

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **APPLICATION**

- ~~Week 10~~ Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- ~~Week 11~~ Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



Now and Then

Chapter 45



Is The Bible Relevant Today

- Gallup Poll asked
 - “Can religion answer today’s problems?”
 - In 1957, 81% believed it could
 - Now 61% believe that
- Gallup also asked
 - “Who think religion is hopelessly out of date”
 - In 1957, 7% believed it was
 - Now 20% believe that it is



Is There a Difference?

- Gallup found
 - There is “no significant difference” between the churched and the unchurched in their ethics and values on the job
- Do you think there is no application of Gods word today?
 - Cloning, Social Media, Pollution, Transgenderism, ???
- Or do you look for ways to apply Gods word today but can not figure how to do it?



What Does This Mean?

- Is there no hope in finding a connection between Gods word in todays culture?
 - Absolutely not!
 - Gods' truths apply yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- But how do you apply *ancient* truths today?
 - Look at the context of the truth
 - Look in both the past and present



The Issues

- What are issues people deal with in life?
 - Marriage: how to make it work, divorce, kids...
 - Work: Dealing with boss/coworkers, effort to put in,...
 - Raising kids: Discipline, school, friends,...
 - Who/how to vote: Should I vote, for what,...
- First what is the context of the issue
 - Does God talk about the issue at all?
- Let's look at marriage



Mawage

- This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

- What is a Biblical marriage?
 - The context, past
 - Adam and Eve
 - David and his wives
 - Solomon and his wivesss
 - Jesus talking to the Pharisees
 - Paul in Ephesus



What God Says

- What does marriage look like in
 - Ephesus, Ephesians 5:22-33
 - ³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.
- What does this say about marriage in Ephesus?



Then

- What does marriage look like in Ephesus?
 - Wives were for babies and family
 - Prostitutes and mistresses were for “fun”
 - Men need to provide for the family
 - Women just need to care for the home
- This is what Paul was writing about and to
 - Are these our issues?



And Now

- What does marriage look like today, in the US?
 - Hot topic!
 - Why get married?
 - For love or necessity?
 - To have a family?
 - Medical benefits?
 - Tax break?
- These are not the same issues and the Ephesians



Context, Context, Context

- How can we take what God said 2000+ years ago
 - And apply it today?
 - Their issues are not my issues
 - Things are different now
- Just like interpretation, application requires understanding the culture
 - Past and Present



Why Know Our Culture

- Why is it so important to know our culture?
 - This is where our mission field is
 - This is also where we live
- You need to know how God want you to live in the place you are
- So how do I do that?



Study Your Culture

- Easy right? You live in it everyday
 - Caution:
 - You think you know but why?
 - What you experience is not what
 - Your kids experience
 - Your neighbors
- Here are some steps for better knowing your culture



11 Questions to Ask, #1

- **Power**
 - Where are the centers of power?
 - Who is in charge?
 - How do they gain control?
 - Why do they have power and not someone else?
 - Who exerts influence whether or not they are in power?

11 Questions to Ask, #2

- **Communication**

- What are the means of communication?
- How is news and information distributed?
- Who controls the media?
- Why do they control it and not someone else?
- Who has access to the media?



11 Questions to Ask, #3

- **Money and Economics**

- What place does money have in the culture's values? Why?
- How do people earn a living?
- What resources does the society have?
- What are the technological achievements?
- How many people live in poverty?
- What is the disparity between rich and poor?



11 Questions to Ask, #4

- **Ethnicity**

- What peoples make up the culture?
 - What history and values do they bring?
- How is the society organized socially?
- How is status determined?
 - Who is at the top? Who is at the bottom? Why?
- What traditions and values characterize the various subcultures?

11 Questions to Ask, #5

- **Gender**

- What are the roles of men and women?
- How do the genders relate?
- What problems confront either gender? Why?



11 Questions to Ask, #6

- **Generations**

- What value does the culture place on the family?
- How is power passed from generation to generation?
- How are young people educated and socialized?
 - What are they taught? Who does the teaching?
- How does a person become an adult in the culture?
 - How long does adolescence last?



11 Questions to Ask, #7

- **Religion and Worldview**

- What are the dominant religions?
 - What are the trends? Growing? Declining?
 - Why are they growing?
- What outlook do they have as they look at the world and at life?
- What exposure to the gospel has this culture had?
 - What has been its response?

11 Questions to Ask, #8

- **The Arts**

- What kind of art is the culture producing?
- What is the art saying about the people in the culture?
 - About the world?
- What place is given to the artist?



11 Questions to Ask, #9

- **History and Time**

- What legends and myths have been passed down?
 - What stories are told and retold? Why?
 - Who writes the history?
 - What stories have not been told?
- What is the pace of life in the society?
- How do people measure time?



11 Questions to Ask, #10

- **Place**

- Where is the culture situated geographically?
- How mobile is the society in comparison to other societies?
- How long do families live in one place?
- What locations have featured prominently in the culture's history?
- Where are celebrations held?

11 Questions to Ask, #11

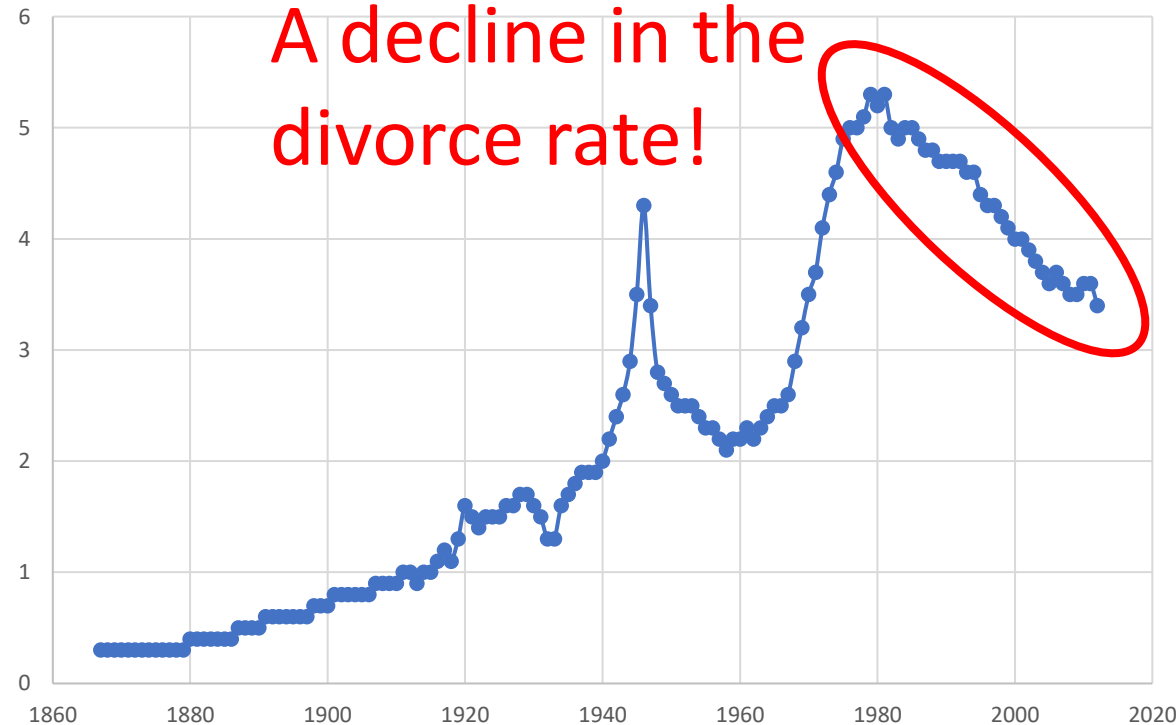
- **Resources**

- What natural resources (e.g., water, oil, natural gas, timber) does the society possess?
- Who has access to and control of those resources?
- What things does the society have to import?
- How much of the society has access to electricity? Phone service? Internet?

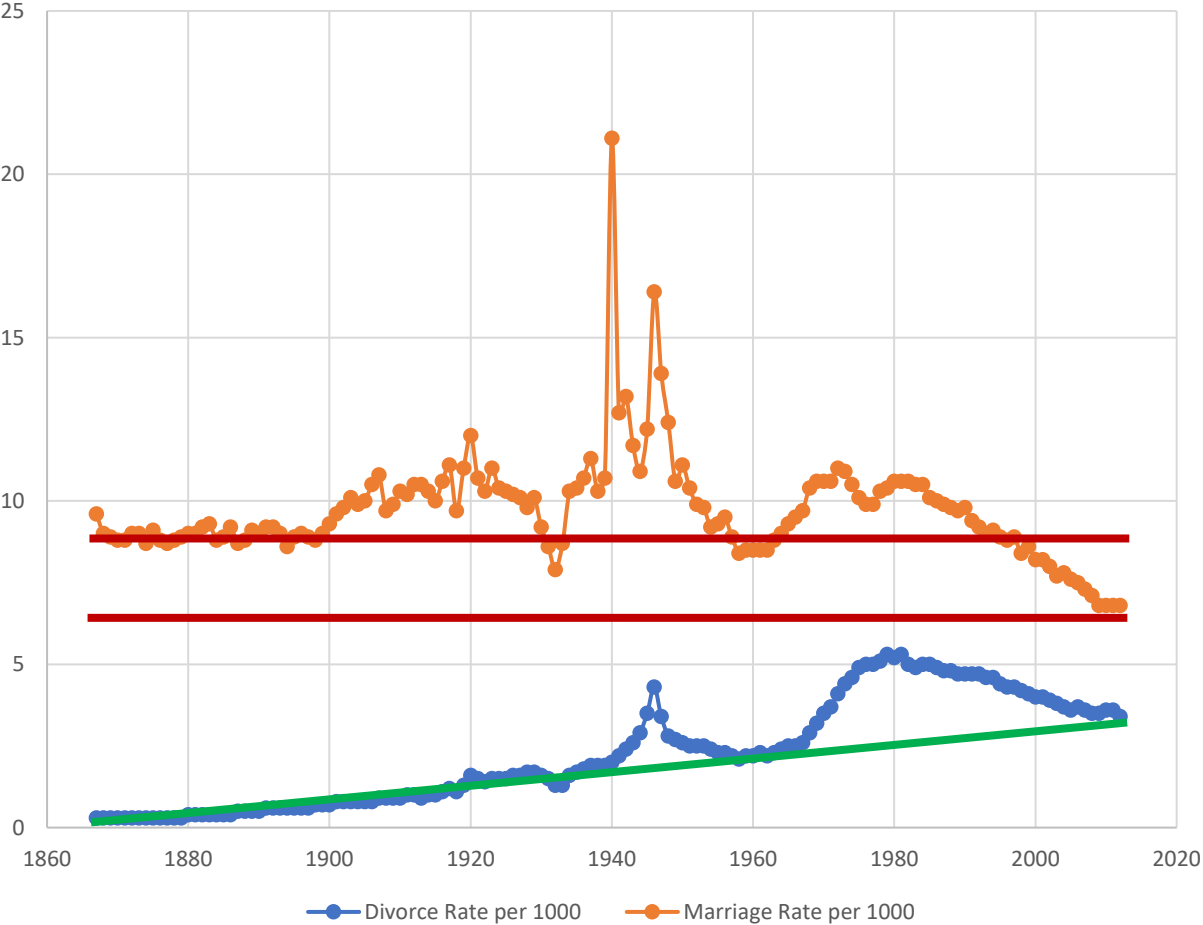
Quick Culture Test

- Is the divorce rate on the rise?
- Does this surprise you?
 - Why do you think divorces are declining?
 - Christian values?
 - People just happier?
- Let's look at the marriage rate

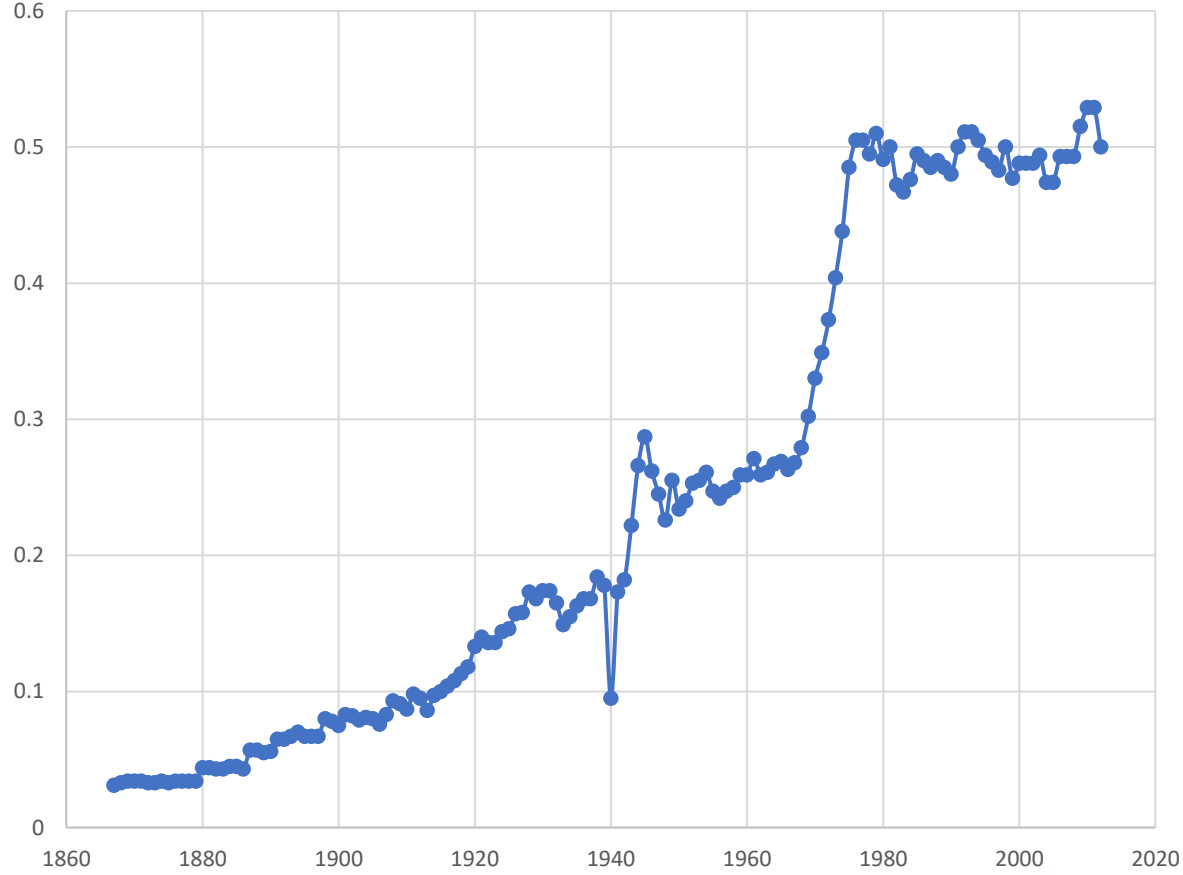
Divorce Rate per 1000



Divorce & Marriage

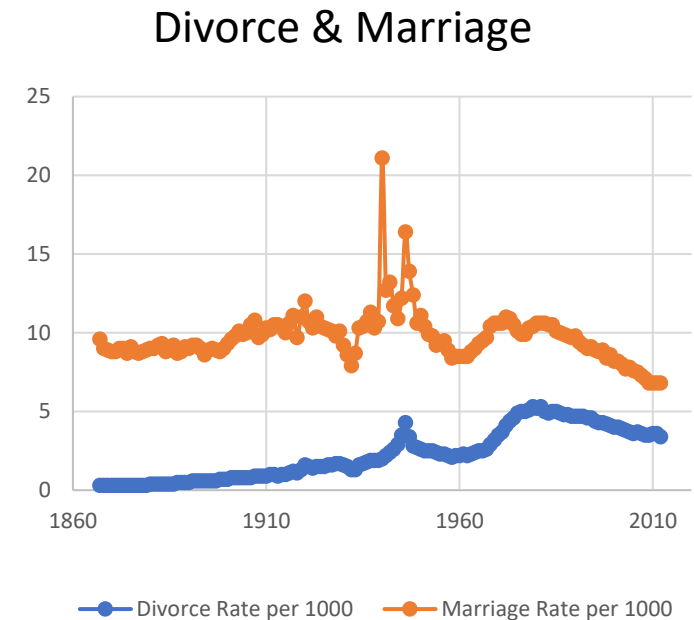


Divorce to Marriage Ratio



What Doe It All Mean?

- Even though the rate of marriage stayed mostly constant
 - Divorce has been on the rise since 1860
- But in 1980 a steady decline in marriage has occurred
 - Why is that?
- Do we have a divorce issue or a marriage issue?
- Or do we have an issue with what love is?



To Be Clear

- I do not know the answer, but it makes me curious
 - Are we as Christians more focused on who should and shouldn't marry
 - When we should be more focused on what true, Godly, love looks like
- God has a plan for marriage
 - It is clear in the Bible what marriage should look like
 - Would the world be a better place if it followed Gods will? Yes. Will it? No.



The Connection

- You gather all the cultural information
- What do I do with it all?
- Let's make that connection
 - Between the Bible and our culture
 - In the next section



The Principle of the Thing

Chapter 46



What About

- What does the Bible have to say about:
 - Genetic engineering, Global warming, Spam
 - Abortion, birth control,
 - Public education, prison reform, universal health
- Would you turn to the Bible to help you solve problems like:
 - Transportation, Housing, Waste disposal?
 - AIDS, Arthritis, or Alzheimer's?



Which Verse

- Which verse tells me if genetic engineering is good? Bad?
 - Should we be cloning animals?
 - The Bible says nothing specifically about cloning
- “The Bible’s primary subject is God and His relationship with humankind.”
 - “It is largely our responsibility to work out the implications of that for everyday life.”



Principles

- A principle is a succinct statement of a universal truth
 - When we talk about principles, we move from the specific to the general
- We as Christian live by our principles
- We get those principles from the Bible
- Example:
 - Respect the authority and power of government



Principles, Example

- Respect the authority and power of government
- “The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion; he who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.” Proverbs 20:2
 - We do not have a king so this verse doesn't apply?
 - The principle does
 - The relationship to the government
 - This principle is reinforced in other Biblical Passages



Guard Against Error

- How can you determine whether your application is accurate?
- What is to guard you from error and extremism as you generalize from the text?
- What is to ensure that you stay practical?
- There are no guarantees
 - But there are four guidelines to consider



Guideline #1

- **Principles should correlate with the general teaching of Scripture**
 - Scripture agrees with scripture
 - Be careful not to build your principle on a single verse
 - There should be several verses that agree with your understanding
 - Respect the authority and power of government
 - Romans 13:1–7 and 1 Peter 2:13–17



Guideline #1, Warning

- We must be very careful when generalizing from Scripture
- It's not that we can't apply the Word broadly
 - But let's apply it sensibly and consistently



Guideline #2

- **Principles should speak to the needs, interests, questions, and problems of real life today**
 - You can easily be current if you are not Biblical
 - You can easily be Biblical if you are not current
 - Being both is the hard part
- What should we look for to answer the
 - Needs, Interests, Questions, and Problems
 - Of real life



Guideline #2, Know Where

- *You should know where*
 - The flashpoints are
 - Wounds are festering
 - Breakdowns have come
 - The pain is great
- Where are the problems?



Guideline #2, Know Who

- *You should know who feels*
 - Alienated from God
 - Doubt about Him
 - Angry at Him
 - Deceived about Him
- How do feel about God?



Guideline #2, God's People

- *You should know where God's people are*
 - Active today
 - Have stepped in to meet needs
 - Have dropped the ball
- What are Christians doing, active in, good and bad



Guideline #3

- **Principles should indicate a course of action**
 - What am I going to do with this truth?
 - When, where, and how am I going to apply it?
- Theories are fun to discuss but where is the action?



Guideline #4

- **Principles should be supported by other godly people**
 - If you are the only one who has a principle maybe you should reexamine it
 - Consult others about their interpretations
 - These other people should be from different
 - Times
 - Cultures
 - Places



Life Comes at You Fast

- What do I do in situations that pop up?
 - A confrontation with a coworker happens
 - Wait, before we argue let me study up on how I should react?
- If we stock up on principles from Scripture, we'll have a powerful set of resources to deal with the situations of life



The Process of Life Changing

Chapter 47



Where Do I Begin

- We have covered A LOT of information!
 - How can I make all the changes we have discussed?
 - Where do I begin?!
 - The answer is...
 - Where do you want to begin?
 - We all are different, in different places
 - Our beginnings will look different



Where To Begin

- But we all need to begin with a plan
 - If you fail to plan you plan to ...
- There are three steps to help you get started
 1. Make a decision to change
 2. Come up with a plan
 3. Follow through



Decide to Change

- Determine what sort of change you need to make
 - What will you look like after, how will you be different
 - Be specific, what will you look like along the path
- Example: I want to be a better Godly parent
 - I will pray every night with my kids
 - I will spend more time with my kids
 - I will eat dinner with my kids every night
 - I will read the Bible weekly, then daily with them



Come Up with a Plan

- This is where you get your calendar
 - When are you going to pray with your kids?
 - Morning? Lunch? Bedtime? All three?
 - Where are you going to pray with your kids???
 - In their bedroom? Livingroom? Dinner table???
 - Where and when will you be most focused?
 - When will your kids be focused?
- Plan, plan, plan! You must have a plan



Follow Through

- Plans are useless unless you execute them
 - You must follow through with your plan
- There are three things to help
 1. Create a check list
 2. Setup a relationship for accountability
 3. Evaluate your progress
 - Adjust the plan here if needed



One Warning

- You are going to fail
 - Not epically
 - But you are going to miss days, maybe weeks
 - Don't quit! We all mess up, get back on YOUR plan
 - You can do it!!!



Three Suggestions to Get Started

Chapter 48



Make It Permanent

- How can you make permanent what you've started to learn from this process?
- Here are three suggestions
 1. Begin a personal Bible Study program
 2. Form a small Bible Study group
 3. Share your results with others



Begin a Personal Bible Study Program

- Four problems to solve to begin your Bible Study
 1. *Determine your objectives*
 - Mine is “Know what you believe and why you believe it”
 2. *Establish your priorities*
 - What price are you willing to pay to achieve your objective?
 3. *Set a schedule*
 - Set a time, and set how long to spend
 4. *Develop discipline*
 - Prayer for more and then just do it



Begin a Personal Bible Study Program

- Now you need to get started
 - Start small, Philippians or James
 - Keep track of your study
 - Don't worry how "good" your study is
 - Did God reveal anything to you?
 - If yes, then you did awesome!



Form a Small Bible Study Group

- A group will help keep us accountable
- A group will also help us with different insights
 - Side note: Do you attend a small group Bible Study?
 - Do you come prepared?
 - Have you read the verses you will be covering?
 - Do you have questions? Comments?
 - If not, why?



Share Your Results With Others

- You can share what you have learned by
 - Teaching: A small group, kids, work Bible Study...
 - Living it out: Does your life show who you follow?
 - This world is tired of hearing about God
 - They want to see Him
 - Take what you have learned and show the world who God is



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Observation: What do I see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Application: How does it work?

