

A successful marriage and a happy home are based on unselfish love and commitment between husband and wife. You will never have such a home with the "come and go as you please" arrangement of living together.

AVOID THIS PITFALL:

Do not accept a cheap, sinful "play-marriage" which God will never bless.

Please complete the questions below and send us your answer page and we will send you more exciting stories and lessons. As you do lessons you will receive free books, prizes and awards.



SUMMER LESSON TEENS

Write your answer choice in the box provided for each question.

1. The road to a happy, successful marriage is quite an easy one.
True False
2. Satan is an expert at building "pitfalls." His carefully concealed traps look innocent enough, but they are deadly.
True False
3. Satan has always tried to promote the idea of living for the moment because it causes people to do things they would never do if they considered the future.
True False
4. "If it feels good, do it" is an outdated philosophy no one believes in these days.
True False
5. When something gives you a good feeling that means it is right.
True False
6. Your actions are controlled by your feelings.
True False
7. Living together without being married is a cheap, sinful "play marriage" which God can never bless.
True False

8. Men don't usually like the "living together" arrangement but women always love it.
True False
9. Marriage thrives best when each partner has the freedom to "come and go as they please."
True False
10. A successful marriage is based on unselfish love and commitment between husband and wife.
True False

Name _____ F ____ M ____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ Prov _____ PC _____
 Birthday _____ Age ____ Grade _____
 Parent/Guardian _____
 E-mail: _____
 Camp/Club Attended: _____
 Jonathan's Name: _____

Here's How
 Read the story first and answer the questions.
 Complete the answer sheet and send it back.
 We will then send you your next lesson.

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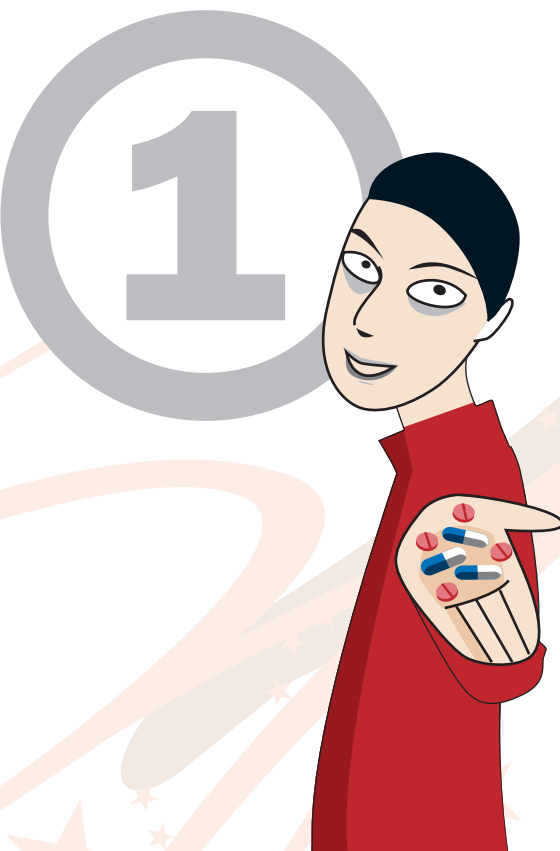
THE THREE PITFALLS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Most young people spend considerable time daydreaming about getting married some day and having a happy home. But the road that leads to a happy, successful marriage has many “pitfalls” along the way.

A “pitfall” is a carefully concealed trap. On the surface, it looks harmless, but when you walk on it, you fall into a deep pit.

Satan is an expert at building “pitfalls.” His carefully concealed traps look innocent enough, but they are deadly. Some of these “pitfalls” can keep you from ever having a beautiful marriage and a happy home.

Let us consider three of them.



PITFALL #1: LIVING FOR THE MOMENT.

The “live for the moment” philosophy is everywhere! We are bombarded with the idea: “You only go through life once, so grab all the pleasure you can!” Satan has always tried to promote the idea of living for the moment because it causes people to do things they would never do if they considered the future. A nineteen-year-old girl with two illegitimate children said, “When you are young, all you think about is the weekend.”

But life is more than a weekend. It is the rest of your life here, and forever in the next world. If you reject Christ and end up in hell, you are not there for the weekend. It is forever!

AVOID THIS PITFALL:

Recognize the seriousness and sacredness of life. What you do now affects both this life and your life hereafter.

PITFALL #2: LIVING FOR GOOD FEELINGS.

The slogan, “If it feels good, do it,” expresses another philosophy which has permeated our society. The whole drug scene is based on the idea: “Get a good feeling now, no matter what happens later.”

Some people who should know better think that almost anything is all right if it gives them a good feeling. There is even a song which promotes this idea with the line: “It can’t be wrong when it feels so right.”

Do not believe this lie! Just because something gives you a good feeling does not mean that it is right. You might get a good feeling out of stealing a new car and riding around in it, but that would not make it right.

AVOID THIS PITFALL:

Do not let your feelings control your actions.



PITFALL #3: LIVING TOGETHER.

Living together without being married has become popular among many people, but it is a sinful lifestyle which God can never bless.

Men usually like the “living together” arrangement, but women say, “Sometimes I get the feeling that I am being used.” They put up with it because they are looking forward to getting married, but their hopes are often disappointed. The men usually reason, “Why should I marry her when I am getting all the benefits of marriage without the responsibilities? Besides, I may want a change some day and it will be much easier this way.”

That is pure selfishness! Even if a woman manages to get such a man to marry her, she will not have much of a marriage.

The false idea that marriage thrives best when it is on a “come and go as you please” basis is expressed by the popular song entitled, “Gentle on My Mind.” In this song, the man says that it was not the “ink-stained signatures on some old marriage certificate” that kept him coming to his lover’s home. It was knowing that he could leave anytime he wanted to. It was his freedom to come and go as he pleased that kept her “gentle on his mind.”

How foolish! And how selfish! He does not say anything about the woman and how she feels watching him come and go “as he pleases.” And the song says nothing about who pays the bills in such a home, nor does it take into account the little children who may be born to such relationship—children who would always be wondering, “Where is Daddy? When is he coming home?”