

Marriage and Good Family Relationships*

“Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.” Proverbs 23:23-35

Social science research indicates that marriage fosters positive attitudes in parents toward their children:

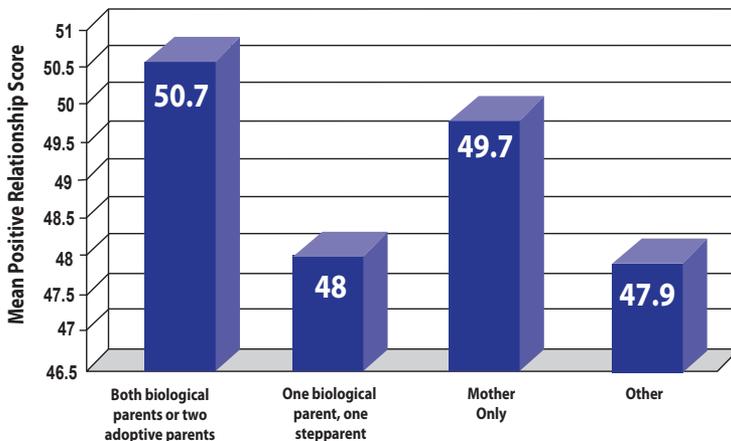
- Married adults are more likely to value having their own children than adults who are remarried, divorced, separated, or single.
- Married parents are more encouraging and involved with their child’s education than other parents are.
- Married adults are more likely to have a supportive relationship with their parents, than are cohabiting adults.
- Daughters of divorced parents are more likely to plan on not having children.

Raising children is the most difficult but most important task facing parents. Doing so is much easier in marriage, which is God’s design for having and raising children. What steps are you taking so that your children will live out their lives in an intact marriage?

The chart below shows that children of ever-married parents have better relationships with their parents than children of other family structures. Fostering good family relationships is obviously a key goal of parenting – this occurs naturally for children if their parents’ marriages are intact and healthy.

Quality of Parent/Child Relationship by Family Structure: US Children Aged 6-17

Source: National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH), 2003



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit www.marri.us/churchbulletins

*It bears emphasizing that these patterns hold for the groups involved, not for all the individuals who make up each group. There is naturally a wide variation among individuals.



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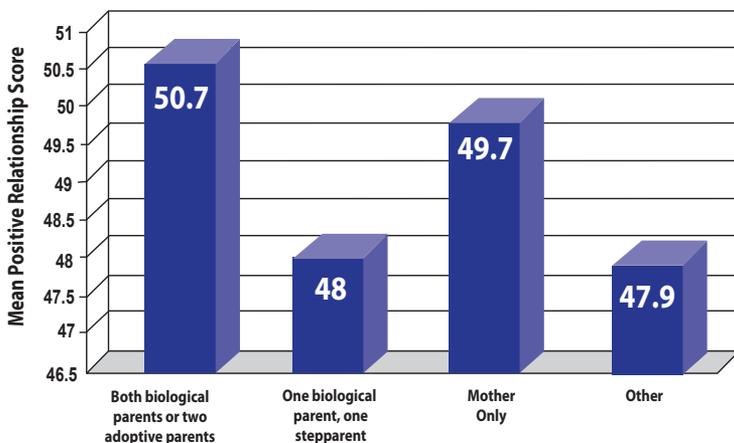
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