

WHAT *does it mean*
to FOLLOW JESUS?

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

THE KING *DEFINES* MARRIAGE

Marriage is God's uniting
of one man and one woman
who commit themselves to each other
publicly, exclusively, and for life.

— MATTHEW 19:4–5

THE KING *LEGISLATES* MARRIAGE

Divorce is permitted (not required or
recommended) in cases of immorality.

— MATTHEW 19:7–9

This legal change is part “of the long unraveling of the components that all used to be tied up in the one package of marriage: sex, having children, living together.”

Bella DePaulo in *The New Yorker*

COMING APART

Between 1960 – 2010 the “bottom 30%” of whites in America has seen:

1. marriages drop by almost half
2. “never marrieds” double
3. those divorced multiply seven times
4. non-married births rise from 2% to over 25% of all births

If Jesus is your king,
HE MUST BE
KING *of*
YOUR LOVE LIFE.

HOW CHRISTIANS PURSUE MARRIAGE

1. Until you get married, view your singleness with contentment and privilege.

— *How can I serve Jesus as a single better than if I were married?*

— *How could I personally serve Jesus more effectively if I were married?*

HOW CHRISTIANS PURSUE MARRIAGE

1. Until you get married, view your singleness with contentment and privilege.
2. If you pursue marriage, only marry another follower of Jesus.

— Continually pray to God for the five or ten qualities you would most value in a spouse.

HOW CHRISTIANS PURSUE MARRIAGE

1. Until you get married, view your singleness with contentment and privilege.
2. If you pursue marriage, only marry another follower of Jesus.
3. While you pursue marriage, commit to living by Jesus' sexual ethic.

WISDOM IN DATING

1. Develop strong guy-girl friendships as a teen.
2. Use zero flirtation.
3. Hang out in groups rather than one-on-one.
4. Before dating, treat friends equally.
5. When you begin dating, verbalize your intentions.
6. **Make determining God's will the goal of dating.**
7. **Don't date till you're 2-3 years from independence.**
8. Have a short, clearly defined engagement.
9. Save your first kiss for your wedding day.

If there's one person in the world
you can trust to rule your romance—
to be Lord of your love life,
it's this king who made you
and loves you.