

happy MARRIAGE or hard?

If we asked YOU, “**What percentage of couples are happy in their marriage today?**” What would YOU say? Most people guess in the 30-40% range. **Here is some good news for YOU!**

In a new book, *The Good News About Marriage: Debunking Discouraging Myths about Marriage and Divorce*, Shaunti Feldhahn shares that **most marriages are happy not hard**. “Most married people today enjoy being married to their spouse and, given the chance, would do it all over again.” In her research, she found that **71% of married couples are happy**, including one-third being highly happy.

“Well,” YOU say, “**what about Oklahoma? What about other research?**” Even though Oklahoma has one of the higher divorce rates in the country, **68% of Oklahomans say that they are “very happy” in their marriage**. Another 29% are “pretty happy.” Only 3% are “not too happy!” [survey in 2001 by Scott Stanley for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative]

Does that surprise you? Does that give you hope? What difference does it make if you are not one of the happy ones? The numbers show us that **it is very common for people to be happy**. If that many people are happy, **my marriage can be happy too!** Is marriage hard work? **Yes, we often have to work hard but we can also have fun in marriage**. “May you rejoice in the wife of your youth.” (Proverbs 5:18) “Enjoy life with your wife.” (Ecclesiastes 9:9)

Happiness is not the goal of marriage - **honoring and glorifying God with our marriage is the goal**. Our marriages are to reflect the relationship between Christ and the church. Certainly, **enjoying our marriage would be part of that picture**.