

A Trend to Change

What a change there has been in the media portrayal of marriage and healthy relationships over the past 50 years. It is no wonder that many couples today struggle with understanding what normal behavior looks like within a relationship. Let's take a quick look at a representative evolution of marriage and family relationships on T.V.

1950's: I Love Lucy ('51), Father Knows Best ('54), and Leave it to Beaver ('57)

1960's: Green Acres ('65) and The Brady Bunch ('69)

1970's: The Waltons ('72), Good Times ('74), and Eight is Enough ('77)

1980's: Family Ties ('80), The Cosby Show ('82), Growing Pains ('85), Married with Children ('86) and Roseanne ('88)

1990's: The Simpsons ('90), Home Improvement ('91), Everybody Loves Raymond ('96), King of the Hill ('97), and Family Guy ('99)

2000's: The Osbournes ('02), Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica ('03), Desperate Housewives ('04), Trading Spouses ('04), Wife Swap ('04), and The War at Home ('05)

While within those years one can easily find a show that bucks the trend, the trend is clearly evident. We are going from a culture that celebrates a family that sticks together and builds each other up to a culture that takes joy in the struggles of others and glorifies a family that trades in their family members, has a lazy and irresponsible husband/father and promotes sarcasm as a normal form of communication. With the emergence of "reality" shows, we are further accepting that relationships based on outrageous moments, infidelity and selfishness are the acceptable relationship norms for our society.

All relationships have their challenges and it is unfortunate that there are so few positive reflections of a healthy relationship for struggling couples today. This is a trend that needs to change! That is why it is so important for couples that have a healthy relationship to find ways to mentor or communicate their values to the next generation of marriages. Please visit our website for available resources on healthy relationships.

Blessings,

Brian and Trudy

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

- Philippians 4:8