

This article was published in the Scientific Journal NovaUm.Ru №24 in 2020 on Russian.

This article has been translated into English by its author Schemelinin K. S.

The original article on Russian can be read at:

[http://www.schemelinin.com/K\\_Schemelinin-marriage-2020.pdf](http://www.schemelinin.com/K_Schemelinin-marriage-2020.pdf)

<https://www.elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=42805983>

---

Schemelinin Konstantin Sergeevich

ORCID:0000-0002-3636-1583

## DIFFERENCES OF MODERN MARRIAGE FROM TRADITIONAL AND PRINCIPLES FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGE IN A MODERN SOCIETY

**Annotation.** The differences between traditional and modern forms of marriage are described. It was found that modern society will no longer be able to return to traditional marriage. Given the principles that can improve the quality of family relations in modern society. It is revealed that modern marriage is at the beginning of the transformation stage, which in the future will end with the creation of some future form of marriage.

**Keywords:** marriage, family, spouses, woman, divorce, modern society, traditional society, social institutions

### Table of contents

#### Foreword

§1. Differences between traditional and modern marriage

§2. Principles for Building an Ideal Heterosexual Marriage for Modern Society

§3. Moving from modern marriage to marriage of the future

#### Conclusions

### Foreword

First of all, it is necessary to define the terms and boundaries of reasoning in relation to this work.

1. Past - the period of time until the middle of the twentieth century. The past began long ago - several millennia ago. The present is dominated by modern marriage.
2. Present - a period of time from the middle of the twentieth century, today's time and plus some period of time. The present is dominated by modern marriage.

*Remark 1.* Determination of the date for the beginning of the "past" and the end of the "present" is not the purpose of this work.

3. The future is a period of time after the end of the present.
4. Traditional marriage - the dominant heterosexual marriage in the past in the world in the form of monogamy or polygamy.
5. Modern marriage - the dominant heterosexual marriage in the modern world in the form of monogamy or polygamy.

6. Marriage of the future or future marriage is the form of marriage that will dominate the world in the future. It is very difficult to say what this marriage will be like now, therefore it is impossible to fully describe the future form of marriage today.

### **§1. Differences between traditional and modern marriage**

Both of these forms of marriage exist in the world today. Traditional and modern forms of marriage have much in common, but for the purposes of this work, it is much more important to determine how one form differs from another.

*Alternatives.* Traditional marriage within one state did not have an alternative accepted by society. If someone wanted to live openly in another form of marriage, then such a person should have moved to the country where this form of marriage was legalized. Modern marriage has such alternatives - civil marriage or cohabitation without registration, a permanent mistress, and so on.

*The usual age for marriage.* In traditional marriage people got married at the age of about 16-20 years - modern newlyweds usually create an official family at about 25-30 years old.

*Acquaintance before marriage.* Personal acquaintance of young people before entering into a traditional marriage was not necessary, although it was recognized as desirable; at the same time, the future newlyweds before the wedding could see each other only a few times. Before entering into a modern marriage, society requires that young people must meet for some time - usually a period from 2-3 months to a year or more is considered acceptable; during this time, the future spouses will spend dozens, if not hundreds of love dates and various meetings.

*Love.* The actual presence of love is not necessary for a traditional marriage: if it is, then it is good, if not, then it is possible without it. Modern marriage is impossible without love.

*Consent to marriage.* The actual basis of marriage in traditional society is the consent of the parents of both future spouses - the consent of the children to the marriage is desirable, but not necessary. In modern society, the consent of future spouses is the main thing for marriage - many marriages are concluded without parental consent, and often even without parental notification of the wedding.

*Premarital sex for a girl.* Traditional marriage treats premarital sexual relations of the future bride extremely negatively, and modern marriage recognizes them as natural.

*Marriage ransom.* The amount of the marriage ransom in a traditional marriage is significant in size, and the amount of the bride price in modern society is symbolic.

*The usual age of death for an adult.* Traditional marriage was formed when adults lived, on average, not for long, up to about 30-40 years. Modern marriage exists in a society in which adults live much longer - on average, up to 60-70 years. Due to the increase in life expectancy in modern society, a much larger percentage of older people than in traditional society.

*The usual ending of a marriage.* One of the most important aspects of a traditional family is its understanding as something permanent, so the choice of a spouse was

usually carried out once for a lifetime. Modern marriage, in many cases, is a temporary long-term condition that ends not in the death of one of the spouses, as in a traditional marriage, but in divorce.

*Divorce.* In a traditional marriage, it was almost impossible for ordinary people to divorce; at the same time, the divorce procedure for modern marriage is quite easy to implement.

*The advantage in marriage and divorce.* Traditional society advantaged the husband in marriage. Modern society does not provide any advantage in marriage to either husband or wife. There were practically no divorces in traditional society, and in modern society, a woman has an advantage after a divorce, especially a woman with children.

*Fertility and infant mortality.* Traditional marriage dominated in conditions of a high birth rate and a high level of child and adolescent mortality - about five to ten or more children were born in traditional families, of which only a few survived adulthood. Modern marriage is characterized by a small number of children born - usually in such families there are about two children, and almost all of them live to adulthood.

*Illegitimate children.* Traditional society had a negative attitude towards illegitimate children, while modern society is loyal to such children.

*Who is the father of the child.* From the point of view of traditional marriage, the biological father of the child is the husband, therefore, for the majority of the population, it was possible to become a father only in a traditional marriage. Modern technologies with the help of genetic analysis can clearly identify the father of the child, therefore, traditional marriage is not necessary for a uniquely understood and socially accepted paternity.

*Contraception.* Traditional marriage was formed and existed in the absence of contraception, and modern marriage exists in a society in which everyone has the opportunity to control the number of their children.

*Medicine.* The level of medicine in modern society is at a much higher level than in the traditional one, therefore, issues of childbirth, infertility, as well as operative intervention to save lives in today's society are solved better than in traditional ones.

*Hard work.* In the past, basic work required heavy physical labor, which was performed mainly by men. In the present, many jobs are performed by machines and mechanisms that can be operated by both men and women.

*Labor productivity.* Traditional marriage dominated in low labor productivity - modern marriage dominates in much higher labor productivity.

*Housework.* In a traditional marriage, almost all of the housework was done by the wife: in the past, there was no variety of household appliances to facilitate domestic work, and in addition to the many procreations, the wife had absolutely no time for other work, except for domestic work. In a modern marriage, men do some of the housework; in addition, specialized household appliances help spouses save time and effort.

*Literacy and education.* The literacy rate of the population was low in the past. In modern society, the literacy rate is generally high - much higher than it was before. In

addition, in modern society there are many more people with a complete secondary and higher education than there were such people before, that is, to receive a regular education in the past, it took less effort than now. Modern society gives women opportunities for education and career growth.

*The woman is married.* In traditional marriage, the wife is seen as a dependent, weak and dependent member of the family. Modern marriage views the wife as equal to the husband.

*Career for women.* In the past, women had neither the strength nor the time to build their own careers, so women's success in society was minimal.

*Religiosity.* Traditional marriage is religious, and religion has little effect on modern marriage. The basis of traditional marriage is the union of people, sanctified by religion and proceeding in accordance with religious attitudes, and the basis of modern marriage is a civil status governed by civil law regulations.

*Population mobility.* In the past, people were limited in mobility - travel was dangerous, requiring a huge investment of time, effort and money. In the modern world, with the development of railway, sea and air transport, the mobility of people has increased many times.

*Class restrictions.* In the past, there were strong class rules limiting the number of potential spouses; in modern society, there is no such problem, since there is no class division.

*The existence of free men and women.* Traditional marriage took shape and dominated in conditions when the majority of the population were either still children or already married. Modern marriage dominates in a society with a sufficiently large number of men and women who are free for relations.

*Outer beauty.* In fact, external beauty is a call for sex, so the external beauty of a woman or a man is the sum of the beauty of the body (natural or changed by sports, plastic surgery and other methods), external additions (clothing, makeup, tattoos, etc.), behavior (special words, posture and other actions) and social status (wealth, fame, family and personal ties, and so on).

Inner or spiritual beauty is a combination of subjectively understood character traits.

View *Homo sapiens* has existed for over a hundred thousand years, which means that his genetic code, as a whole, remains constant, therefore the qualities of human characters as they were in the past have remained so in the present, and they will be so in the future, which is why the inner beauty of mankind is unchanged qualitative value.

Overall beauty is the sum of outer beauty and inner beauty.

In general, based on this understanding of beauty, in the past people, in general, were outwardly less beautiful than they are now.

*Erotica and pornography.* In traditional society, erotica was limitedly available only in cities - the majority of the population lived in villages, was poor and illiterate, and did not have access to erotica (spectacles, drawings, texts). There was very, very little pornography in traditional society, and it was available only to the upper strata of society.

In modern society, there is not just a lot of eroticism, but very, very much, and pornography is easily accessible to the broad masses of people.

*Urbanization and manufacturing.* Traditional marriage is a marriage primarily in a rural community or a small hunter-gatherer tribe. Traditional marriage is a "marriage on the ground", that is, in one's own house with homestead farms, and modern marriage is, basically, a marriage among townspeople, that is, it is a "marriage in an apartment," that is, in a dwelling, often multi-storey, without homestead farms. In addition, a traditional society is predominantly an agricultural society, and the main products of modern society are produced in the areas of industry and services.

*Population density and social contacts.* Traditional marriage dominated in low-density societies, while modern marriage dominated in high-density societies. Plus, due to the increase in population density, modern man are forced to contact much more people than before.

*Communication over the Internet.* In the past, there was no dating and communication via the Internet, and modern society includes virtual communication as part of interpersonal interaction.

*Abundance of information.* Traditional marriage has dominated in the context of a lack of information and the complexity of its transmission, and modern marriage dominates in an environment of an overabundance of information that spreads at a tremendous speed.

*The level of diversity and the problem of choice.* In modern society, there is a huge variety of goods, services, specialties and entertainment - such a variety was not in the past, which is why today's people have an acute problem of choice.

*The threat of hunger.* In the past, human society was constantly faced with the threat of mass hunger - wars, epidemics, crop failures and other dangers often deprived people of food. Modern society is devoid of the threat of mass hunger, although a certain part of the world's population is malnourished.

*State influence.* The influence of the state on traditional marriage was small, mainly, this this impact occurred at the religious level. In modern society, the state often and actively intervenes in marriage relations (benefits, subsidies, as well as all kinds of permissions and prohibitions, and so on).

*Remark 2.* It is possible to find and formulated some more differences between the traditional and modern forms of marriage - the above list is not final, but only focuses on the huge number of differences between these two forms of marriage.

*Remark 3.* In general, modern society and modern marriage are much freer and more diverse than traditional society and traditional marriage, in which violence played a fairly large role.

Table. Differences between traditional and modern marriage.

| No | Aspect                       | Traditional marriage in a traditional society | Modern marriage in modern society |
|----|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | Alternative within one state | No  | Yes                               |

|    |   |  |   |
|----|---|--|---|
| 2  | Usual age of marriage                               | About 16-20 years old                        | About 25-30 years old                         |
| 3  | Acquaintance before marriage                        | Desirable but not required                   | It is necessary                               |
| 4  | The usual number of dates before marriage           | Several                                      | About a hundred                               |
| 5  | Love  | Desirable but not required                   | It is necessary                               |
| 6  | Consent to marriage                                 | Consent of the parents of the future spouses | Consent of future spouses                     |
| 7  | Premarital sex for a girl                           | Are prohibited                               | Allowed                                       |
| 8  | Marriage ransom amount                              | High   | Small, symbolic                               |
| 9  | The usual age of death for an adult                 | About 30-40 years old                        | About 60-70 years old                         |
| 10 | Number of older people in society                   | Small amount                                 | Significant amount                            |
| 11 | Ordinary ending of marriage                         | Death of one of the spouses                  | Divorce or death of one of the spouses        |
| 12 | Divorce   | Almost impossible                            | Easy to do                                    |
| 13 | Advantage in marriage                               | Husband                                      | Nobody has                                    |
| 14 | Divorce advantage                                   | -  | A woman                                       |
| 15 | Birth rate  | About 5-10 children                          | About 2 children                              |
| 16 | The attitude to children born out of wedlock        | Negative                                     | Tolerant                                      |
| 17 | Infant mortality level                              | High   | Low   |
| 18 | Who is the father of the child                      | Husband                                      | Husband or man identified by genetic analysis |
| 19 | Contraception                                       | No   | Yes   |
| 20 | The level of development of medicine                | Low  | High  |
| 21 | The need for physical labor                         | It is necessary                              | Not necessary                                 |
| 22 | Labor productivity in society and in the household  | Low  | High  |
| 23 | Heavy work inside and outside the home must fulfill | Men  | Machines and mechanisms                       |
| 24 | Homework volume                                     | High   | Low   |
| 25 | Who Should Do Homework                              | Wife   | Wife and husband                              |
| 26 | Literacy rate in society                            | Low  | High  |
| 27 | The size of the effort to get a regular education   | Little                                       | Much  |
| 28 | The position of the wife in                         | Dependent                                    | Independent and self-                         |

|    |   |                    |                       |
|----|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
|    | marriage  |                    | reliant               |
| 29 | An opportunity for a woman to build a career                  | No                 | Yes                   |
| 30 | The level of religiosity in society                           | High               | Low                   |
| 31 | Basis of marriage   | Religious union    | Civil union           |
| 32 | Rules of life for marriage are set                            | By religion        | By society and state  |
| 33 | Population mobility   | Low                | High                  |
| 34 | Class restrictions  | Yes                | No                    |
| 35 | Number of free men and women in society                       | Little             | Many                  |
| 36 | The number of outwardly handsome men and women in society     | Low                | High                  |
| 37 | Erotica in society  | Very little        | Lots of               |
| 38 | Pornography in society  | Not exist          | Many                  |
| 39 | Access to erotica   | Difficult          | Easy                  |
| 40 | Access to pornography   | Very difficult     | Easy                  |
| 41 | The level of urbanization in society                          | Low                | High                  |
| 42 | Population density in society                                 | Low                | High                  |
| 43 | Number of contacts with different people                      | Low                | High                  |
| 44 | Place of household management                                 | In a private house | In the apartment      |
| 45 | Dominant branch of social production                          | Agriculture        | Industry and services |
| 46 | Internet communication  | No                 | Yes                   |
| 47 | The volume of information in society                          | Little             | Big                   |
| 48 | Number of various goods and services                          | Little             | Lots of               |
| 49 | Number of different specialties                               | Little             | Many                  |
| 50 | The number of different types of entertainment and spectacles | Little             | Many                  |
| 51 | Man must make a choice  | Seldom             | Often                 |
| 52 | The threat of hunger  | High               | Low                   |
| 53 | State influence level   | Low                | High                  |

The colossal differences between the past and the present of human existence are the basis for the fact that it is impossible to make traditional marriage dominant in modern society.

## **§2. Principles for improving the quality of heterosexual marriage in the modern world.**

Listed below are some principles that can improve the quality of heterosexual marriage in various societies in the modern world. This group of principles may well be changed and (or) supplemented.

### *1. Equal rights for women in different types of relationships*

Modern society does not give equal rights to women in different types of relationships: an official wife has more rights than a constant mistress; a woman in a long-term relationship, or a common-law wife, therefore, such current forms of relations as an official wife, a woman in a long-term relationship with one man (about a year or more) such current forms of relationship must be recognized as an official wife; constant mistress and common-law wife. This principle saves women from years of fruitless relationships, and makes men more responsible approach to relationships.

### *2. Only mutual love*

In modern society, moral coercion of a man to marriage is widespread in order to obstructions the birth of an illegitimate child with him or his girlfriend. There are also other goals of moral compulsion of one of the future spouses to marry. This should not be so: the basis for marriage should be only and exclusively mutual love between a man and a woman.

### *3. Any form of marriage*

Any form of marriage should be sufficient - oral or written, as well as certain behavior: running a joint household or systematic financial assistance should be the basis for the recognition of such a relationship as an official marriage. This principle makes it possible to recognize almost all types of long-term partnerships as marriage. Principle 3, like Principle 1, removes women from years of fruitless relationships, and forces men to approach relationships more responsibly.

### *4. From one to several wives*

In marriage, a man should have the right to have from one to several official wives (estimated, up to three to five), moreover, a mandatory condition must be the consent of the wives to this.

If, for example, the official wife is against the marriage of her husband with his second wife, then the husband must choose which of the women he will live with in the future in a monogamous marriage (an analogue of such a choice is the modern choice between a wife and a mistress); in addition, the husband may try to persuade the official wife (through personal influence, gifts, care and other means) to agree to the marriage with his future second wife.

This principle reduces the number of free women in society, making any woman more valuable both in the eyes of men and in their own eyes. Because of this, the level of competition after women will increase, which means that they will be surrounded by even more care and attention from men; thus, the measure of success for men will be not only the amount of money and power, but also the number of wives. Because of this, the level of competition after women will increase, which means that they will be surrounded

by even more care and attention from men; thus, the measure of success for men will be not only the amount of money and power, but also the number of wives.

5. *Everyone feels good after divorce*

The legal system should ensure that ex-spouses maintain good relations after divorce; in addition, both former spouses, and not only the mother, should take part in raising common children. If most ex-spouses are in bad relations in society, then this is the fault of the country's legal system, not the ex-spouses. This principle directs the solution of problems arising in the process and after a divorce, not to the former spouses, but to an independent third force - to the force of law, which should balance the interests of all parties and not allow the weak to offend.

6. *The man's advantage*

Men should have advantage over their wife (or wives) and their children, both in marriage and in divorce. This requirement is related to the understanding of strength: it is men, not women and children, who are the basis of strength for society and the state, and there is no need to artificially weaken strength. Compliance with this principle preserves the role of a leader, father and protector for a man, sparingly him of the role of a wallet (disenfranchised or with a minimum of rights) for his current or ex-wife.

***Advantages of these principles:***

1. All women who want it will be married.
2. Almost all women will be married to loved ones.
3. Love relationships will become much less deceitful, which means more honest and responsible.
4. Men will feel comfortable and confident.
5. Will be a minimum number of single mothers.
6. The number of adultery will be minimal.

***Lack of these principles:*** some number of men will be limited in love relationships.

**§3. Moving from modern marriage to marriage of the future**

*The marriage of the installation.* Traditional marriage has traditional marriage installations - the story of Cinderella is an example. Modern marriage does not have its own marital attitudes - modern marriage is based on the attitudes of traditional marriage - this is what most of the contradictions in the field of current family relations are associated with: for example, with divorce (traditional marriage has a negative attitude towards divorce, and modern marriages often end in divorce) or with an unregistered relationship (tradition requires such a relationship to be registered in the form of a legally binding traditional marriage).

In general, at the present time, the world is at the beginning of the process of transformation of marriage relations - this process will be completed when future marriage installations will correspond to the marriage of the future. Nowadays, traditional marriage is under the pressure of modern marriage and is gradually giving way to it, but it is still very, very far from the complete disappearance of traditional marriage.

*Future form of marriage*

First of all, the future form of marriage will have to be based on the appropriate cultural attitudes, for the rapid development of modern psychology and human biology makes the transformation of cultural attitudes in the sphere of family relations inevitable.

There is no doubt that a certain number of the population in the future will retain both the traditional form of marriage and the modern form of marriage, but these forms will not be dominant for all mankind.

One should expect a struggle between different forms of marriage - each of the forms of marriage will be supported by certain social institutions, states, and also religious organizations.

In the future world will dominate the form of marriage that will most fully correspond to the spiritual and physiological aspirations of people in the future, and will also ensure survival of humanity, that is, will give society:

1. Sufficient birth rate.
2. Resilience in times of wars and other disasters.

The emergence of future marriage is likely to change the current religious picture of the world: it is possible that the future form of marriage will correspond to the attitudes of the new world religion; nor can it be excluded that one or all existing world religions will be able to adapt to the future form of marriage. What religion will dominate the future world is unknown.

#### **Conclusions:**

1. It is impossible to make traditional marriage dominant in modern society.
2. Modern marriage is based on the marital attitudes of traditional marriage, but it exists in completely different external conditions and functions with different internal attitudes.
3. Modern marriage is a transitional form of marriage from traditional to future marriage.
4. What will be the dominant form of marriage in the future is unknown.

#### **Bibliography**

1. Averintsev S. S. Love. Great Russian Encyclopedia. Volume 18. Moscow, 2011. P. 227-229.
2. Popov V. A., Antonov A. I. and others. Family. Great Russian Encyclopedia. Volume 29. Moscow, 2015. P. 741-742.
3. Sinelnikov A. B., Dmitrieva G. K. et al. Marriage. Great Russian Encyclopedia. Volume 4. Moscow, 2006.S. 152-160.