



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

No matter their current marital status, most people of all social classes, races and ethnic groups aspire to lifelong marriage for themselves and for their children.

### **What about single parents?**

Marriage Works aims to help people achieve their own goal for lifelong marriage, not to impose a lifestyle on them or to cast aspersions on people who are raising children outside of marriage. Our agenda is mainly about the future – creating the capacity for people to form and sustain healthy marriages – and not about criticizing anyone for past decisions. We’ve all got a stake and a role in this positive, preventative social movement focused on what is best for children.

Nearly all foundation and government funding in the past has gone to single-parent families, and will continue to go to them because of poverty and other challenges associated with these families. Marriage Works promotes the kind of family that nearly everyone sees at optimal for raising children.

### **What about the divorced?**

75% of divorced people remarry within four years of their divorce. They are as interested in getting it right as anybody is, perhaps more so since it didn’t work out the first time.

### **What about same-sex marriage?**

Our society is having an important conversation about the legal rights of same-sex couples. This conversation will continue in many forms but it’s not part of our mission. Marriage Works has chosen to focus its limited resources on the greatest need – the 97% or so of the population in heterosexual relations.

- The non-marital birth rate and the divorce rate are social problems primarily in the heterosexual community.
- The relationship education needed to move out of poverty is an issue mainly for low-income heterosexual women.

### **Who will we minister to?**

Marriage Works of Maryland does not discriminate in ministering on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. The focus of our ministry, however, is the marriage model established by God at the beginning as described in [Genesis chapter 2](#).

### **What is the future of marriage?**

Even while researchers are documenting the negative effects of failed marriages, they are finding that Americans have not given up on this vital social institution. In fact, every national poll on marriage shows the continued idealism of American youth and adults about marriage. Nor have urban low-income Americans given up on the institution of marriage, despite stereotypes assigned to them by many in mainstream society.

### **How can I make a difference?**

Most couples see marriage as the best foundation for raising children, a view shared by a majority of Americans of all social groups. While Marriage Works of Maryland can't make a difference in all marriages, when we affect just one, we affect generations to come. We hope you will join with us in sharing your time, talents, and tithe to invest in future generations.