughter who would have been 3 years old at the time.

## 3. No-Fault Divorce

- a. First enacted in California, Sept. 5, 1969 –Governor Ronald Reagan signed the Family Law Acts of 1969 into law. Since California, every state has legalized some form of no-fault divorce.
  - (1). The "moral basis" for marriage was wiped away by a stroke of a pen. (cf. Matthew 19:9).
- b. Benefits???
  - (1). Avoids perjury
  - (2). less demeaning to both spouses.
  - (3). Allows children to maintain good relationships with both parents – not thinking one parent has bad character.
- c. Problems???
  - (1). Makes divorce too easy – growing up in a two-parent house has advantages for children.
  - (2). Lowers the standard for living for one spouse – often the wife, putting career on hold to raise children.
  - (3). Not much a resistant spouse can do to stop the unwanted divorce.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Is “Covenant Marriage” the answer? Louisiana (1997), Arkansas and Arizona
  - a. Pre-marital counseling
  - b. Divorce Restrictions
    - (1). Adultery
    - (2). Felony
    - (3). Substance Abuse
    - (4). Physical or Sexual abuse of spouse or child.
    - (5). Living separately for minimum of two years.
  
2. God’s Institution of Marriage:
  - a. One man and one woman for life, with one exception, fornication (Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6, 9; Eph. 5:31)