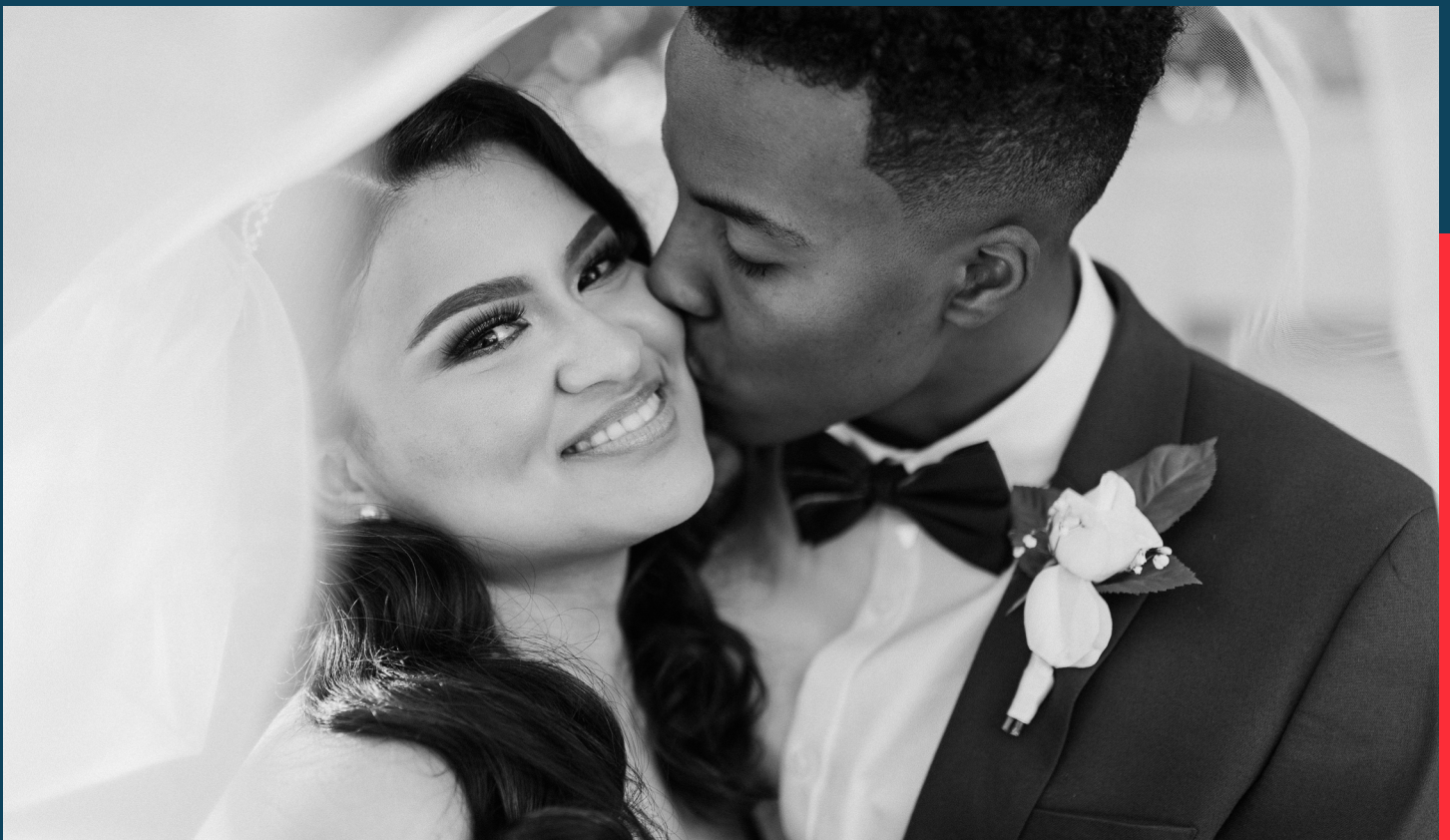


How the Church Can Address
the Marriage and Family Crisis:

10

Key Takeaways from
Communio's Nationwide Study
on Faith & Relationships





Christian decline over the last 40 years in the United States has prompted numerous explanations advanced by experts, pastors, church leaders, and those in the media, most of which are either wrong or, at best, incomplete. The National Study on Faith and Relationships pinpointed data and statistics contributing to this collapse.

This gap in understanding increasingly leads pastors, church leaders, synods, and evangelists to treat the visible symptoms rather than the underlying root causes of why most people no longer attend church.

Here are 10 key takeaways that must be acknowledged in order to preserve families, marriages, and individuals within the church.

1

The collapse of resident fathers through the collapse of marriage is at the heart of the unraveling of Christianity. The growth of the religious nones is unlikely to stabilize until 25-30 years after married fatherhood stops its decline. Renewal requires new strategic action.



Churches must boldly re-establish healthy norms for Cornerstone Marriage while discouraging Capstone Marriage. Delays in marriage, through the novel Capstone path, lead to increases in those who will never marry and ultimately grows the loneliness epidemic.

2

3

Churches **MUST** address the gender gap in the pews between men and women.



More married women in church struggle in their marriage than married men. Married moms in their 30s are more than twice as likely to struggle than married dads. Normalizing skills-based, relationship ministry for all married people is vital.

On average, married people are more satisfied in their relationships and less lonely than anyone else in church. About 4 in 10 cohabiting women struggle in their relationship—nearly double the number of cohabiting men or married women who struggle.

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Loneliness is an epidemic in the church among the unmarried, correlating to severe negative health & wellness outcomes. Nearly 2/3 of the never married in their 30s are considered lonely—a higher percentage than what is found among widows.

7

The need is greater outside of the Church, so, churches have an opportunity and responsibility to evangelize through the felt need of relationship health.

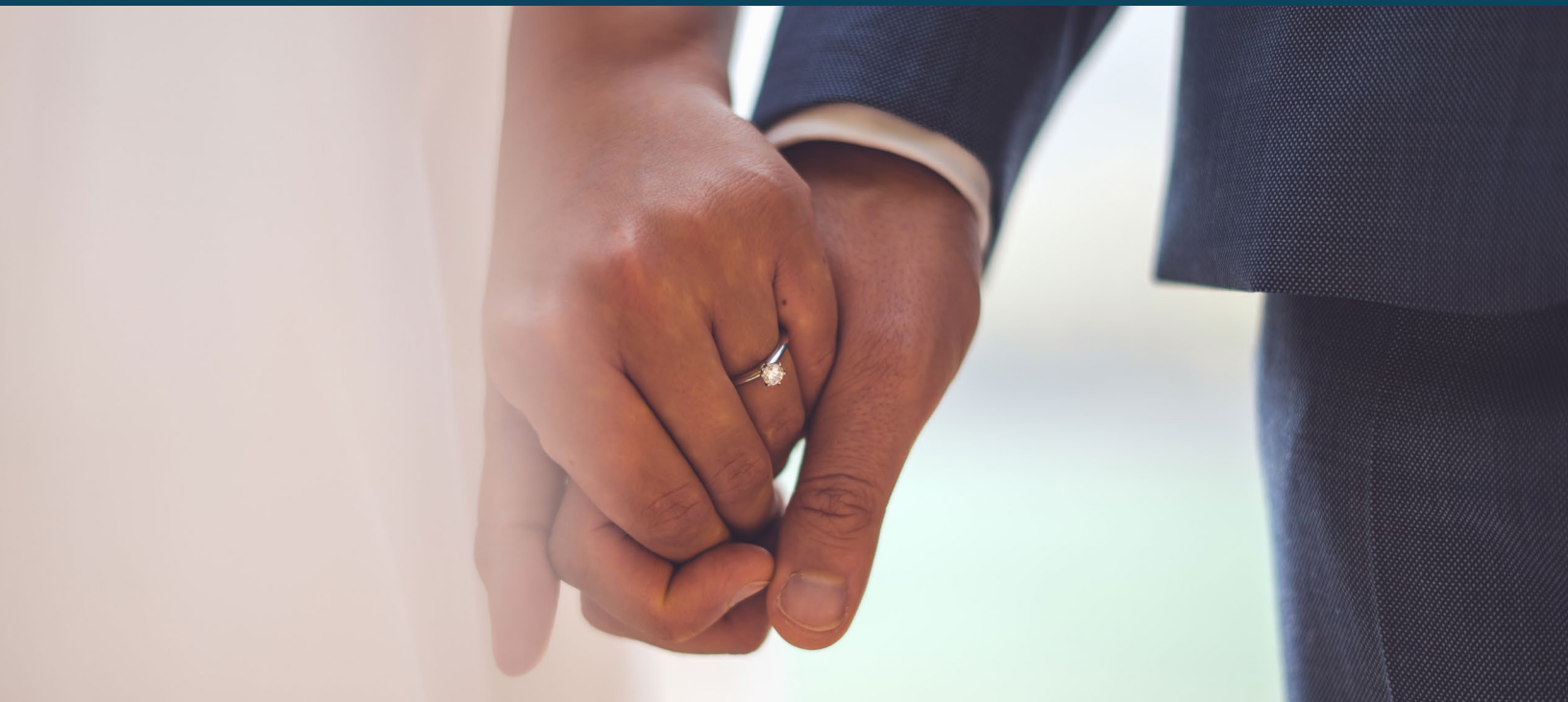


A full-circle approach to relationship ministry benefits both single and married people. Cross-generational fellowship that includes building community between singles and married people is clearly needed.

8

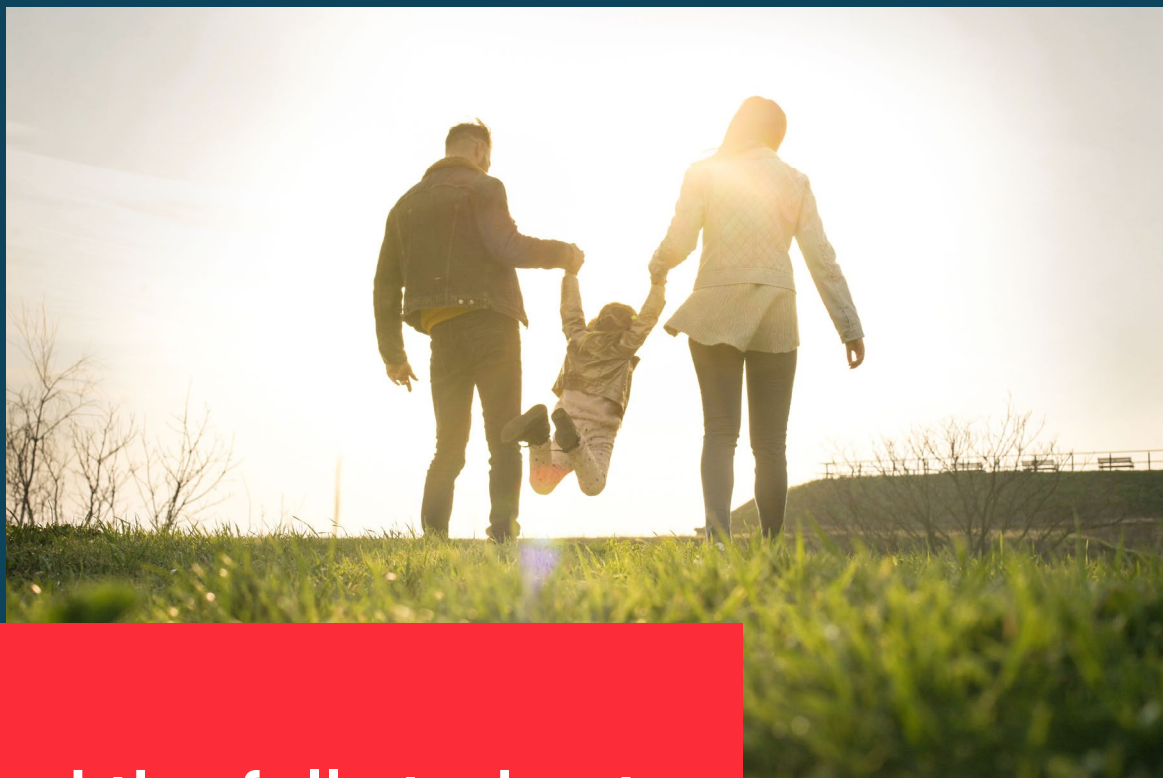
Christian elite must publicly support what they already practice in their personal lives and seek to shift the secular elite on this issue.

9



10

Pastors and church leaders must become serious and effective in both increasing the number of Christ-centered marriages and the health of those marriages.



Download the full study at
communio.org/study



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