

From Our Pastor

October 20, 2018

Warm Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

Nearly fifty years ago, on Nov. 12, 1968, the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled that an Arkansas law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in public schools violates the First Amendment. Within a generation the unproven theory that life came from nothing and means nothing became the orthodox teaching in virtually all of our educational system. What are some of the consequences?

There are too many to list, but perhaps the most heartbreaking was reported this week by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the largest international provider of sexual and reproductive health services. The report stated "Forty percent of all births in the U.S. now occur outside of wedlock, up from 10 percent in 1970. That number is even higher in the European Union." The sexual revolution and the welfare handouts of the 1960's have resulted in an earthquake of societal change.

The report concluded that the very generous welfare benefits for unwed mothers in the EU has resulted in a higher out-of-wedlock birthrate in those countries. "The EU likely sees more births out of wedlock because many member countries have welfare systems that support gender-balanced child care, said Michael Hermann, UNFPA's senior adviser on economics and demography, in an interview. Public health care systems, paid paternal leave, early education programs and tax incentives give unwed parents support beyond what a partner can provide." To summarize: The government programs often provide for a mother more money and benefits than a husband with a job can.

To be fair there are many reasons for the rampant immorality and decay in Western societies. Among them are the lack of Bible teaching in our churches, promotion of every form of immoral behavior by the entertainment industry, and the avalanche of pornography that is so easily available. These influences, along with economic ones, have resulted in the lowest birth rates in recorded history. Western nations are on a slow path to suicide since we are not having enough children to replace ourselves.

The average age an American woman has her first child is now 27, up from 22 in 1970. As the marriage rate has fallen in the U.S.—and those who do tie the knot do so later in life—the number of adults in cohabiting relationships has steadily risen. Half of all couples under age 35 who live together are not married, however the rise in cohabitation is occurring across all age demographics. The traditional progression of Western life "has been reversed," said John Santelli, a professor in population, family health and pediatrics at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. Regardless of marital status, more couples are choosing not to have kids at all. The U.S. fertility rate hit a historic 30-year low last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

God's word teaches us in several places that children are a great blessing, and those that have large families are usually very happy! Perhaps the best known is Psalm 127: "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them."

So many people today are lonely and often depressed because they have no family.

The family unit and moral truth are going to be reestablished! This entire world will soon be replaced by one immersed in God's truth. Lies and false ideas will be a thing of the past. People will understand their Creator and His purpose for them. Lots of babies will be born. Everyone will be blessed, especially the children. We are told, "The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets." (Zechariah 8:5)

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