

## Religion is Beneficial for Family Relationships\*

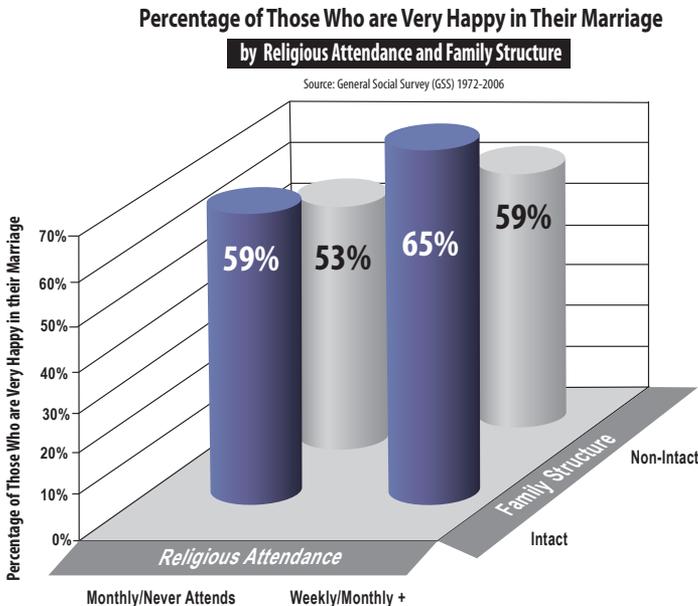
*“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15*

**The family that prays together stays together. Social science research shows the benefits that come when families share religious beliefs and practice:**

- Adults who attend church weekly are more likely to be happily married, less likely to divorce, and more likely to plan on having children.
- Shared religious beliefs increase family cohesiveness.
- Families that share religious beliefs and practices are more likely to have more frequent and more positive interactions.
- Religious beliefs bind married couples to each other, and bind parents to children.

**Raising children is hard work, but God provides huge resources for parents—worship, liturgy, prayer, the Bible, and church community. Could you tap into these resources more than you already do?**

The following chart shows that those couples who worship have a higher percentage of being very happy in their marriages than do those who never worship. Also, those couples from intact families have higher percentages of being very happy in their marriages than do those from non-intact families.



For links to the research behind these statements, please visit [www.marri.us/churchbulletins](http://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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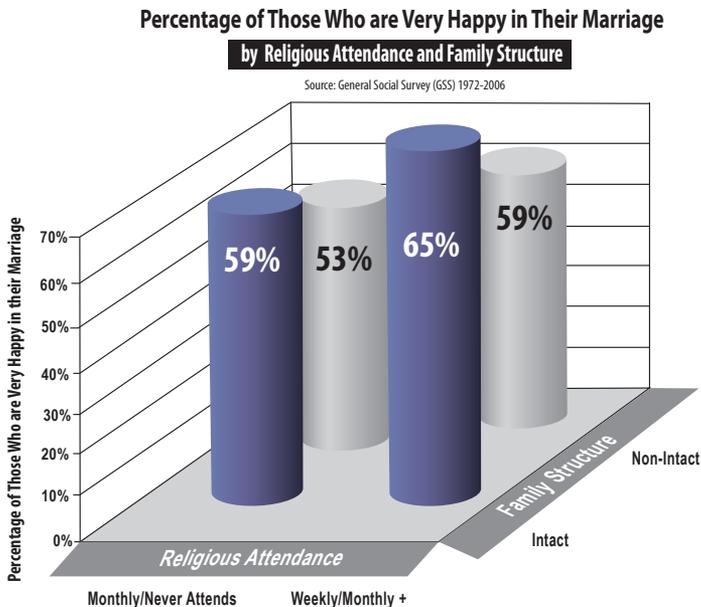
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