Post-marriage America

By [Amy Frykholm](#)

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According to a Pew Social Trends [poll](#)
released today, almost 40 percent of Americans think that marriage is on its way to becoming obsolete in American society. The number includes both people who are indifferent to the end of marriage and those who are sorry to see it go.

The poll reveals that marriage is becoming (perhaps once again?) an institution for the elite, with marriage rates highest for college graduates with substantially higher earnings than anyone else. At the same time, three-quarters of American adults say that their families were the "most important element of their lives," and essentially the same percentage report satisfaction with their current family life.

It's not clear how to evaluate these findings. That definitions of families and marriage continue to change and have changed throughout history should surprise no one. What do you think? Will marriage become obsolete? What effect would that have on churches and communities? Is this trend a reason to mourn or a reason to shrug one's shoulders and keep

going?