

What Does The Future
Hold?

Joshua 3:4

Ancient Greece

"In Greece there has never been any shame in relationships before marriage or outside marriage. Demosthenes writes as if it was the merest commonplace, as indeed it was: 'We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for the day-to-day needs of the body, but we have wives in order to produce children legitimately and to have a trustworthy guardian of our homes.'"

(Barclay, *Flesh & Spirit*, p. 24)

Roman Empire

Morality during 1st half of the 2nd century

"...an age when shame seems to have vanished from the earth."

(J. J. Chapman, cited in *Flesh & Spirit*, Barclay, p. 24)

Roman Empire

Adultery

"Roman women were married to be divorced & were divorced to be married. Some of them distinguished the years, not by the names of the consuls, but by the names of their husbands." (Seneca, cited in *Flesh & Spirit*, Barclay, p. 24)

Roman Empire

Homosexuality

- Julius Caesar was notoriously the lover of king Nicomedes of Bithynia
- Nero "married" a youth called Sporus & had a marriage procession through the streets of Rome (*Flesh & Spirit*, Barclay, p. 27)

Roman Empire

"There was no strong body of opinion against immorality. To the Graeco-Roman world immorality in sexual matters was not immorality; it was established custom and practice."

(Flesh & Spirit, Barclay, p. 28)

America, 2021

“The latest results are based on Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs poll, conducted May 1-13, 2020. The poll updated several trends on Americans' views about marriage asked previously over the past two decades. The trends are consistent with Americans' evolving views of marriage. **Sixty-six percent** now believe it is morally acceptable to have a baby outside of marriage, an increase from 53% the first year the question was asked in 2001. **Seventy-two percent**, up from 53% in 2001, consider sex between an unmarried man and woman morally acceptable.”

(<https://news.gallup.com/poll/316223/fewer-say-important-parents-married.aspx>)

America, 2021

Belief That It Is Very Important for Couples to Marry if They Plan to Spend the Rest of Their Lives Together

| | 2006 | 2013 | 2020 | Change, 2006-2020 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| % pct. pts. | | | | |
| Men | 56 | 43 | 39 | -17 |
| Women | 53 | 43 | 38 | -15 |
| 18-34 years old | 50 | 34 | 29 | -21 |
| 35-54 years old | 46 | 41 | 40 | -6 |
| 55+ years old | 67 | 54 | 43 | -24 |
| Married | 60 | 49 | 43 | -17 |
| Not married | 45 | 37 | 33 | -12 |
| Children under 18 | 56 | 40 | 43 | -13 |
| No children under 18 | 54 | 45 | 36 | -18 |
| Attend church weekly | 82 | 68 | 67 | -15 |
| Attend church monthly | 62 | 50 | 46 | -16 |
| Seldom/Never attend | 33 | 26 | 22 | -11 |

(<https://news.gallup.com/poll/316223/fewer-say-important-parents-married.aspx>)

“You can’t choose your sexuality, but you can choose Jesus. Now you can choose a Bible, too.” ©2012, QueenJamesBible.com. All rights reserved.



America, 2021

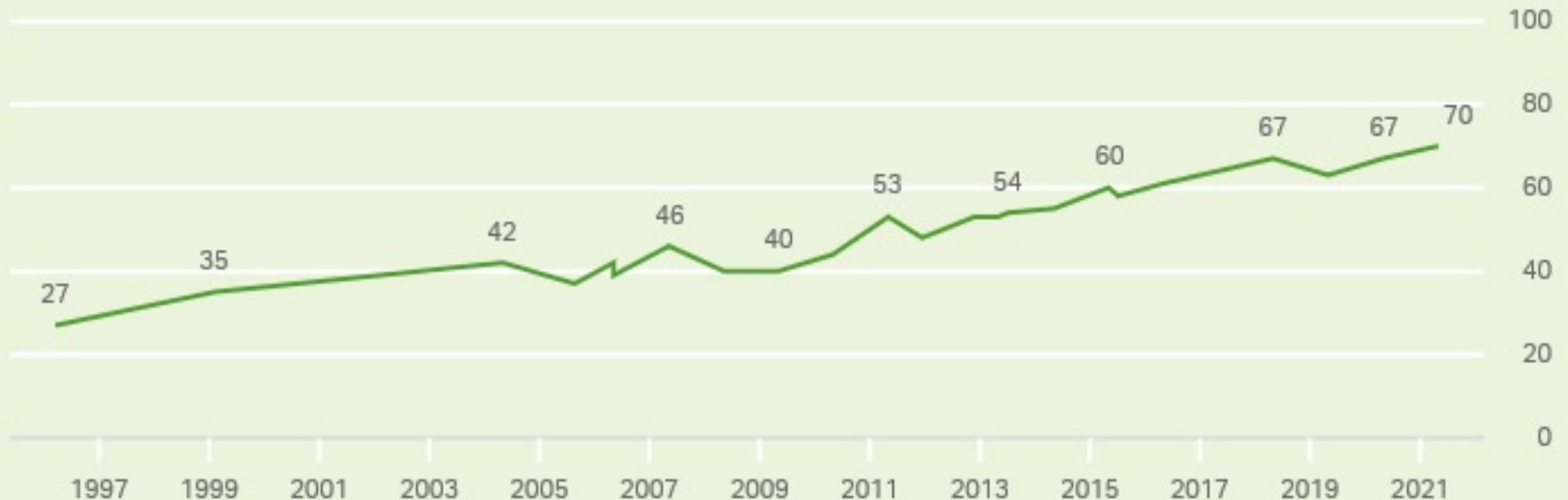
U.S. Support for Same-Sex Marriage, 1996-2021

Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

JUNE 8, 2021

Record-High 70% in U.S. Support Same-Sex Marriage

— % Should be valid

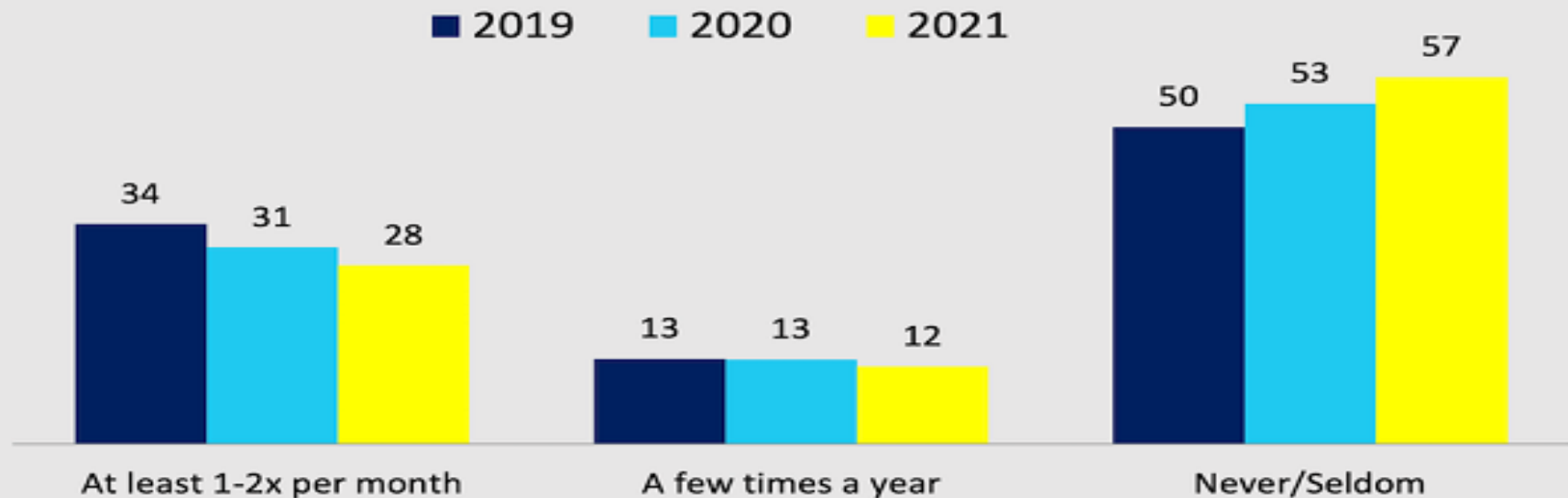


GALLUP

According to data collected in April and May 2020 by Barna Group, one in three practicing Christians dropped out of church completely at the beginning of COVID-19. Moreover, church membership in the US dropped **below 50 percent for the first time in 2020**, according to Gallup data dating back to 1940.

Regular Church Attendance Has Declined During COVID-19

% who attend religious services ...



Notes: Based on adults ages 18+.

Source: BYU/Deseret News, American Family Surveys, 2019-2021.

The Old Man And The New Man

Ephesians 4:17-32

Ecclesiastes 1:10 “Is there a thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been long ago, in the ages which were before us.” ASV

The Old Man

Ephesians 4:17-19

**G
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Condition

**Vanity
Darkened
Alienated**

Cause

**Ignorance
Hardness of heart**

Consequences

**Lasciviousness
Uncleanness
Greediness**

Changes Occur

The World Changes

- Religious conditions change. Ex. 32; Judg. 2:10ff; 1 Sam. 8; 1 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 14:34-35; Mt. 19:9; 2 Tim. 3:14

Things To Remember

The Sinful State Of The World Can Help Christians To Shine. Mt. 5:13ff; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Tim. 4:12

- World often sees hypocrisy. Cf. 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Mt. 23:15, 29-33
 - *Jno. 5:44 “How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?”*
 - *Micah 6:8 “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God.”*

Things To Remember

We Must Teach Our Children How To Live In A Wicked World.

- *1 Jno. 5:19* “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in the evil one.”
- Deut. 4:9-10; 6:6ff; 20ff; Deut. 31:9-13; etc.
- Ex. 12:24; Josh. 4:20ff
- Eph. 6:4

Things To Remember

Christians Must Not Overlook The Importance Of Righteousness In A Wicked World.

- Christians are the salt of the earth. Mt. 5:13;
Prov. 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation; But sin is a reproach to any people"
Cf. Gen. 18:23-33
- Sin is likened to leaven. 1 Cor. 5:6
- Christians can make a difference.
Cf. Tit. 2:11-12

Things To Remember

- **There Is Reason For Optimism.**

Romans 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith.”

NOTE: 2 Timothy 4:2-4

Mark 16:15

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.”

➤ The “unlikely” just may listen and obey

- *Religious/Gentile* - Cornelius (Acts 10)
- *Non-Religious* - Simon (Acts 8:9-13)
- *Worldly* - Corinthians (Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- *Ignorant* - Jews (Acts 2:23; 3:17)
- *Persecutor* - Saul (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; 1 Tim. 1:15)
- *Political* - Jailer (Acts 16:31-33)

Mark 16:15

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.”

➤ Gospel Message - Redemption / Salvation

- *How we are saved? (1 Cor. 15:1-4)*
- *Peter’s sermon – salvation from sin. (Acts 2)*
- *Peter’s sermon to Cornelius. (Acts 10:34-43)*
- *Paul’s sermon in Antioch. (Acts 13:23-38)*
- *Paul’s sermon on Mars Hill – salvation. (Acts 17:22-31)*

What Does The Future Hold?

*“For ye have not passed this way heretofore.”
Josh. 3:4*

Depends On YOU TODAY.

Joshua 24:15

*“And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah,
choose you this day whom ye will serve;
whether the gods which your fathers served that were
beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in
whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we
will serve Jehovah.”*