

## Marriage vs. Divorce\*

*“For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.” Malachi 2:16*

**The Bible upholds marriage as a gift from God. Social science research demonstrates the benefits of marriage and the tragic effects of divorce.**

### Divorce:

- Divorced individuals experience reduced income and earning capacity.
- Divorced, single mothers are more likely to be stressed than married mothers are.
- Divorce is correlated with a greater risk of abuse and neglect of children.
- The risk of suicide increases among children whose parents divorce.

### Marriage:

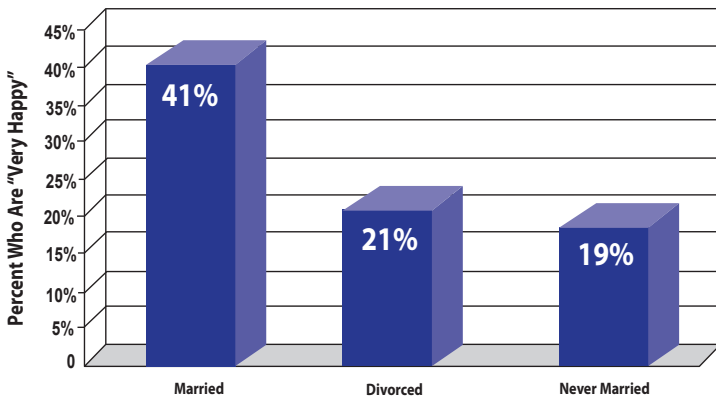
- Always married families are better off financially than divorced families.
- Adults and children in married families suffer less psychological distress than their counterparts in divorced families.
- Married people are more likely than single, separated, or divorced people, to value the importance of being married and having their own children.

**Marriage is God’s design, and its benefits are very real in our lives. What can you do to “divorce-proof” your marriage today? Do you pray together with your spouse?**

The chart below shows that married adults are more than twice as likely to be very happy than are adults from other family structures.

### Percent of People Who Are “Very Happy”

Source: National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey, 1998.



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

\*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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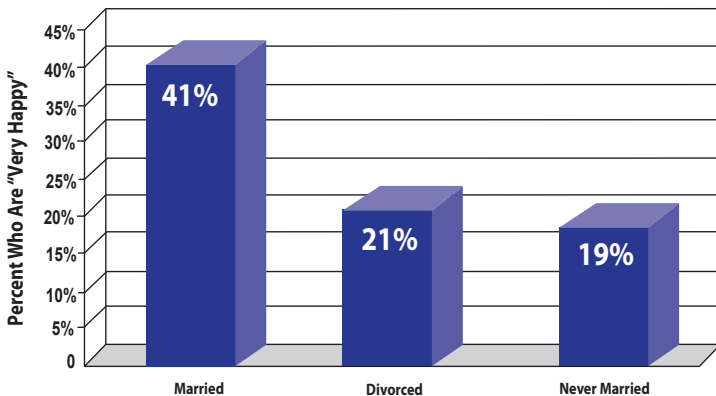
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