

Cohabitation

Nowadays, more and more people choose to have cohabitation, especially for those young people. It seems that it is a trend that cohabitation will replace marriage. However, can cohabitation really replace marriage? Does it really cover what marriage brings? And do people really understand what the true meaning of marriage is?

There are commonly four types of cohabitating relationships. Except the type of 'testing', the remaining three are usually some short-term relationships. They won't lead to the ending of 'living happily ever after'. Why? It is because they face some problems.

First of all, these cohabitating relationships usually do not receive parental support. As parents usually still have traditional morals and mores in their mind, they do not allow couples to live together until they get married, especially for girls. When we come across with the word 'marriage', it actually means the combination of the families but not only the couples. Without parental approval, the relationship is more fragile, especially for the time of arguing and without any advice from parents.

Secondly, the point of view towards cohabitation between females and males are totally different. Female usually take cohabitation seriously as they are ready to have marriage with their partners. While for male, they take the thing in a more casual way, just like a part of friendship but with sex. In a survey, most of the male claim that they won't get married with the one they cohabit with. They think that they are too easy for them while females think it's a way to show their love.

In addition, cohabitation may have problems such as money problem and roles problem. Although young people always advocate liberation and egalitarianism, some traditional norms are deep-rooted, such as the view that male are dominant and female are submissive. Thus, in the relationship, male usually think female should finish all the household chores while for female, they expect to share the responsibilities, so as to the problem of money usage. These lead to arguments and even separation of couples.

However, marriage is a process that a couple makes commitment and later shares responsibility, passion, intimacy and spirituality. It is not only a relationship with sex or just about taking care of the others. Marriage should be based on true love.

Even 'testing' through cohabitation cannot lead to very successful marriage. Although the couple agrees to take a step forward, somehow they lack trust between themselves. Therefore, this practice doesn't really help.

To conclude, without knowing the true meaning of marriage, cohabitation is meaningless. It is just another type of casual relationship which won't last long.