

04/26/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

- **4/5: 1 Corinthians 15:13-20, 51-58**

Paul talks about the significance of the Resurrection – that if Jesus was not raised, then there is no hope for a better tomorrow, and we may as well enjoy the life we have here since that is all there is.

04/26/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

- **4/12: Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1,6-8;
1 Peter 2:13-17**

Christians are to obey the laws of both God and man; to submit to and pray for those in leadership that things go well with us; this can be hard when leadership is ungodly

04/26/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

■ 4/19: **Mark 9:36-37, 42; 10:13-16**

Children are very important to God and we are held accountable in how we treat or mistreat them, as well as our decision to have them. We must create an environment that draws children closer to God, not repel

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
04/26/2026

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

Family: Distinct and Obedient

Deuteronomy 6:3-9;

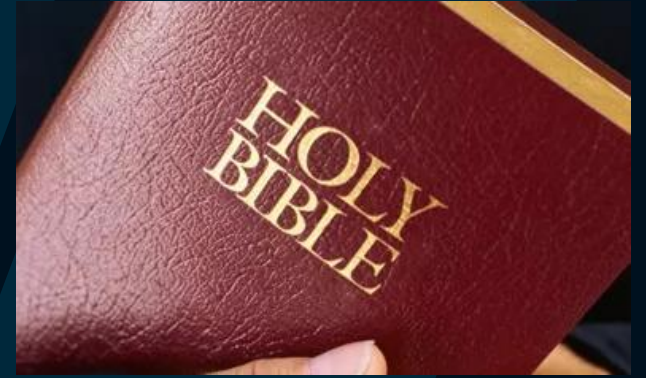
Matthew 19:3-9

04/26/2026

Lesson Text

DEUTERONOMY 6:3 (NKJV)

³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and [a]be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'

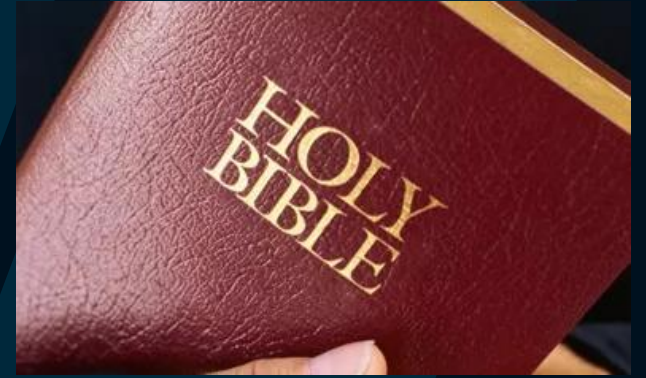


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 – 6 (NKJV)

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: [^b]The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

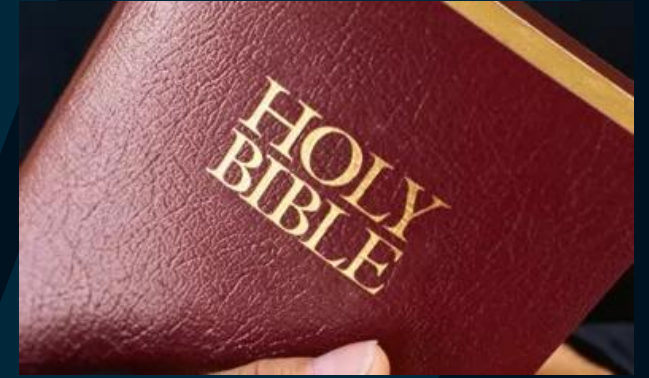


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

DEUTERONOMY 6:7 (NKJV)

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, **and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,** when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

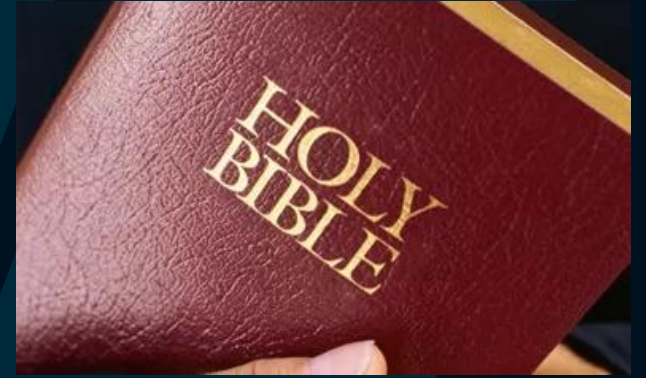


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

DEUTERONOMY 6:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your **house** and on your gates.

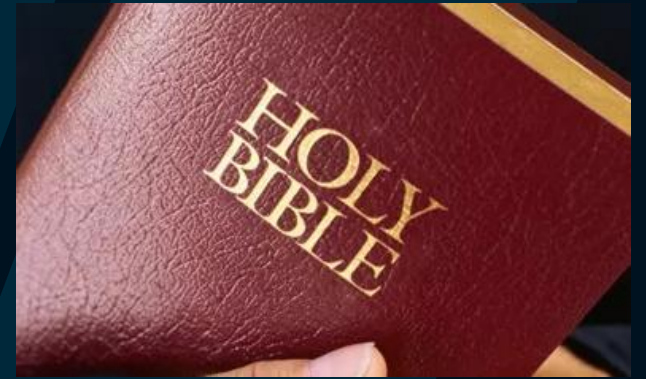


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:3 (NKJV)

³ The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”

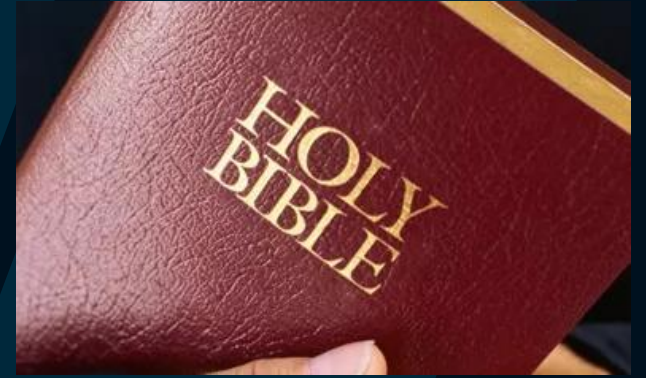


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who ^[a]made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

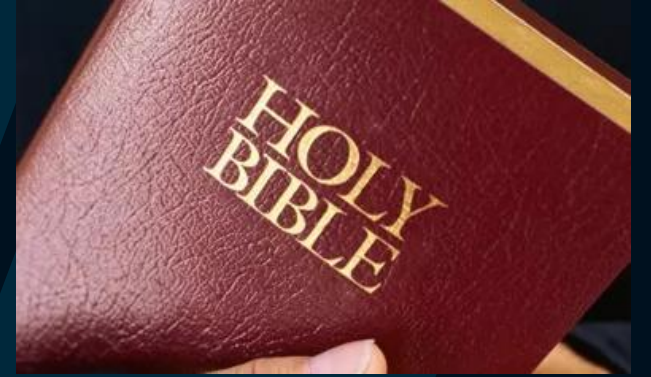


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:5 (NKJV)

⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?

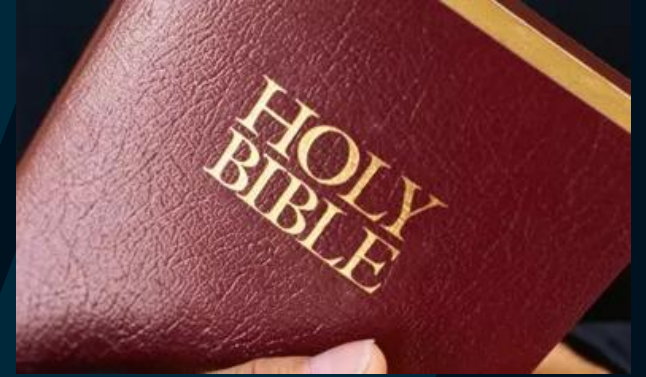


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

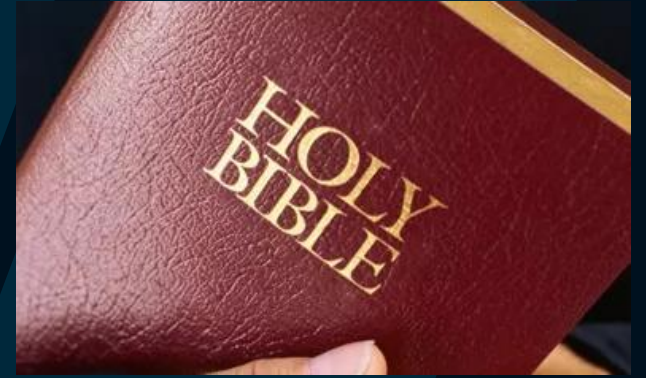


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:7 (NKJV)

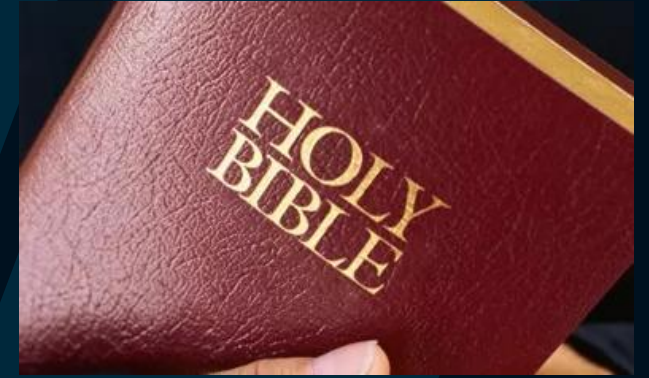
7 They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?”



04/26/2026

*Context Text

Laws Concerning Divorce



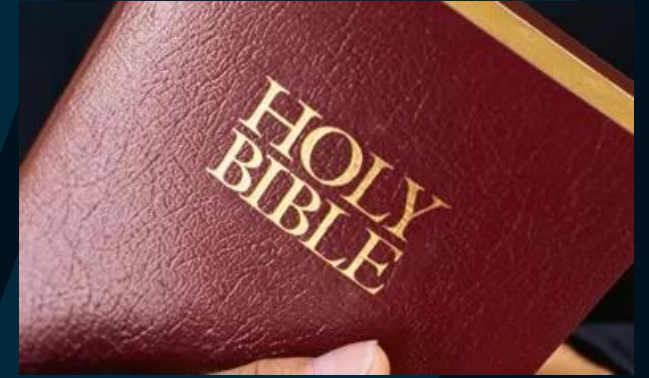
DEUTERONOMY 24:1 (NLT)

1 "Suppose a man marries a woman but she does not please him. Having discovered something wrong with her, he writes a document of divorce, hands it to her, and sends her away from his house.

04/26/2026

*Context Text

Laws Concerning Divorce



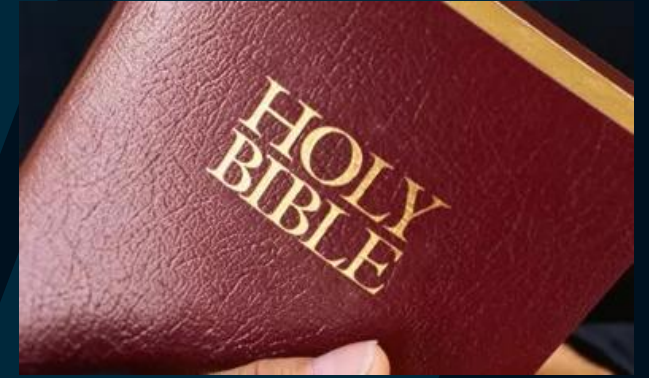
DEUTERONOMY 24:2-3 (NLT)

² When she leaves his house, she is free to marry another man. ³ But if the second husband also turns against her, writes a document of divorce, hands it to her, and sends her away, or if he dies,

04/26/2026

*Context Text

Laws Concerning Divorce



DEUTERONOMY 24:4 (NLT)

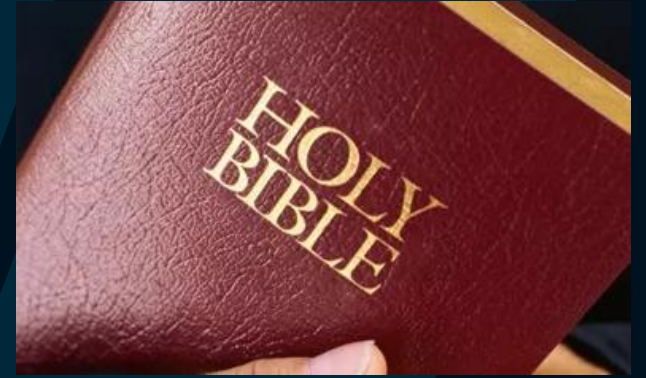
⁴ the first husband may not marry her again, for she has been defiled. That would be detestable to the Lord. You must not bring guilt upon the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession.

04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:8 (NKJV)

⁸ He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

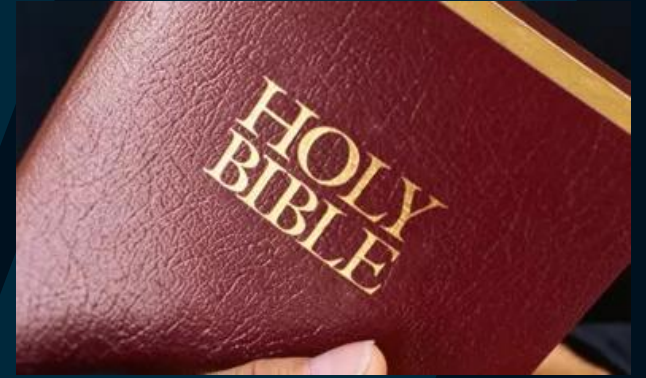


04/26/2026

*Context Text

MALACHI 2:13 (NLT)

¹³ Here is another thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure.

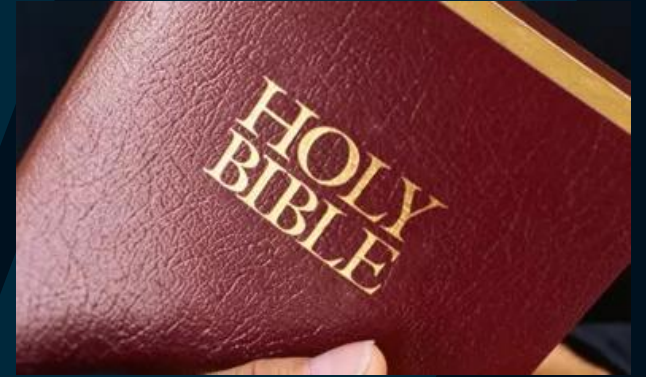


04/26/2026

*Context Text

MALACHI 2:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ You cry out, "Why doesn't the Lord accept my worship?" I'll tell you why! **Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young.** But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.

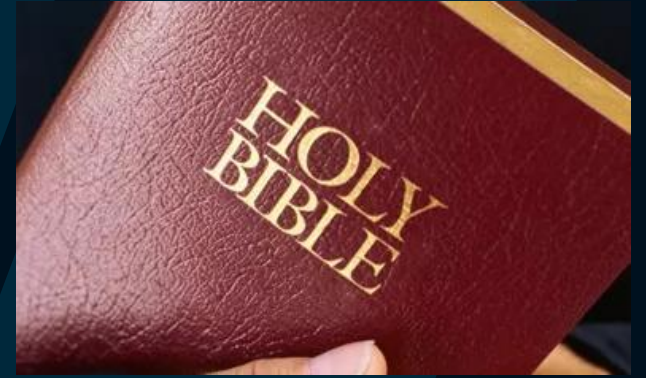


04/26/2026

*Context Text

MALACHI 2:15 (NLT)

15 Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his.^[b] And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.

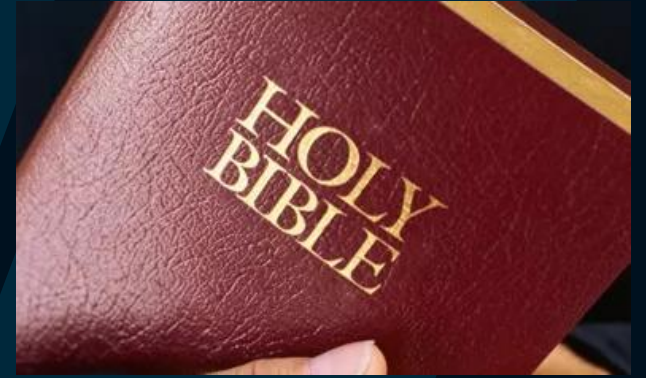


04/26/2026

*Context Text

MALACHI 2:16 (NLT)

16 “For I hate divorce!”^[c] says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,^[d]” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

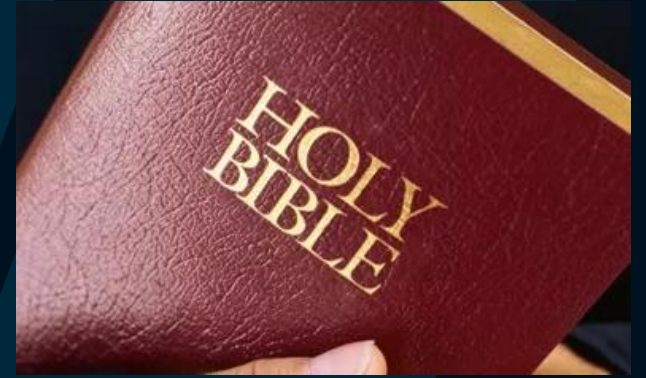


04/26/2026

Lesson Text

MATTHEW 19:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for ^[b]sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."



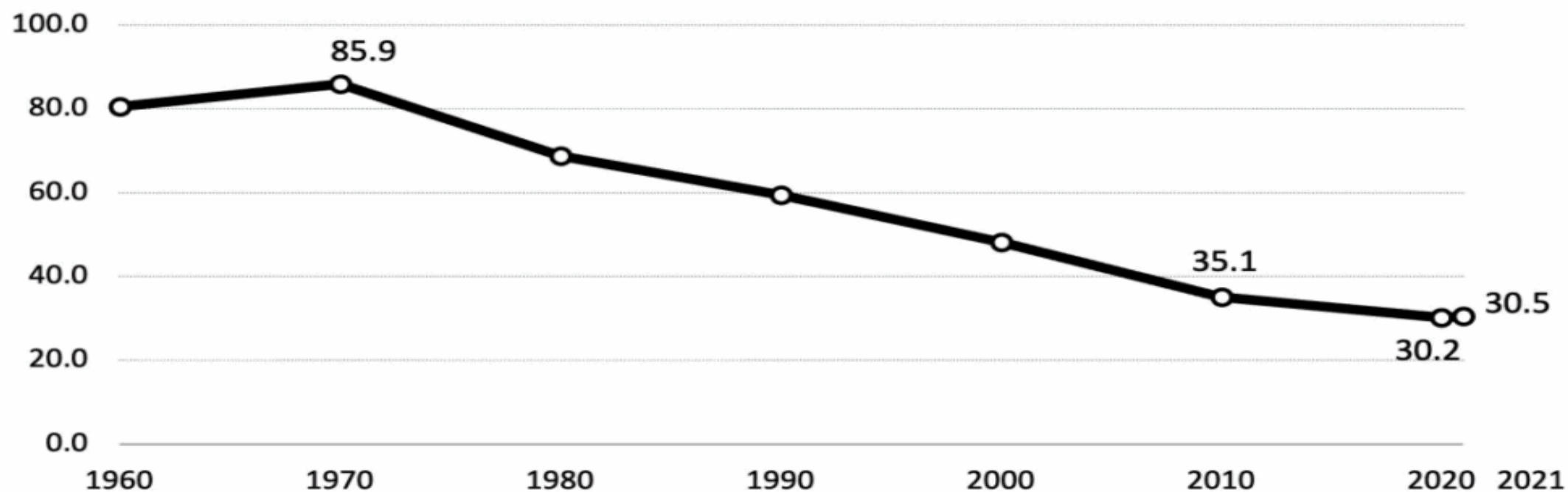
04/26/2026

Commentary: State of Marriage

- The U.S. Census Bureau reports (May 2024) that married-couple households made up 47% of all U.S. households in 2022, down from 71% in 1970.
- The National Center for Family & Marriage Research (NCFMR) at Bowling Green State University notes the U.S. marriage rate has declined 54% from 1900 to today. That rate peaked in 1920 at 92.3, almost triple the 2022 rate.

FIGURE 1.4: US MARRIAGE RATE CLOSE TO ALL-TIME LOW IN 2021

Number of newly married people per 1,000 unmarried Americans aged 15 and up



Source: Institute for Family Studies, "New Census Data: Key Takeaways on Divorce, Marriage, and Fertility in the U.S.," September 22, 2022.

Share of never-married adults reaches new high



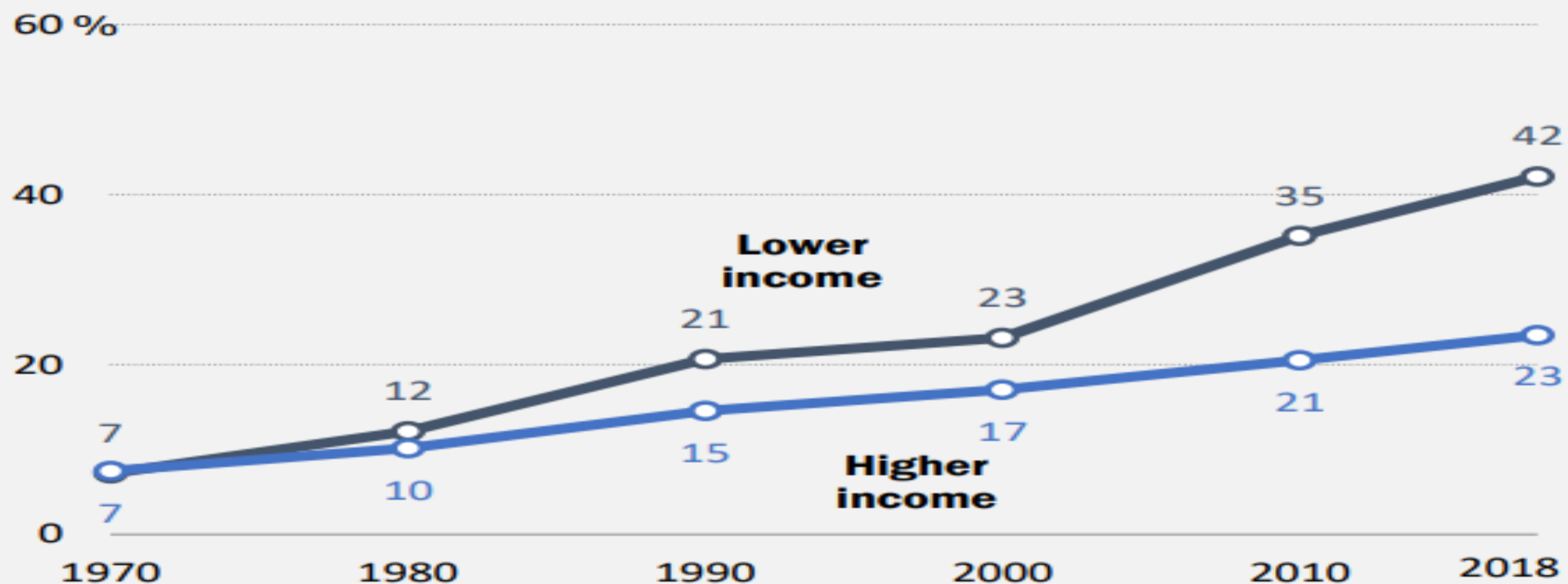
Notes: Based on adults ages 25-50. A small share of widowed adults is not shown.

Source: U.S. Census and American Community Survey, IPUMS .

Institute for
Family Studies

Share of never-married adults has increased sharply among lower-income adults since 2000

% never married



Notes: Based on adults ages 25-50. Income refers to total personal income.

Source: Census and American Community Survey, IPUMS .

Institute for
Family Studies



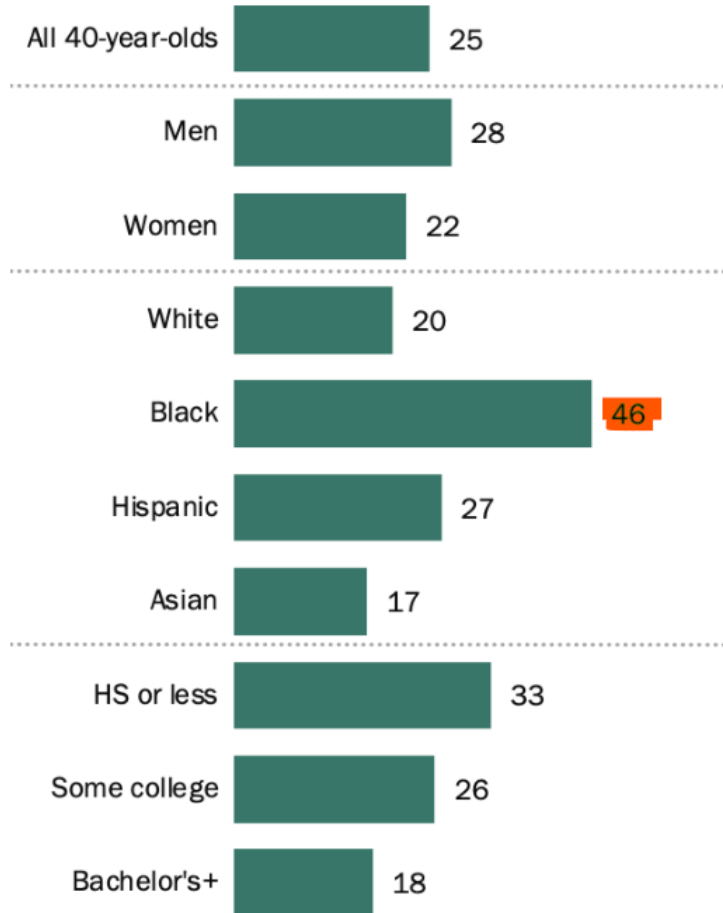
Pew Research Center

SHORT READS | JUNE 28, 2023

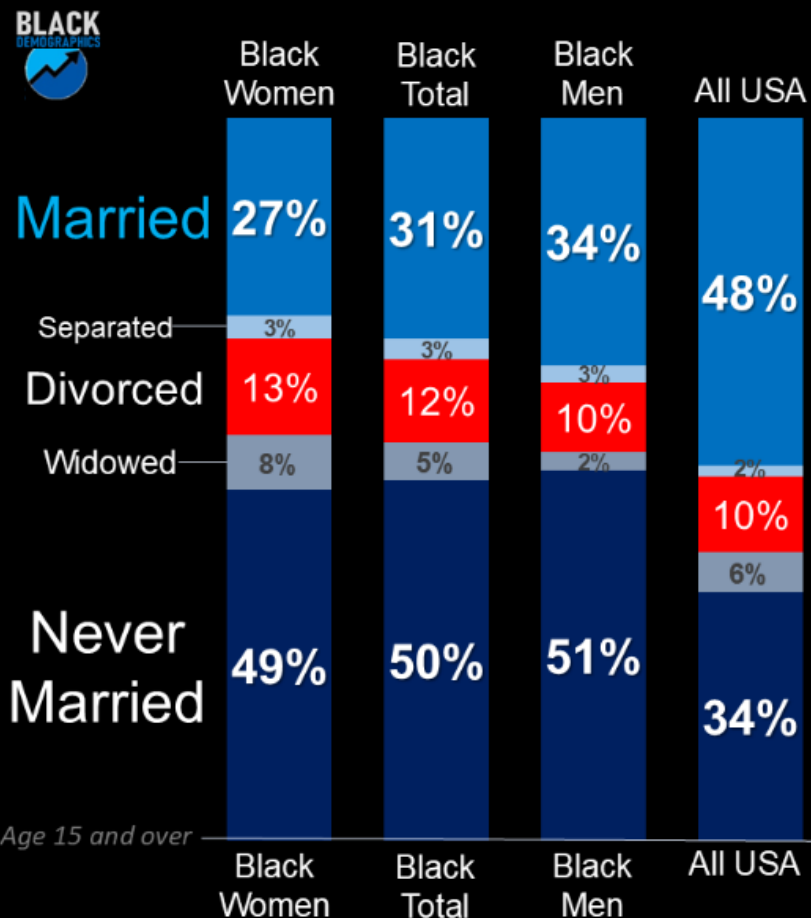
A record-high share of 40-year-olds in the U.S. have never been married

Share of never-married 40-year-olds in 2021 varies widely by race, ethnicity and education level

% of 40-year-olds in U.S. in 2021 who had never married

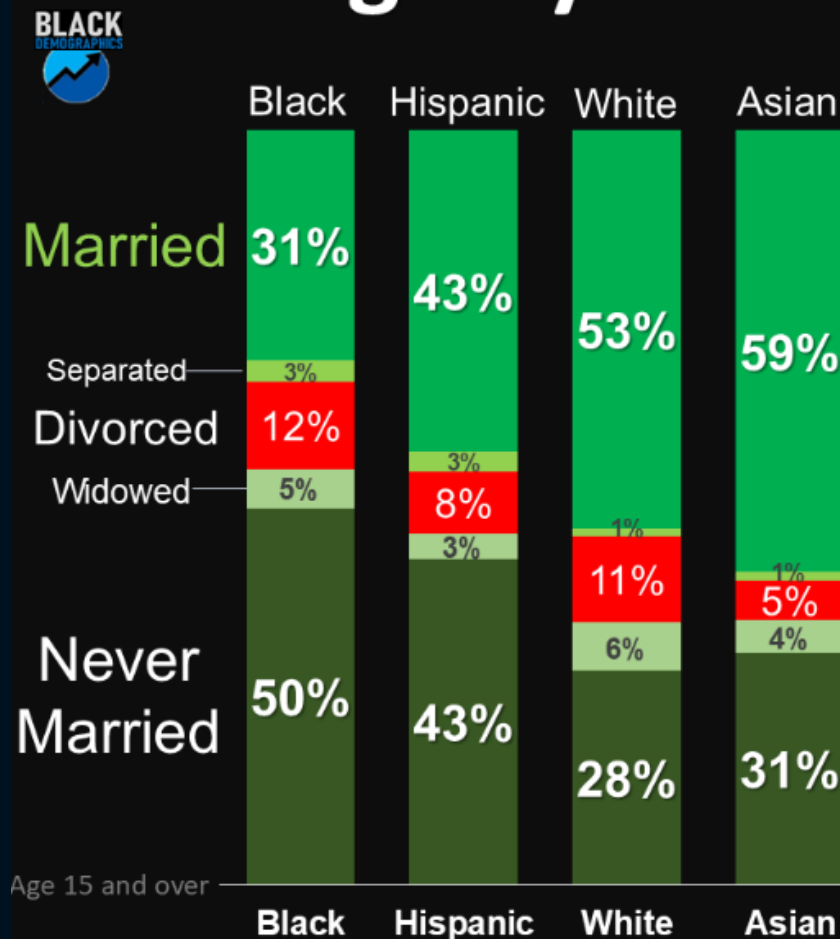


Black Marital Status



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Prepared by [BlackDemographics.com](https://www.blackdemographics.com)

Marriage by Race

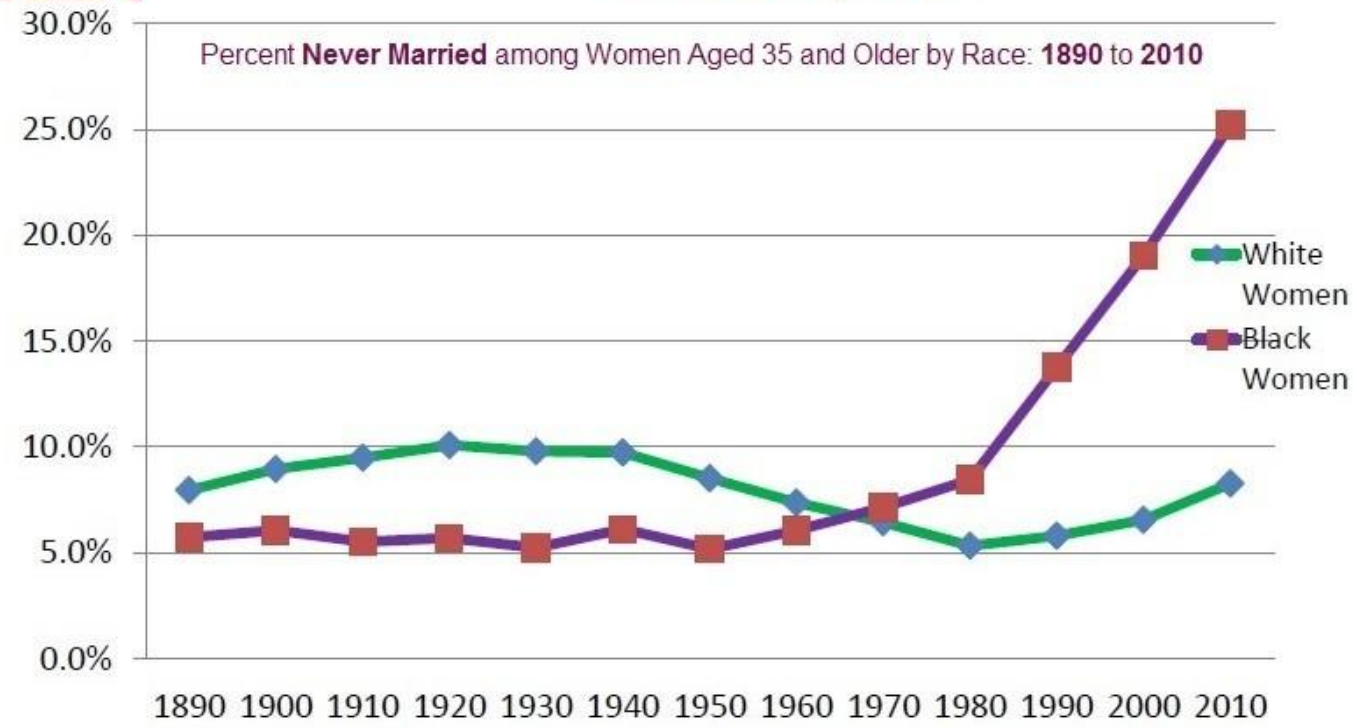


SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Prepared by [BlackDemographics.com](https://www.blackdemographics.com)



Black Women More Likely to be Married than White Women

...Until 1970, then...



Heading reformatted and posted by BlackDemographics.com

Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1890-2000); American Community Survey (2010). For more information on the ACS, see <http://www.census.gov/acs>

Chart created by: 

Black Men More Likely to be Married than White Men

...Until 1960. Then...



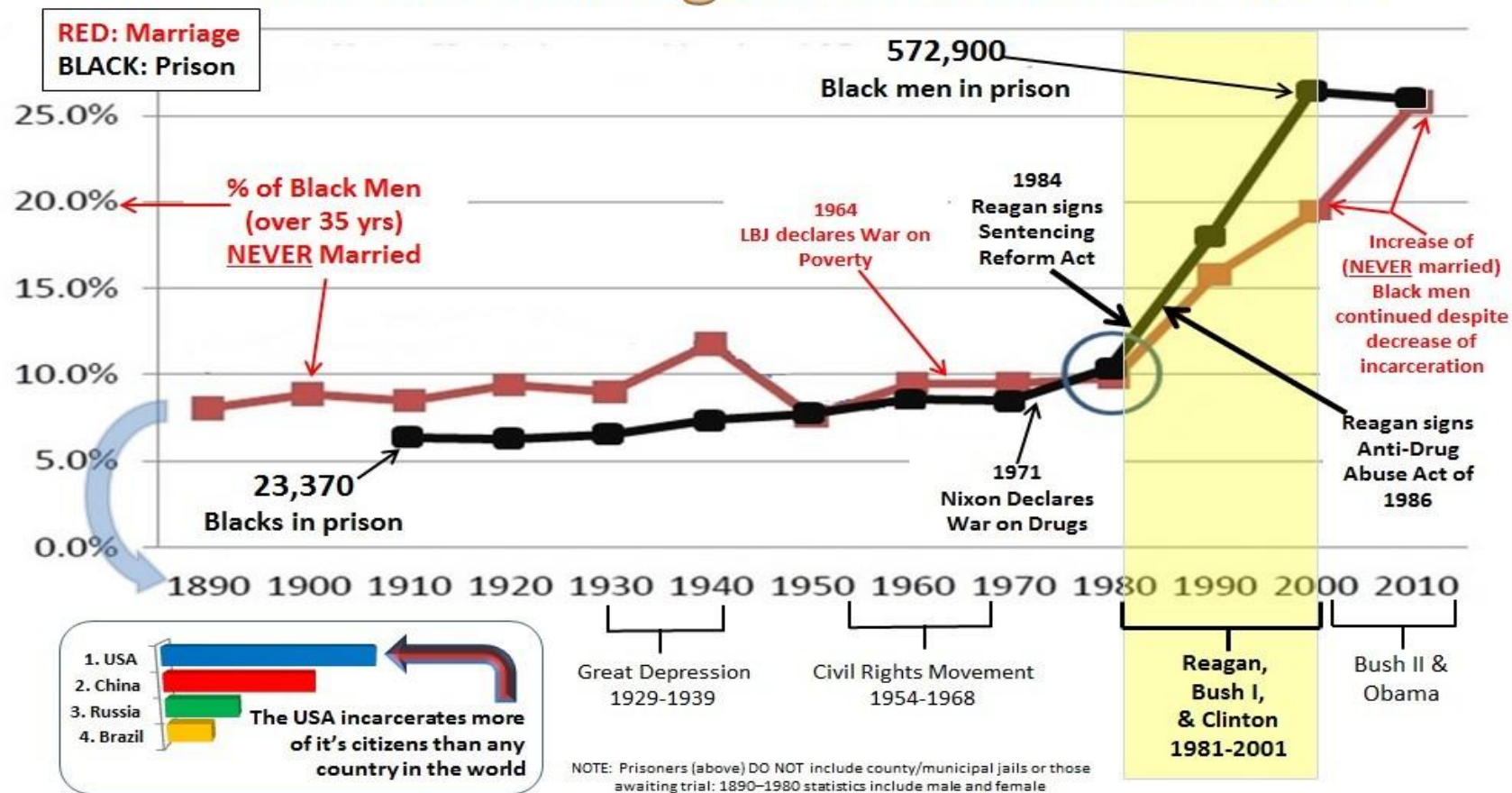
Heading reformatted and posted by BlackDemographics.com

Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1890-2000); American Community Survey (2010). For more information on the ACS, see <http://www.census.gov/acs>

Chart created by: 



The War on Drugs and its effect on Black Marriage in the 1980s & 90s



PLEASE
SHARE

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics; Prisoners in 2010; Historical Corrections Statistics in the United States, 1850-1984 & International Centre for Prison Studies King's College London

PLEASE
SHARE

04/26/2026

Commentary: The Power of the Home

- It is thru the institution of marriage and family that God intended us to learn of and pass on His ways.
- Institutions like the Church and schools can be a great assist in that process, but it is the home where God's principles can be learned, observed and replicated best

04/26/2026

Commentary: Support

- As the Church and a society, we would do well to not only teach the value of marriage and family, but to also assist younger people in marriage – to support them spiritually, emotionally and financially

04/26/2026

Commentary: Accountability

- God does however hold us accountable for the vows and decisions we make
- Marriage is a covenant relationship we make not just with our spouses but also with Him
- In marriage there is no room for selfish desires at the expense of the institution

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

By Paul T. Bennett, Church School Superintendent

04/26/2026

Commentary: Wedding vs Marriage

Average Cost of a Wedding in the US

Average Wedding Cost:
\$35,000 (2024)



Venue:
\$18,000

Attire:
\$1,800



Photography:
\$3,500



Food & Beverage:
\$12,000





ITEMS REQUIRED AT TIME OF APPLICATION – ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH:

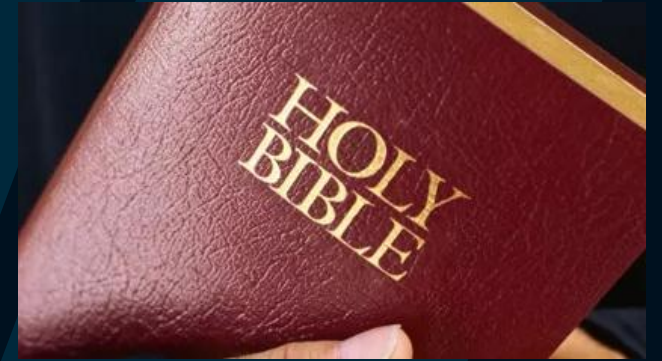
1. Driver's license, passport or state/federal I.D.
2. Proof of residency only if a NJ resident
3. Social Security number
4. \$28.00 fee. Cash or check only.

§180-8. Weddings and Civil Unions by Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Any person that seeks to have the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of Franklin Township perform a marriage or civil union ceremony shall be required to tender to the Township Clerk the sum of \$150 to be deposited into the general fund. One-hundred dollars is to be retained in the general fund and \$50 is the fee to be disbursed to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor through the appropriate budget line item.

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent
04/26/2026

Scripture References



TITUS 1:5-9;

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

An Example at Home

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
04/26/2026

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

04/26/2026

Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN