



THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT MARRIAGE

We are pleased to share some highlights from **THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT MARRIAGE** by Shaunti Feldhahn that will surprise and, hopefully, encourage you about marriage. Shaunti Feldhahn is a Harvard-trained social researcher, popular speaker and best-selling author of *For Women Only* and *For Men Only*.

Here are just a few examples of the truths that Shaunti shares in *"The Good News about Marriage"*.

- Perhaps most surprising, half of all marriages are not ending in divorce. According to the Census Bureau, 72% of those who have ever been married, are still married to their first spouse!
- And the 28% who aren't, includes everyone who was married for many years, until a spouse died. No-one knows what the average first-marriage divorce rate actually is, but based on the rate of widowhood and other factors, we can estimate it is probably closer to 20-25%.
- For all marriages (including second marriages, and so on), it is in the 31-35% range, depending on the study.
- Even among the highest-risk age group -baby boomers – seven in ten are still married to their first spouse. This is good news!
- She reports she and George Barna discovered that regular church attendance lowers the divorce rate anywhere from 25-50%, depending on the study you look at.
- A special run of Brad Wilcox/National Marriage Project survey data for *The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages* book found that among couples where both the husband and the wife agreed that "God is at the center of our marriage," fully 53 percent were at the highest possible level of marital happiness.
- Around 80% of marriages are happy.
- The large majority of remarriages last. Among women in second marriages, 65 percent are still married to their spouse, and of those who aren't, many were widowed rather than divorced.
- More than 99 percent of married people care deeply about their spouse.
- Most marriage problems aren't caused by big-ticket issues, so being in a marriage or fixing a troubled one doesn't have to be as complicated as people think. Little things can often make a big difference.