

A local business left an advertisement on the front door of the church building. It listed the following statistics:

In Just One Day

- **2,753 teenagers get pregnant**
- **1,099 teenagers have abortions**
- **367 teens miscarry**
- **1,287 teens give birth**
- **666 babies are born to women who have inadequate prenatal care**
- **72 babies die before one month of life**
- **110 babies die before their first birthday**
- **9 children die from gunshot wounds**
- **5 teenagers commit suicide**
- **609 teenagers get gonorrhea or syphilis (not to mention AIDS, BC)**
- **988 children are abused**
- **3,288 children runaway from home**
- **49,322 children are in public juvenile-correction facilities**
- **2,269 babies are born to unwed mothers**
- **2,989 children see their parents divorced**

All of these are symptoms and consequences growing out of the tragic problem of the gradual erosion of the family unit in our nation. Fewer and fewer children are being reared in a family environment with a father and mother who love them. More and more are being “cared for” by institutions, in nurseries and day-care centers, by “single” parents, by foster parents, by grandparents, by in-laws, by step-parents, or by no one. More and more are coming into this world only to learn that they are unwanted. More and more become victims of physical or sexual abuse. More and more are having to “look out” for themselves. God help us when we begin to meet full force the consequences of such tragic actions. We need to get back to fearing God and keeping His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). We need to get back to applying the principles of God’s Word to our lives. We need to get back to applying God’s principles governing marriage and the family. Only then will married people and parents fully accept the responsibilities that belong to them.