

Lecture#1

# Marriage and Family: The Divine Design

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[www.agapepartners.org/coaching](http://www.agapepartners.org/coaching)

# Outline

- Christian Family and Marriage
- Purpose of Marriage and Family
- Marriage and Family: A Divine Design
- Emerging Family Trends
- Building a Great Marriage and Family
- Marriage and Family Counseling

# Christian Family and Marriage

# Christian Families are Built With...

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Knowledge.

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

*Proverbs 24:3-4*

# Christian Families are Built With...

- **Wisdom** is the ability to see with discernment, to view life as God perceives it
- **Understanding** is the skill to respond with insight
- Knowledge is the rare trait of learning with perception-discovering and growing

# A Healthy Christian Family

- Parents have Christ centered Marriage
- Children are trained by their parents with godly morals and values (parenting)

# Theology of the Family

- A Biblical framework for the family shows how the family institution fits into God's overall plan.
- And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**" (Genesis 12:3).

# What Makes a Family Strong?

## *Survey Findings (Dr. Nick Stinnett)*

- Are committed to the family
- Spend time together
- Have good family communication
- Express appreciation to each other
- Have a spiritual commitment
- And are able to solve problems in a crisis



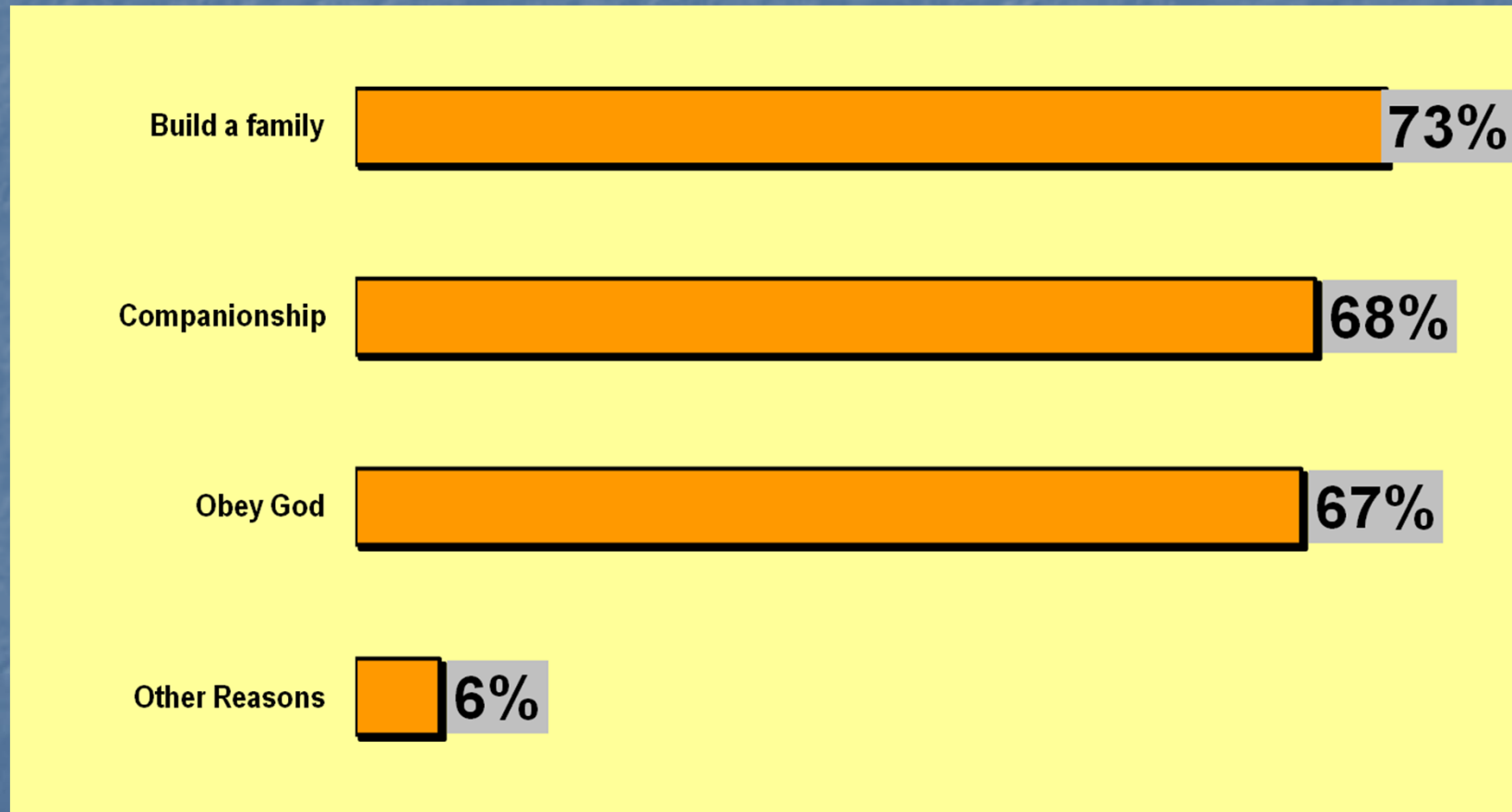
# Purpose of Marriage and Family

# Purpose of marriage and family? *Research Findings*

- Sex
- Companionship
- Love
- To provide a home for children
- Social acceptance
- Economic advantage
- Security

# Why do people marry?

## *API Research Findings*



# What is the purpose of marriage and family?

## *Companionship and commitment*

- It is not good for the man to be alone (Genesis 2:18)
- God's answer to man's need was to create woman
- Marriage was God's answer for humankind's deepest human need

# Marriage and Family: A Divine Design

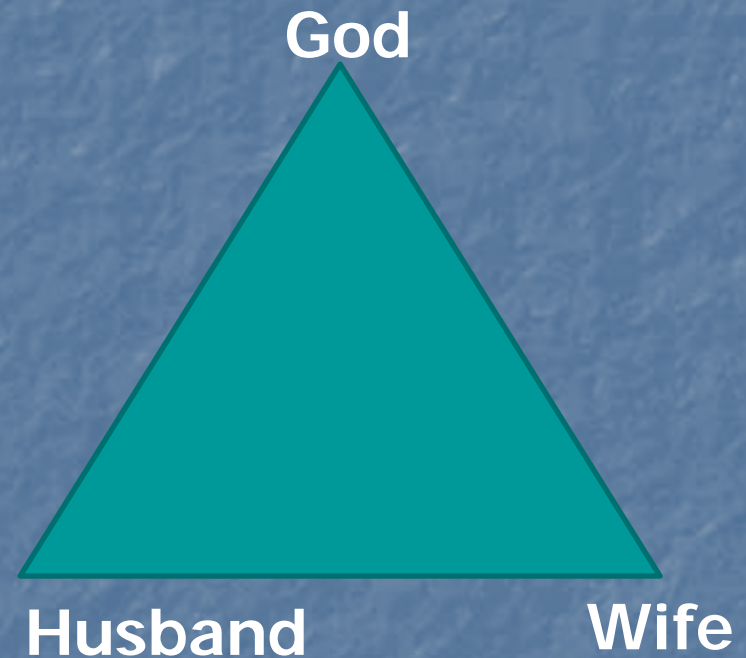
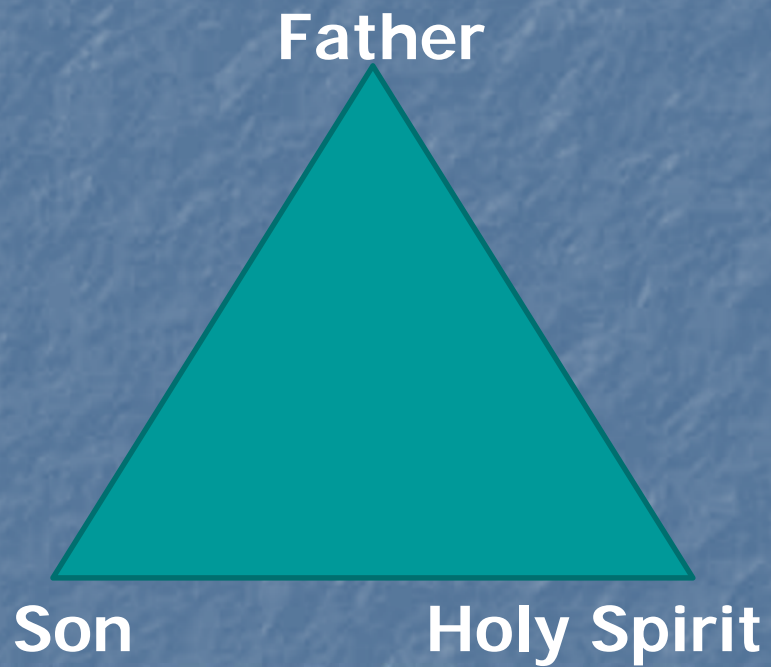
# Where Does Family Begin?

- Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth... (Genesis 1:28)
- That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame (Genesis 2:24-25)

# Marriage is the first institution on earth

- God designed and instituted marriage for:
  - Life giving (Procreation); and
  - Love giving (Companionship)

# Divine Unity in marriage





# Marriage and Family: Biblical Guidelines

1-severance: “leave his father and mother”

2-permanence: “cleave to his wife”

3-unit: “they shall become one flesh”

4-intimacy: “both naked and were not  
ashamed”

# Marriage: Biblical View

- Marriage is a heterosexual covenant between one man and one woman consummated in total union for companionship and procreation often sealed by a public ceremony for a lifelong relationship
- Exclusive, heterosexual, covenant, between one man and one woman, ordained and sealed by God, often preceded by a public leaving of parents, consummated in sexual union.
- Marriage is the total union of husband and wife on the intellectual, social, spiritual, emotional and physical levels

# Finding God in Marriage and Family: Deuteronomy 6:1-13

- Hear the truth continually (v. 4)
- Love the Lord fervently (v.5)
- Teach the Young Diligently (v.7)
- Fear the Lord Greatly (v.10)

# Marriage: Biblical View

- God is so thoroughly involved in marriage that whenever anything different than He has suggested or taught is done, disaster is on its way.
- True freedom is when we live for the purpose God created us.
- A good marriage is when a man and woman fulfill their duties and live 'rightly' under the proper restraints.

# Theology of marriage and Family

- God created marriage as a loyal partnership between one man and one woman.
- Marriage is the firmest foundation for building a family.
- God designed sexual expression to help married couples build intimacy.
- Marriage mirrors God's covenant relationship with His people.

*Gary Thomas*

# God's design For Marriage

- Heterosexual not homosexual
- Monogamous, not polygamous
- God's relation with Israel ( Isa 54:5 ; Hosea 2:14-20 )
- Christ's relation with the church ( Eph 5:21-33 ; 2 Cor 11:2)

# Correlation Between Marriage and God's Covenant

- An initiative of love
- Inviting a response
- Creating a relationship
- A vow of consent
- Obligations of faithfulness
- The promise of blessing to those who are faithful to their covenant obligations; and
- Sacrifice.

*David Atkinson*

# Marriage: Happiness or Holiness?

- *What if God designed marriage to make us holy instead of happy?*



# Emerging Family Trends

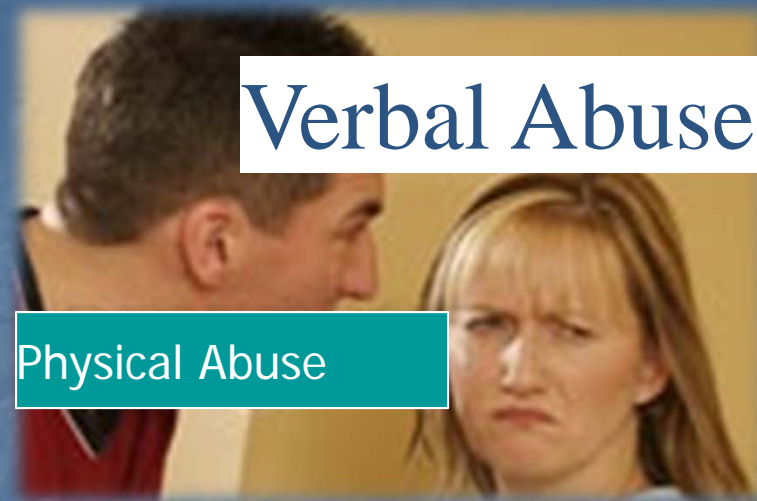
# Emerging Family Trends (1960-2010)



- 1) Decline in Marriage rates: 50 percent
- 2) Increased Divorce rate: 40 to 50%
- 3) Increased 'unmarried' Cohabitation: 10 fold
- 4) Reduction in Size of Family: 4 to 2 children
- 5) Increased Dysfunctional families – 9% to 28%
- 6) Changing attitudes about sex, marriage and family-alternatives to marriage, unwed childbearing (35%), abortion, homosexuality, extramarital relationship, and virtual pleasure – All on an upswing



Broken Marriages



Verbal Abuse

Physical Abuse



Easy Divorce



Repelling Poles



Marriage Redefined





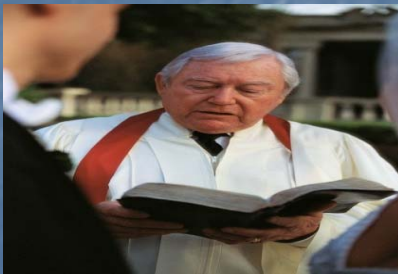
# Three Types of Marriages



Traditional View



Modern View



Biblical View

# Road to Disaster!!

- Broken promises
- Extramarital affairs
- Unfulfilled fantasies
- Dissatisfaction
- Anxiety, depression
- Unresolved conflicts
- Verbal & physical abuse
- Child Abuse
- Lack of trust / Paranoia



**Often Resulting in**

- **Separation**
- **Divorce**

# Preferred Method of Finding Partner



35% Chosen by self – 'Love' Marriage



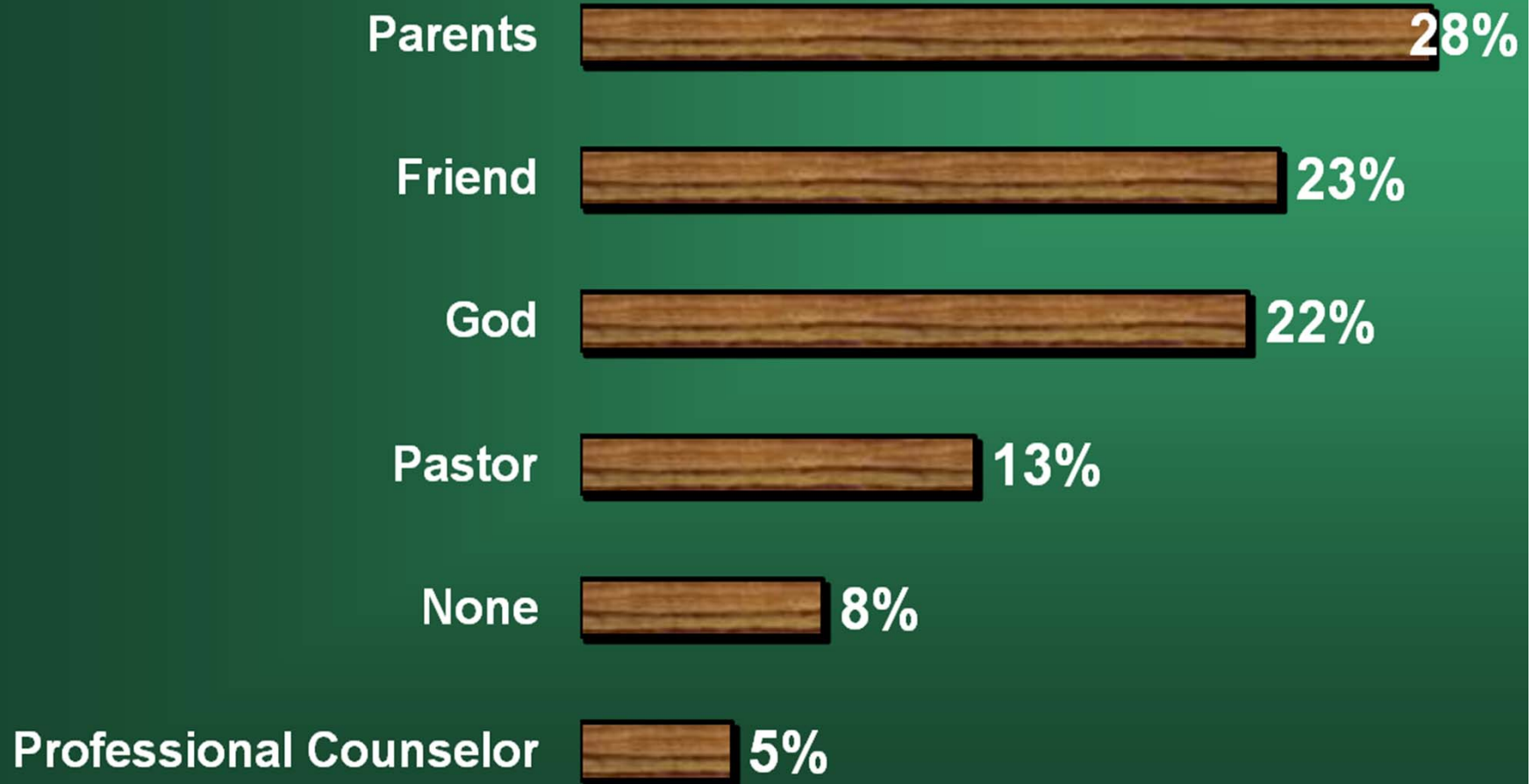
34% Arranged by parents – 'Arranged' Marriage



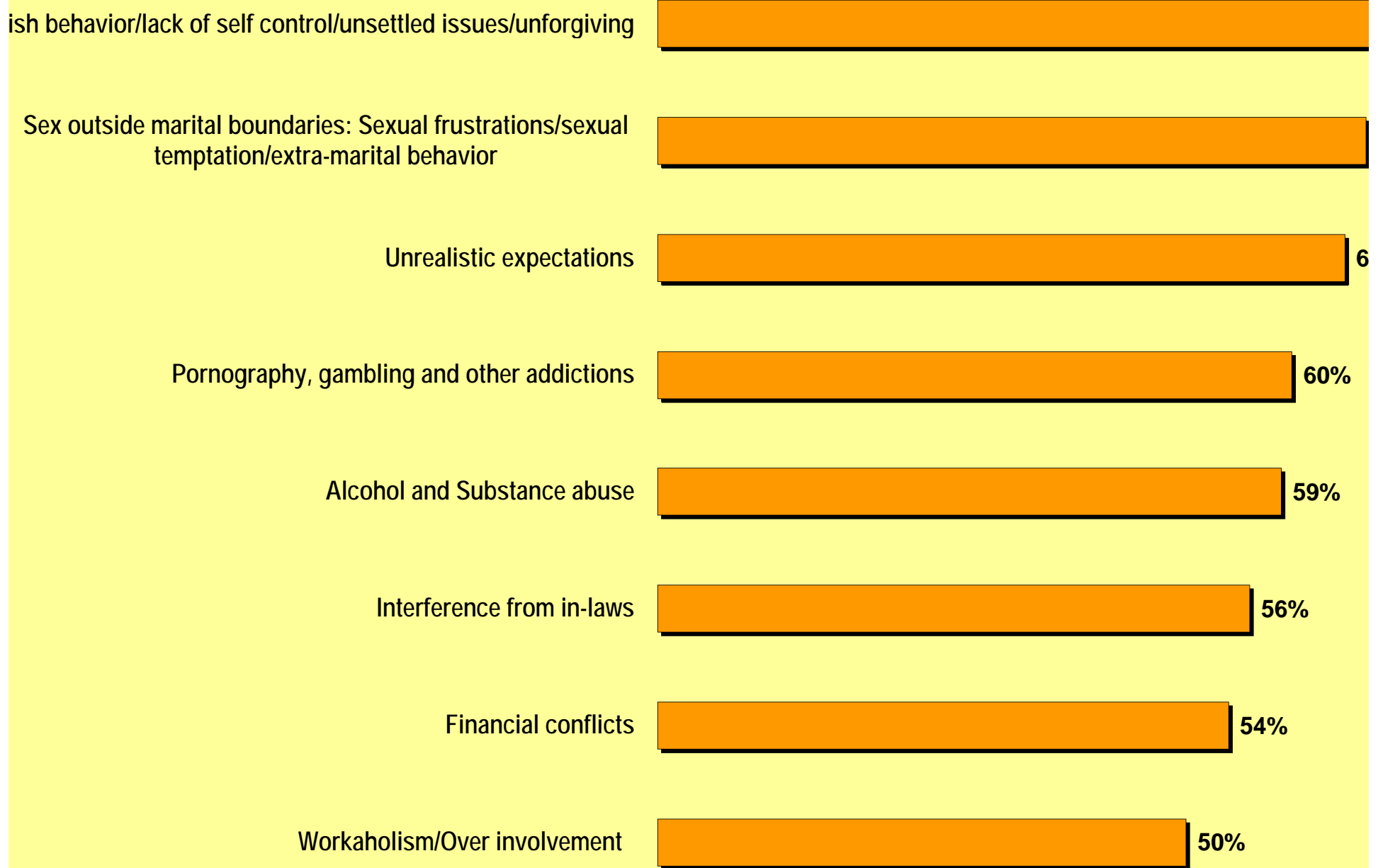
24% Self, parents, friends, God – 'Assisted' Marriage

7% Other

# If you have a problem in your marriage, whom would you approach first?

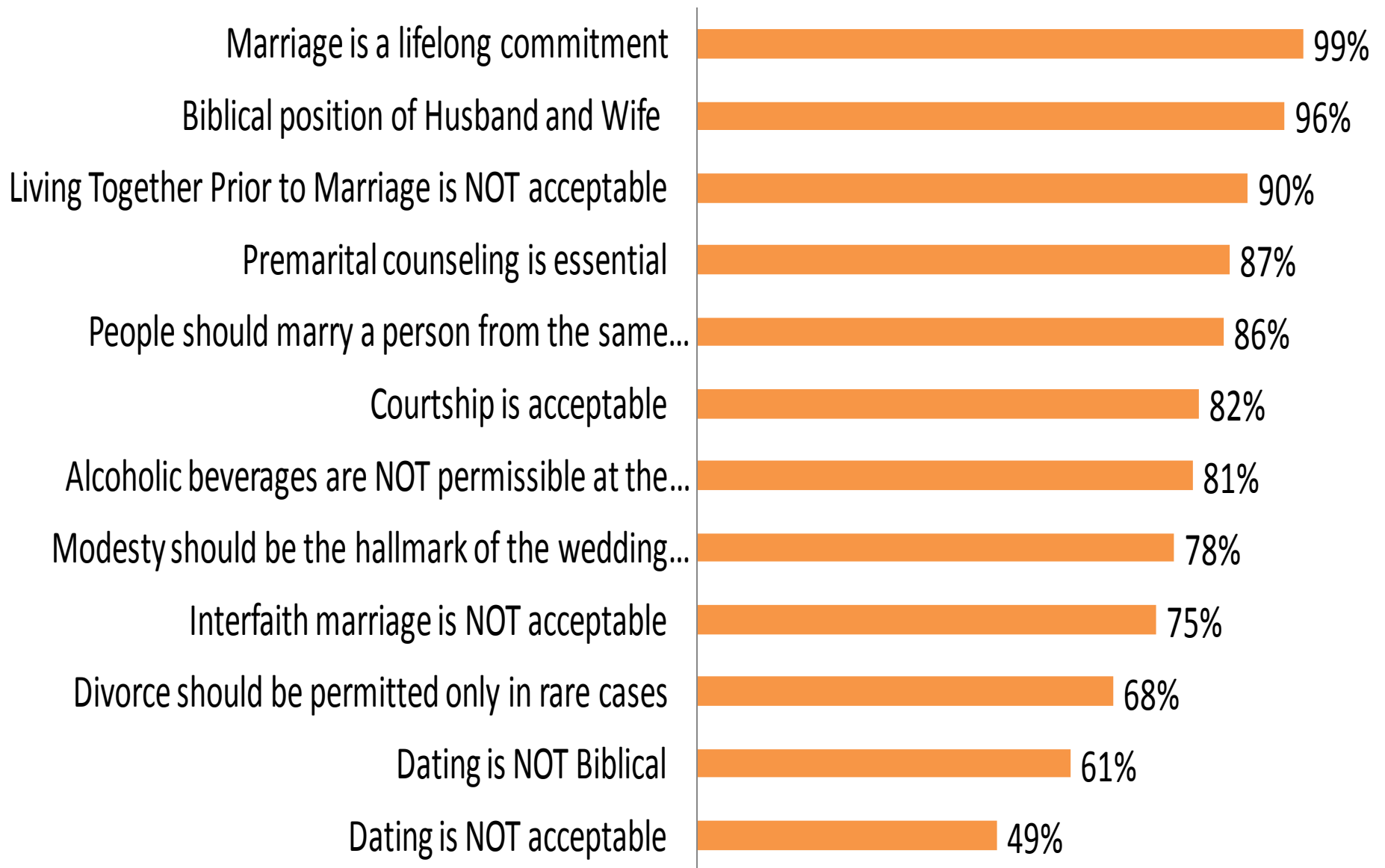


## Factors Causing Marital Instability





## Attitude to Courtship, Dating, Cohabitation, Marriage and Divorce



# Building a Great Marriage and Family

# Principle#1: Families Need a Solid Foundation



*Families need a solid foundation to build a successful life (Matthew 7:24-29)*

# Principle#1: Families Need a Solid Foundation

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his **house** on the **rock**.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its **foundation** on the **rock**.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does **NOT** put them into **practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand

27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

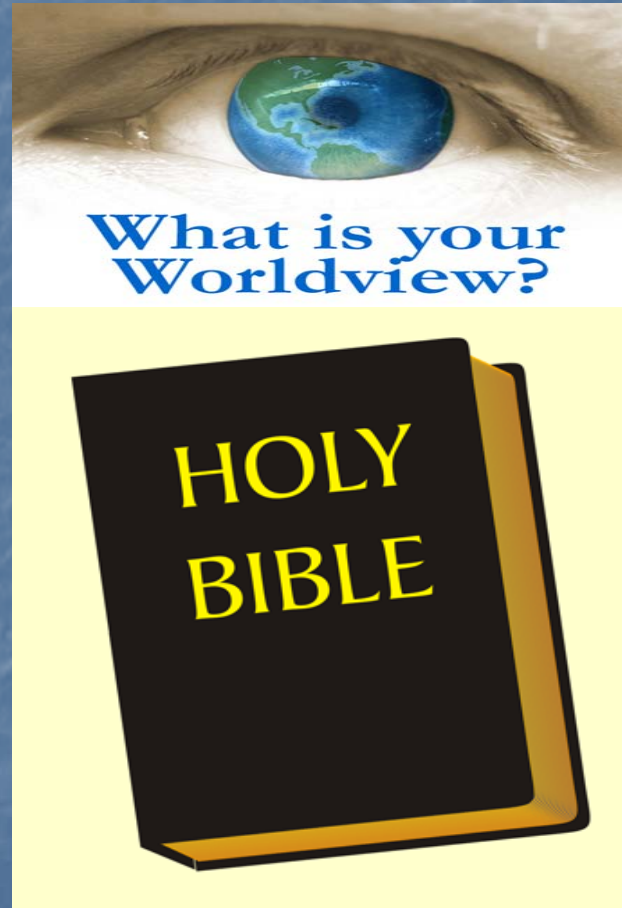


*(Matthew 7:24-29)*

## Principle#2: Families Need a Clear Direction



# Principle#3: Families Need a Biblical Worldview



# Principle#4: Families Need a Holy spirit anointing



# Principle#5: Families Need a Compelling Vision





# Principle#5: Families Need a Powerful Message



# Principle#7: Families Need an Effective Communication



# Principle#8: Families Need an Unconditional Love



# Principle#9: Families Need an Influential Leadership



# Building a Great Marriage and Family

1. Families Need a Solid foundation
2. Families Need a Clear direction
3. Families Need a Biblical World View
4. Families Need a Holy Spirit Anointing
5. Families Need a Compelling Vision
6. Families Need a Powerful message
7. Families Need an Effective Communication
8. Families Need a Unconditional Love
9. Families Need an Influential Leadership

# Marriage and Family Counseling

# Marriage Counseling Goal

- The goal of marriage counseling is help couples to find harmony in their relationship with each other and with God.

# Marriage and Family Counseling Objectives

- Explore strength and growth areas
- Strengthen communication skills
- Identify and manage major stressors
- Resolve conflicts
- Develop a more balanced relationship
- Explore family of origin issues
- Discuss financial planning and budgeting
- Establish personal, couple and family goals
- Understand and appreciate personality differences

David Olson & Jeffery Garrett (2006)



# Areas of Family and Marriage Counseling

- Abuse
- Commitment
- Personal Stress Profile
- Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Partner Style & Habits
- Financial Management
- Leisure Activities
- Sexual Relationship

# Summary

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- **Q&A**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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