



## **DIVORCE STATISTICS... BEWARE**

When you hear that one out of two marriages in America end in divorce, be aware of these facts:

1. They are comparing new divorces in a year to how many people got married in a year. This is absurd!

That is like saying there were 50,000 Fords wrecked this year and 100,000 new Fords were made so one half of all Fords are wrecked.

No, the 50,000 wrecked Fords are from 100 years of Ford production. Simply because there may be 100,000 new marriages and 50,000 divorces does not follow that half of all marriages end in divorce. This ignores the 50 plus years of prior marriages included in the statistics.

2. It also ignores the fact that George Barna's poll says two-thirds of everyone who got married never got a divorce.
3. It is also argued that professed Christians divorce just as much as non-Christians. This ignores that more professed Christians get married than unbelievers. So the idea that professed Christians have as high a divorce rate as non-Christians, is not true because 19% more professed believers marry than non-believers.

4. One other thing you must keep in mind. Divorced people may have married three or four times. Think of Elizabeth Taylor and other Hollywood stars. She has had 8 marriages, 7 divorces, and widowed once. You can imagine how people such as she would throw off any comparison in how long marriages last and the statistics of the strength of the American marriage relationship.

Statistics do not lie but statisticians do. Figures do not lie but liars figure.

Learn two things from this:

1. Do not be afraid to marry – most marriages last.
2. Do not let the fact that it seems everyone else is getting a divorce makes your divorce any less sinful.

God hates divorce but He does not hate those who are divorced. His desire is that marriage be one man and one woman for life.

There is forgiveness in Christ for those of us who have failed to succeed at our marriages!