

LIVING IN A WORLD OF DIMINISHING COMMITMENT

how it Effect
our Choices in
Life

THE PARADOX OF CHOICE

- Barry Schwartz's book
- Problem with commitment
- Keeping our options open
- Limitless freedom must be a good option??
- Happiness and having options

It seems that the more options we have, the more afraid we are of choosing. We become enslaved to being noncommittal. We don't want to make a mistake or cut down our options. In fact, we may become so fearful of making a choice, we simply refuse to choose.

■ Barry Schwartz in *The Paradox of Choice*

DIMINISHING COMMITMENTS

- Pornography: Unlimited Choices
- Birth Control: Sex without consequences

SEXUAL ECONOMICS THEORY

- *Mark Regnerus, sociologist from University of Texas, Austin*
- Views about Sex for Man and Woman

And yet despite the fact that women are holding the sexual purse strings, they aren't asking for much in return these days—the market "price" of sex is currently very low. There are several likely reasons for this. One is the spread of pornography: Since high-speed digital porn gives men additional sexual options "more supply for his elevated demand—it takes some measure of price control away from women. The Pill lowered the cost as well. There are also, quite simply, fewer social constraints on sexual relationships than there once were. As a result, the sexual decisions of young women look more like those of men than they once did, at least when women are in their twenties. The price of sex is low, in other words, in part because its costs to women are lower than they used to be.

- *Mark Regnerus, sociologist from UT, Austin*

PROBLEM CONFRONTING SINGLE CHRISTIANS

- The secular separation of sexual & marriage market
- Issues with Christian Singles

Christians—are in the marriage market. But since what they hope for—chastity in a spouse—is becoming increasingly rare, the average Christian is spending more time on the marriage market, and making more sexual compromises along the way, than in previous generations. They may or may not want to wait to marry, but they are waiting. However, it's hard to want one thing (marriage) and find your-self doing another (having sex outside of marriage). So many young adult Christians are making peace with premarital sex—some because they wish to, but many because they feel they have little choice, that to delay sex puts the relationship at risk. That's how male-centered romantic relationships have become.

CHRISTIAN SINGLES

- Lack of Good Modeling
- Passive Men need to learn how to woo the ladies
- Women need to adjust their expectations

"I'm in the "marriage is deinstitutionalizing" category. I'm not pessimistic about people's ability to marry. I'm pessimistic about women's ability to marry with-out making compromises and waiting as long. People get married. It just can be a lot later than they wish, with a boulder-strewn pathway to get there."

DISCIPLESHIP

(Luke 14) 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: *26* "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. *27* And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

- Discipleship is unpredictable
- Discipleship is not self-centered

COMMITMENT NURTURING DISCIPLINES

- Fasting (Food/ drinks/ and others)
- Committing to a relationship, church, service opportunities for 6 months
- Commit to let another person having their way for a day.
- Submit yourselves under the guidance/ supervision of another person for 3 months.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where can you see the mantra “unlimited options = happiness” preached in our society?
- Does unlimited options bring happiness in your life? Why or why not?
- How does birth-control and Pornography changes our society?
- What’s your view on Sexual Economics Theory?
- Concerning the particular problems concerning Christian Singles, which one can you relate to the most?
- Is there any suggested spiritual discipline you would like to commit yourself to?



