XVIII. FAMILY

A. HOMOSEXUALITY AND (HETEROSEXUAL) MARRIAGE

Until recently it was common for some therapists and ministers to advise male homosexuals and lesbians to marry in order to be "cured." In many instances unhappiness and even tragedy ensued for both parties. Perhaps more common, especially for the female partner, is the situation whereby pre-lesbian (or pre-homosexual) individuals marry before they have achieved an understanding of their orientation. A third type is one in which a marriage is contracted, for friendship or convenience, or even to deceive straight society, with the clear understanding that one or both parties will remain homosexual. See also "Couples," XIV.H.

3854. BOZETT, FREDERICK W. "Heterogeneous Couples in Heterosexual Marriages: Gay Men and Straight Women," Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 8 (1982), 81-89.
Discusses the nature of the spousal relationships and the almost inevitable marital disruption that occurs when a husband discloses his homosexuality to his wife.

Lacking any clear alternative at the age of marital eligibility, many homosexuals follow the socially acceptable heterosexual marriage path, sometimes later constructing a gay identity.

Contends that in a therapeutic situation the wife's need to maintain the "neurotic contract" of the marriage undermines her husband's treatment.

3857. HIRSCHFELD, MAGNUS. "Sind sexuelle Zwischenstufen zur Ehe geeignet?" JfmZ, 3 (1901), 39-71.
An early canvassing by the noted sexologist of the suitability of "sexual intermediates" for marriage.

A Polish researcher suggests that marriage may be appropriate for those who are (or who have attained through therapy) the Kinsey 1 and 2 classes. For the 3-6 groups
it is not recommended.

Presents five case studies of marriages where the homosexual partner's disclosure to the spouse was evident, examining the coping mechanisms involved when such marriages do not end in divorce.

Reviews research in several areas of alternatives to the traditional nuclear family (including voluntary childlessness, the binuclear family, and intimate same-sex relationships)—with many references.

"[J]ust as there are happy homosexual couples, there are some ... homo-heterosexual marriages that are good by anybody's standards. ... [T]here may be a compatibility and congruence in the man-woman relationship that transcends sex."

Discusses the issues of homosexuality in heterosexual marriage with regard to motivations for marriage, church ministry with married homosexuals, solutions to married homosexual dilemmas, and preventive approaches.


With regard to heterosexually married men, discusses the reasons for marriage, internal problems, outside societal pressures, and comparisons with other homosexuals (who are either married and separated or never married) and bisexuals. Although the author works chiefly in Australia, he provides international comparisons, together with a review of the literature.