

2. Cohabitating doesn't bring a woman under a man's protection.
3. Cohabitating brings no promise of provision.
4. Cohabitating provides no public proclamation of love and no invitation for relational support.
5. Cohabitating doesn't provide a chance for parental approval.

PLUS

1. Only 1/6 of all cohabitating relationships last 3 years and only 1/10th endure more than 5 years.
2. Domestic violence is twice as common for cohabitating women.
3. Cohabitating before marriage statistically raises the risk of an affair.
4. Cohabitating couples are 3 times more likely to endure hitting and shoving.
5. Cohabitating couples report less sexual satisfaction than married couples.
6. The couples reporting greatest sexual satisfaction are couples who married with no previous sexual intimacy.
7. Married couples are least likely to suffer depression. Cohabitating couples are more likely to be depressed than single adults and divorced adults.

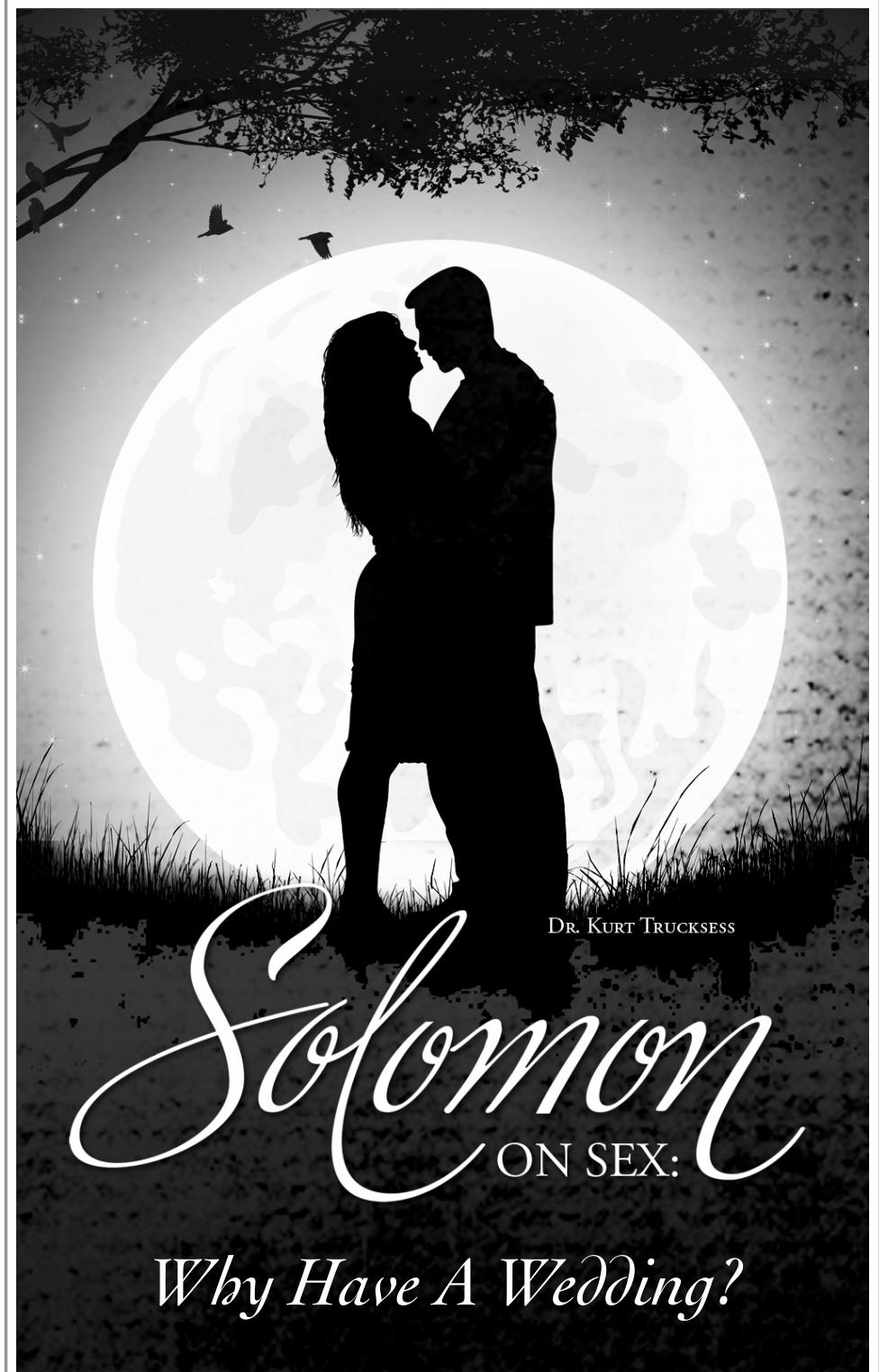
What about eloping?

1. There is no opportunity for celebration.
2. There is protection and provision.
3. There is no opportunity for family and parental support.

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Faith Church - EFCA

February 19, 2012

Song of Solomon 3:6-11



What were weddings like in the ancient world?

1. Betrothal
2. The Wedding Procession
3. The Wedding Ceremony
4. The Wedding Feast
5. The Wedding Night

What does the text teach us about weddings?

The wedding is a time for celebration.

What is that coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of a merchant? Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Song of Solomon 3:6-7 (ESV)

Why party?

1. Your wedding is hoped to be a once-in-a-lifetime event.
2. A wedding celebration sets off the marriage as important.

How do I apply this?

1. Help young couples celebrate their wedding day.

The wedding contains a promise of protection.

Behold, it is the litter of Solomon! Around it are sixty mighty men, some of the mighty men of Israel, all of them wearing swords and expert in war, each with his sword at his thigh, against terror by night. Song of Solomon 3:7-8 (ESV)

The wedding contains a promise of provision.

King Solomon made himself a carriage from the wood of Lebanon. He made its posts of silver, its back of gold, its seat of purple; its interior was inlaid with love by the daughters of Jerusalem. Song of Solomon 3:9-10 (ESV)

The wedding makes a public declaration.

Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look upon King Solomon,... Song of Solomon 3:11 (ESV)

The wedding is a chance for parental approval.

...with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart. Song of Solomon 3:11 (ESV)

Common questions about the wedding.

Why not skip the wedding and just cohabit?

1. Cohabitating takes away your opportunity to celebrate your marriage.