

Marriage Is

By H.E. Mattinson
 Marriage is... not divorce. Family, friends, persons in all socio-economic levels of society, young newly-weds, persons wed over 40 years are getting divorced. "We never thought they would do it." "We never thought it would happen to us." These are two statements one hears. "It's too easy to get divorced." "It's the E.R.A." "Get the women out of the job market and back into the home." "It's the money." "It's the sex revolution." These are some solutions offered to the problems. But what if we made marriage as hard to get into as to get out of. That is, what if it was required to wait a year before getting married? What if the ministers' fee was \$250. (I hear cheers from the clergy, Boo's from the Lawyers). What if the couple had to stand before a Judge before they got married?

Let's work on the problem of Marriage. When people get married - why do they? What dreams do they have? What equipment for the "Two becoming one" do they have to survive marriage? We are less equipped to enter marriage than any other area of human life. AND IT MATTERS MOST! What happens in marriage can cripple or enhance every aspect of human life and society.

The lack of marriage counseling prior to the wedding, after the wedding, in crisis situations, is appalling. California has made it mandatory to have pre-marriage counseling. Some ministers ask in pre-marriage counseling that if the couple begin to have problems that they come back to them first before seeing a lawyer. New attempts to answer the question "What is marriage?" is being examined. Locally, Marriage Encouragement at First Presbyterian Church, Edenton for three Sundays, May 1, 8, 15 is one of them.

Not "How to stop divorce?" but "How to have Marriage?" is the answer.

Rev. and Mrs. Andrews to Visit

The Rev. and Mrs. Claude Andrews of Tarboro will be guests of the First Presbyterian Church, Edenton this weekend, April 30, May 1st. Claude and his wife Carol are licensed Family Counselors here in North Carolina. Both have Masters Degrees in Counseling. They will be meeting with young married couples Saturday night at 6 P.M. A covered dish supper will be brought by the participants. Sunday morning at 9:45 A.M. the Andrews will continue to meet with the couples. At 11 A.M. Worship, the Andrews will have a dialogue sermon. All young couples and those engaged to be wed are invited to the 11 A.M. Worship. A limited number of couples are invited to the Saturday night meeting. The Theme for the weekend is "Making Good Marriages Better." This is the first weekend of a three part conference at First Presbyterian Church entitled - Marriage Encouragement.

Prayer Breakfast

Beginning this Sunday, May 1, Colonial Baptist Church, Colony Drive, Cape Colony, will host a fellowship and prayer breakfast. The doors will open at 8:30 for a time of prayer, and breakfast will be served at 9:00 A.M.

"There is an ever-increasing dirth of the true bible-based gospel in our land," according to Pastor Yancey, "and true bible-believers need to assemble themselves together and pray for the propagation of that same gospel that was preached in the first century.

Regardless of church affiliation, all are invited to join us the first Sunday of each month. The ladies of the church will prepare the meals.



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