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Second Class
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PRAYER

We will begin with a short review of our first lesson. It was based on two topics:

1. The expressed and observed need for a study group of this kind with URANTIA Book students on the topic of Marriage and Family and based on the Book.
2. Choosing a Mate

Under topic # 1, I presented some facts for discussion: Three major polls^{*} showed the following statistics: Only 40-50% of marriages succeed in the United States. Our neighbor county- Orange County holds the sad record in the country with 7 out of 10 marriages failing in that county. Very recent studies show that there is a slight trend away from those dire figures.

of a country somewhat like ours
Contrast these figures with those/on a Neighboring planet where they require training for a full year for Marriage and Family. This is followed by an examination which they must pass before being permitted to marry and have a family. The divorce rate there is much less than ours. On that planet only one out of ten marriages fail. The authors of The URANTIA Book tell us frankly that they are giving us information to help us upstep life on our planet. Our classes or study groups are the first on this planet and now other students of the Book are begging for ideas and help to start study groups of their own. I fill many requests of this type each day by mailing out materials and letters to help them start study groups and we hope to enlarge this service.

The URANTIA Book states page 909: "Modern civilization is at a standstill in spiritual development and the safeguarding of the home institution." Please note that spiritual development and HOME go hand in hand.

On page 929:2, we are told: In so far as the social group falls short of providing marriage preparation for youths, to that extent must divorce function as a safety valve which prevents still worse situations during the ages of rapid growth of the evolving mores . . . the great inconsistency of modern society is to exalt love and idealize marriage while disapproving of the fullest examination of both."

In many, many other places in The URANTIA Book we are advised-as in the two quotations given above, to provide training and preparation for marriage and family. We are attempting to make a start in doing just that. Though the Book has been out for 26 years, people are just beginning to find its deep value as a guide.

"Transformed individuals will create transformed homes." The upstepping of homes must come through us as individuals. And as individuals who have gained much spiritual insight to utilize in training for Marriage and Family.

* Gallup Poll; Reader's Digest Poll; and Census data.

Reintegrated Families (His, Hers and Theirs)

Thesecond area of our first lesson's study was on Choosing a Mate. We will continue that today using Seven Love Stories from The URANTIA Book as a basis for discussion about Choosing a Mate.

One of the most significant decisions that most of us make is the selection of a marriage partner. Therefore we wish to know something about the history of mate selection and the various methods used to select a marriage partner. The dating selection goes on for about 10 years of the average person's life followed by 40-50 years of living together if the marriage is successful and people live out their life expectancy.

A review of the history of mate selection showed that in many cultures this was done by the parents and family. They believed the couple too young and immature and with too little wisdom to be entrusted with such a serious lifetime decision. This was done by marriage brokers or by very serious advertisements in the newspapers and various other ways.

Now, date selection may take place through family and friends, but in large metropolitan areas where singles are away from home and friends, computer selection through clubs has become increasingly popular. If this is done by a reputable firm the system performs many of the ^{things} formerly used by a good family system. Self-choice has become the general rule for selecting a mate but ~~the~~ intelligent young people are increasingly seeking help through training courses for marriage and family. They are on college campuses, health and church centers and on television. They are well-attended showing the current desire for the betterment of our family life in America. The strong and very needed element missing in most of these courses is the emphasis and training for spiritual life. This is Marriage and family life are strongly emphasized through out the URANTIA Book which can prove a great guide in our study groups on Marriage and Family.

Common traits that people base marriage selection on are: looks, money, intelligence, sense of humor, temperament, religious viewpoint, heritage, sexual compatibility, lifestyle, common background interests and values.

After studying The URANTIA Book in depth, one's values often change and prove to be higher guides which change the order of priorities. For example the traits you now look for in a life partner may be: High capacity ^{for} spiritual growth, common values, and interests in family, ~~sexual~~ compatibility, sense of humor, tolerance, love. Not only a committed love to each other but for one's fellow man *and for God.*

Margaret Meade Dr Meade's study and recommendations for a two-step marriage were discussed:

- Both legally approved in her plan*
1. The first stage called individual marriage would have involved easy divorce, no children and limited economic responsibilities.
 2. The second stage which she labeled parental marriage would be undertaken when the couple wanted children and would be a deeper and lifetime commitment.

The results of this proposal was a surprisingly unanimous "NO" from most walks of life.

Dr Meade stated: "Now that all of the results are in it seems clear to me that neither elders nor young people want to make a change to two forms of marriage. They want to reserve the word "marriage" for a commitment that they feel is permanent and final.

Our next study will continue in a more in-depth ~~st~~exploration of several factors in "Choosing a Mate." One way of doing this will be utilizing the seven love stories in the URANTIA Book as a basis for finding fundamental characteristics of ~~successful~~ successful homes and families. *Also a discussion of the differences between infatuation and love.*

Ellen,

Here are
scattered notes
from Chapter I. You
have other 2 pages
How do you like
change of title for
last or newest chapter
to Reintegrated Families
rather than Blended Families.
Love, Julia