



# CGOM

Churches Of God Outreach Ministries  
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

*"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"*

I-800-611-8080 / [www.cgom.org](http://www.cgom.org)  
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

## Mini Study

### Is Co-habitation a *Sin*?

*"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband"*  
(1 Corinthians 7:2)

This and many other verses imply marriage as "possessing" or having joint ownership of one another. Even the betrothal was a very serious and binding agreement or contract, with witnesses, naturally designed to protect and provide for the intended spouse. Marriage was - and still is - intended to be an enforceable agreement with penalties for breaching. Deuteronomy 24:1 indicates a bill (written notice) of divorce must be given, indicating a reversal of a previous bill (of marriage).

- there are various motives for cohabitation. Marriage looks like a losing proposition to the young given the high divorce rate so they resist commitment. Seniors add financial concerns. Their pensions, medical insurance and Social Security may be affected. "Convenience" is another reason given
- the latest statistics indicate almost ten million people are 'shacking-up' in the U.S.; well over a quarter-million of those are senior citizens.. Cohabitation has become socially acceptable. Sixty-one percent of Americans now view it as "morally acceptable" according to a recent George Barna poll.
- **there are principles and rules:**
  1. *faithfulness, loyalty, and honour* are important. character matters! If there is no contract to marriage, then to whom must you be faithful?
  2. Morality: Israel committed spiritual adultery and it produced pain, mistrust, and divorce
  3. God roundly condemns unfaithfulness, calling it treachery (Malachi 2:10-16)
- an important scripture, speaking of the "latter times" says that people will be "*Forbidding to marry...*" (1 Timothy 4:3). This sounds as though marriage will be disallowed in the "latter" days and that we will be require to be celibate. It makes much more sense if we see it as: "in the end times people will deny the necessity of marriage. They will believe and teach that it is all right to 'shack-up'"
- what other commandment of God could we justify breaking using the rational for cohabitation? Is it okay to lie, steal, kill, or any number of sins, reasoning that it is not convenient, or that it would place me at an economic disadvantage? One might say I have no other alternative. The answer to that is too obvious - and correct: one may continue to live unmarried, alone, and celibate. Maybe it's not desirable but it is not impossible and it is not living in sin
- the Biblical instruction therefore remains: "*That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*" (1 Thessalonians 4:4). "*Should know how*" indicates an effort must be put forth to understand the purpose of marriage and the rules thereof. Would anyone enter into such an important contract without good advice, counsel, knowledge and wisdom?

*Request the free articles:*

***Marriage...just a piece of paper? and Spend A Lifetime – Together***

*Published by:*  
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries  
PO Box 54621  
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621  
©2005 The Churches of God Outreach Ministries  
[www.cgom.org](http://www.cgom.org)

This article may be freely copied and distributed as long as it is done in its entirety, including this notice, and is given away free, without any charge to the recipient.

Write us for a free catalog of other free articles we have to offer.