

Strength from Marriage*

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

Marriage benefits individuals, families, and society. Social science research shows its many positive effects:

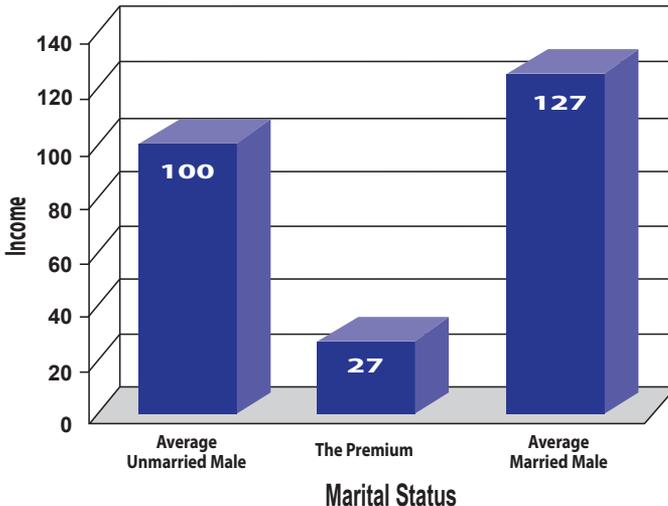
- Married men earn up to 26 percent more than their unmarried counterparts.
- Women in intact marriages have relatively more money to take care of their families' needs than women in any other family structure.
- Marriage protects against feelings of loneliness.
- Married people are happier in their relationships and report less depression than those who cohabit.
- Married people are more likely to report better health, a difference that also holds for the poor.

Given the many benefits of marriage for individuals and communities, how can you support the marriages of your friends? How can you spread the good news about marriage in your circle of friends? How can you get your local schools to teach the benefits of marriage?

The accompanying chart illustrates the wealth benefits of marriage for men. Marriage increases a man's income. Marriage is an institution meant to stabilize and strengthen.

Marriage Premium in Male Income

Source: Antovis, K. & Town, R. Am Econ Review V 94, (2004) pp 317-321



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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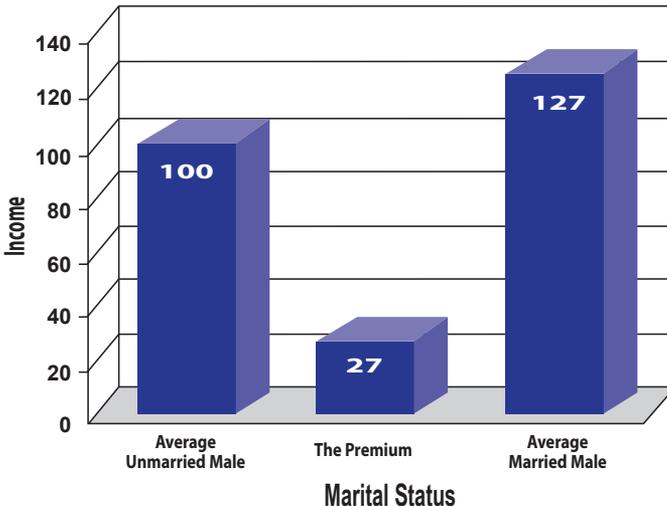
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