

# Faith & Works

## Strengthening FAITH

Brought to you by Center for Christian Virtue  
February 2023



### Cohabitation Doesn't Prepare You for Marriage

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*Colson Center for Christian Worldview*

Today's conventional wisdom tells young people to live together before marriage in order to test the waters. But, a new study from Stanford University suggests that's a bad idea.

Brad Wilcox, Director of the National Family Project, called attention to the striking study...on Twitter. Divorce rates among couples that lived together before marriage are steadily higher than those that didn't. After eight years of marriage, those who cohabited with multiple people before getting married were *four times* more likely to get divorced than those who hadn't.

Scholars might call it surprising. But if we consider God's plan for marriage—the lifelong, self-giving union of husband and wife—the study makes perfect sense. Treat marriage like a consumer product, you know, like test driving a car, and we'll eventually find a reason to abandon it.

It turns out that whether or not we think we can tolerate our future spouse's annoying domestic habits is not nearly as important as committing ourselves to them, for life.

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*This commentary was provided by the **Colson Center for Christian Worldview** and published in Faith and Works in partnership with **Center for Christian Virtue**.*

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## Inspiring WORKS

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### 1 Pray

John 10:10 says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” Marriage was the first covenant, or commitment, that God established with man. It’s no wonder it’s under attack! Let’s pray for the widespread restoration of the truth that marriage is a covenant relationship with God more than a mere conjugal relationship between a man and a woman. Also pray against the evil forces in the world that undermine the sacredness of covenant marriage.

### 2 Take Action

If you know of a Christian couple who is dating or contemplating living together, share the Focus on the Family interview, “Dating Tips for Today’s Singles.” If you know of a marriage that is struggling, pray that the couple would look into Christian marriage counseling. Even if one spouse is unavailable to join, there is still benefit for the other to receive support and advice to weather the storm. High quality resources can be found at [FocusOnTheFamily.com/Marriage](https://www.FocusOnTheFamily.com/Marriage).

### 3 Join Us

Save the date for the second annual Ohio March for Life on Friday, October 6! We’ll rally and march around the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus in witness to the sanctity of life. Last year, nearly five thousand Ohioans joined us for the historic statewide event. Stay up to date on the details by registering at [OH.MarchForLife.org](https://www.OH.MarchForLife.org).



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