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A Study of Divorce Rates for Temple and Non-Temple Marriages According to Occupational Status and Age at Marriage

Seymour P. Steed
Brigham Young University - Provo

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A STUDY OF DIVORCE RATES FOR TEMPLE AND NON-TEMPLE MARRIAGES
ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONAL STATUS AND AGE AT MARRIAGE

A Thesis
Presented to the
Department of Child Development and Family Relationships
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by
Seymour P. Steed
May 1969
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

What is the relationship between occupational level, religious affiliation or lack of it, and bride's age at marriage with divorce rates? Gaining some insight into these questions became the basis of this study.

Burchinal and Chancellor (1961, Table 6) using Iowa marriage and divorce records from 1953 to 1959 had analyzed divorce rates for religiously like and unlike marriages by both age of bride and selected occupational status level of groom. Their purpose in comparing couples according to these two variables was to determine how each factor affected the survival rate of marriages.

They found that brides twenty years of age and over having husbands in the high occupational status level (professional men, farm operators, proprietors, managers, and officials) had a low divorce rate of 31 per 1,000. The same age brides having husbands in the middle occupational level (clerks, sales personnel, crafts) had a divorce rate of 67 per 1,000, and those in the low occupational level (operatives, domestic servants, laborers, and farm laborers) had a divorce rate of 123 per 1,000. Age was related to another dramatic difference in the divorce rate for brides nineteen years of age and younger. Those younger brides having husbands in the high occupational level had a divorce rate of 59 per 1,000, those in the middle occupational level had a divorce rate of 210 per 1,000, while those in the lower occupational
level had a divorce rate of 290 per 1,000.

In a later review of this same data, Burchinal and Chancellor (1963A, p. 353) concluded:

The two control variables age of bride and status level of husband ... appeared to influence the marital survival rates more than the religious affiliation types. Marital survival rates were lower among couples with younger brides and were directly related to the occupational status of the husbands.

In a summary statement, these authors reported one of the important findings of the study was that:

... The lower survival rates of interreligious marriages were derived mainly from the marriages of Catholics with persons who apparently were not affiliated with any Protestant denomination. Apparently, the clash of religious values and beliefs less frequently led to divorce in the interreligious marriages than did circumstances associated with the lack of affiliation or identification with a church by the non-Catholic partner. (1963A, p. 362)

In yet another publication referring to this same data, Burchinal and Chancellor (1963B, p. 221) suggest:

Undoubtedly, there are important variations in the implicit and explicit emphasis given to the meaning of marriage by various Protestant denominations. ... The present results provide a challenge for field research designed to study through what linkages participation in different religious systems influence various marital norms. ...

Thus, previous work by Burchinal and Chancellor rather clearly indicated:

1. That occupational level was negatively correlated to divorce rates—that is, the higher the occupational level the lower the divorce rate.

2. That couples where one or both lack a religious affiliation had a higher tendency to divorce than couples where both were affiliated
with churches.

3. That the bride's age was negatively correlated to divorce—that is, the younger the bride's age at marriage the higher the divorce rate.

I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The basic question: What is the relationship between occupational level, religious identification, the bride's age at marriage, and divorce rate for L.D.S. couples in Utah?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were established to be tested in this study:

✓ **Hypothesis one.** Divorce rates will be lower for L.D.S. temple marriages than for L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

✓ **Hypothesis two.** For both L.D.S. temple marriages and L.D.S. non-temple marriages, the higher the level of occupation the lower the divorce rate. Divorce rates will be negatively related to occupational level.

✓ **Hypothesis three.** The negative relationship between occupational status level and divorce rate will be less pronounced for the L.D.S. temple marriages than for the L.D.S. non-temple marriages.
Objectives

The basic purpose of this study was to determine:

1. The relative importance of occupational level and religious commitment as related to divorce rate.

2. How the relationship between occupational status and divorce rate differed when strength of commitment to a religious institution was controlled.

3. How the relationship between commitment to a religious institution and divorce rate differed when different occupational levels were controlled.

Data available on L.D.S. marriages in Utah offered a unique situation for making such determinations. For L.D.S. couples to be able to marry in a temple, they had to be meeting rather strict religious requirements. Some of those basic requisites for the L.D.S. temple marriage included:

1. Moral cleanliness, which implies conformity to a conception of right behavior as proposed by the teachings of the L.D.S. Church, a manifestation of moral excellence in character.

2. Acceptance of the rules and doctrines of the Church. These would include the tenets, teachings, and philosophies of religion as proposed and accepted by the Church (which L.D.S. members believe are revealed by God).

3. Pay a full tithing (ten per cent of the increase).

4. Observe the Word of Wisdom. Here emphasis involves nonuse of certain substances deemed harmful. Particularly, members are taught
to abstain from the use of tea, coffee, tobacco, and liquor.

5. Church attendance and obedience to the gospel commandments. Man's love of God is in part measured in terms of service and compliance with important teachings of Jesus Christ.

It was required that the above be in evidence in the lives of the applicants for some period of time preceding the issuance of a temple recommendation. Therefore, couples who married in a temple should have a relatively high religious identification.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM

It would appear the clear relationships between occupational status and divorce rates, as shown by Burchinal and Chancellor, may hold when the factor of commitment to a church is not strongly manifest. When commitment to a church is strong—as is the commitment of couples who marry in an L.D.S. temple—the occupational status level is probably less important as a factor in divorce rate. The inference here would be that occupational status level is less important as a factor in divorce rate when religious commitment is interjected.

It may be that commitment to a religious institution is a more powerful factor in determination of divorce rate than occupational status. The inference here is that close religious identification minimizes differences between occupational status levels and results in stability in marriage, while low religious identification increases differences between occupational status levels and contributes to instability in marriage.
III. LIMITATIONS OF THE SAMPLE

The sample of persons to be considered in this study were limited to those born in Utah; residing in Utah at time of marriage who obtained a marriage license in 1955 in Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, or Weber counties; first marriage; and either one or both members of the L.D.S. Church at the time of marriage—thus reflecting closely the Mormon subculture. The thrust of this culture, with its dual emphasis on both vertical mobility and activity in the Church, may not be typical of the general population outside the state of Utah.

The sole method of contact was a telephone interview by the author. The interview was structured by use of a questionnaire (Appendix A) designed as a guide in conducting a uniform inquiry. The questionnaire was completed in three parts:

1. The card number (item 1) was assigned for numerical identification and control. The contact name and phone number represent either primary or secondary sources and came in part from previous research made available by Dr. Kenneth L. Cannon of Brigham Young University, and in part from additional research by the author.

2. Items 2 through 5 (see Appendix B, Table XVII, for clarification) were completed by information taken directly from county marriage records of four contiguous counties located in the state of Utah—Utah, Davis, Salt Lake, and Weber.

3. All other information on the questionnaire was gathered from the respondents by telephone contact.
The limitations suggested by this procedure would include:

1. Those not having telephones were automatically excluded from consideration. This population might represent a larger percentage of the lower occupational level.

2. Those not able to be contacted may represent a larger percentage of the divorced population. Any disruption of the family such as divorce might result in physical moves to new homes away from our telephone contact. Also, there might well be a psychological reluctance on the part of available informants to allow past problems such as divorce to again come to the foreground.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints refers to the religious organization of that name having its church headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah. Abbreviated references to either the above church or its members will be L.D.S. or Mormon.

L.D.S. temple marriage refers to the ceremony performed by a religious authority in a temple of the L.D.S. Church. Only those couples who meet rather strict religious requirements may qualify for recommendation for temple marriage. Those persons will be considered as having a strong religious commitment to the Church.

L.D.S. non-temple marriage refers to the ceremony performed by an L.D.S. religious authority outside of the temple setting. In this study, either one or both are members of the L.D.S. Church at the time of
marriage. Those persons will be considered as having a less strong commitment to a church.

Two-church family refers, in this study, to the L.D.S. non-temple married couple married in a ceremony performed by a religious authority outside of the temple setting, one of the couple being L.D.S. and one being non-L.D.S. Mormon youth are under considerable cultural pressure to marry within their faith. Nonconformity would suggest persons in this category would have a moderate commitment to a church.

Identification with a church will be operationally defined as commitment to a church at the time of marriage. Whereas, Burchinal used identification with a church as synonymous with membership in a church (no attempt was made to measure commitment through activity, etcetera), in this study identification with a church will involve two different levels of commitment. Those persons entering into Latter-day Saint temple marriages will be considered as having a strong commitment to the Church. Those persons entering into Latter-day Saint non-temple marriages will be considered as having a less strong commitment to the Church.

Low, middle, or high occupational status levels refer to a trichotomy developed from an eleven-point scale used by the Iowa Division of Vital Statistics.

- Low: operatives, domestic servants, laborers and farm laborers
V. ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

The chapters to follow will include:

1. A critical research of the literature and the contributions or inadequacies pertinent to this investigation.

2. A consideration of the sources of the data, the research design, and the procedure developed and methods followed.

3. A description of the sample and the information-gathering process, a discussion of the findings, and an exploration of other findings.

4. A summary of the major findings, conclusions, and suggestions for future research.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

One of the objectives of this study was to determine the relative importance of occupational level and religious commitment as related to divorce rate and stability of marriage. Burchinal and Chancellor (1963A, p. 362) used "identification with a church" as synonymous with membership in a church and no attempt, in their study, was made to measure the depth of that commitment.

Value Factors and Stability of Marriage in a Mormon Culture

In this study, identification with a church was operationally defined as commitment to a church. Those persons entering into Latter-day Saint temple marriages were considered as having a strong commitment to the Church. Those persons entering into Latter-day Saint non-temple marriages were considered as having a less strong commitment to the Church. Christensen and Cannon state:

The most highly sanctioned form of marriage among Mormons is that performed in one of the temples "for time and eternity." The belief is that a temple marriage, entered into by the faithful and performed by one holding the proper authority, does not terminate with death. Thus, through the prescribed temple ceremony, plus proper living, a couple is offered the prospect of remaining together and with their offspring throughout the eternities. (1964, p. 26)

Later, in the same article, they explained:

... Temples may be entered only by church members who are given a "recommend" following careful enquiries into their correct living on such points as church attendance, payment of tithing, sexual chastity, and abstinence from liquor, tobacco, coffee, and tea. After a church member has been through a temple, he is expected to continue his conformity on these and other points, and also to
adhere to certain new religious requirements imposed by the temple ceremonies. For these reasons, then, some Latter-day Saints marry in a temple, others have a church official perform the wedding in a home or chapel, and still others turn to a nonchurch officiant for a strictly civil ceremony. Since temple marriage is the most approved, and since it involves a rigorous screening procedure, naturally those who enter it will be among the most conforming in Mormon culture. (1964, p. 27)

They further state:

The divorce rate for temple marriages is the lowest of any group, in fact, it is only about one-fifth as high as the combined rate for non-temple marriages. (1964, p. 136)

In a study that compared religious orthodoxy and marital adjustment with temple and non-temple marrieds, Laws found a stronger relationship between variables in the temple married group than in the non-temple married group. Yet, he felt

. . . It would not be proper to conclude the type of marriage ceremony, temple or non-temple, is sufficient to explain the differences reported in this study; other factors such as the degree of conformity to cultural values, pressures from personal sources . . . and the value of temple marriage to the individual are certainly vital to a proper interpretation of these findings. (1959, pp. 94-95)

Rollins found " . . . a direct relationship between church participation and commitment to a church shown by the activity level at the time of marriage and temple marriage. . . . " (1958, pp. 43-44)

Nuttall reported: "L.D.S. couples who are married in the temple have a higher degree of marital adjustment than L.D.S. couples who have not been married in the temple." (1959, p. 34)

Hatton found that type of marriage—clergy versus clerk—was a significant factor that influenced the stability of marriage in her sample.
Bywater investigated the relationship of occupation and marital adjustment of a sample of L.D.S. couples registered in Utah county in 1955. His purpose was "... to determine the relationship between certain occupational variables and marital adjustment" (1959, p. 37). He interviewed sixty-five couples and found occupational levels were associated with marital adjustment and there was a relationship between occupational stability of the husband and the wife's marital adjustment scores (1959, p. 42).

Christensen found:

Religious marriage ... was in every instance found to associate with abnormally low rates of premarital pregnancy—probably because religious values tend to deter disapproved sexual activity, and also because of a tendency on the part of those who have offended religious morality to turn elsewhere in trying to escape the judgement of the church. (1963, p. 274)

And again,

If the value norms of a culture have anything to do with how its people behave, we would expect premarital conception to be highest in sexually permissive Denmark and lowest in sexually restrictive Utah. This is what was found. (1963, p. 277)

Value Factors and Stability of Marriage in Other Cultures

Turning to other cultures, Rainwater (1964) studied marital sexuality in four cultures of poverty and found significant similarities in the sentiments or values expressed by husbands and wives—sentiments that were not determined by economic factors but cultural conditioning.

Rainwater also found companionship was more pronounced at the higher class levels in his investigation in three major cities in the United States. "In the higher status groups there is heavy emphasis on
outside activities, on involvement that can be viewed as bringing
resources into the family (intellectual and artistic interests--social
activity, etc.)" (1965, p. 278). In brief, Rainwater felt the cultural
and social systems within each class subgroup differentially influenced
behavior rather than economic factors per se.

Rainwater, Coleman, and Handel wrote about the working man's wife.
In the introduction, W. Lloyd Warner said the authors

... Questioned the often misleading status indices of amount of
rent paid, or income, or occupation... rather than looking more
deeply at values and motivations having little relationship to rough
market measurement of status. (1959, pp. vi-vii)

In this same connection, Putney and Putney spoke of their
"adjusted American" and stressed "... the specific person he marries
is less important to his happiness than what he believes--the attitudes
with which he approaches marriage are far more significant" (1964, p.
124).

Christensen rather precisely clarified the study of values:

Though the social scientist, as scientist, cannot make value judg-
ments, he is entitled to study values as data. As a matter of fact,
this is more than his privilege, it is his obligation. Note the
following classical statements: "There is nothing either good or
bad, but thinking makes it so" (William Shakespeare); "The mores can
make anything right" (William Graham Sumner); "If men define situa-
tions as real, they are real in their consequences" (W. I. Thomas).
The values people hold tend both to shape their behavior and to
determine the effects of this behavior upon themselves, upon others,
and upon society at large. Values are intervening variables which
for any genuine understanding must be taken into account. (1966,
p. 17)

Luckey suggested how those values were, in part, acquired in an
article in which she compared Russia and the United States in character
education of their young:
A rather crucial difference [exists] in the two societies. Russian youth have a firm set of values given to them to internalize. Our youth have been reared by a generation of parents who are themselves confused. . . . many parents have chosen to let their children determine their own set of values. Thus our present generation is said to be "other directed" rather than "inner-directed" . . . our youth look to their peers, who have as little experience as they, in order to find their sense of values rather than looking within themselves to a set of standards that have been internalized. (1964, p. 275)

Goodrich and others, in a study of the first stage of marriage in middle-class white suburban couples, brought attention to

. . . A changing and somewhat mixed psychosocial milieu. . . . The values chosen and the roles taken may be assumed to reflect deeper intrapsychic requirements deriving from each spouse's ego defenses.

Implicit in these interpretations is the notion that, at each life stage, there is an interaction between intrapsychic and psychosocial elements which together influence a couple's pattern of adaptation. (1968, pp. 388-389)

Scanzoni, in his summary of why some families remain intact and others do not, used Bell and Vogel's

. . . Four problem areas of family organization and interaction: perceptions and evaluations of the occupation; impact of "community" factors such as social background, educational level, significant others, conflict levels and their resolution; and ideologies surrounding marriage. . . . Attention was called to the potential interactive effects between the four variables, because they obviously act in concert with one another. (1968, p. 461)

Blood also emphasized the interactive process as he stated:

"Religion contributes to marital stability and success only insofar as it is shared by husband and wife" (1962, p. 327).

He further took a firm stand on the stability of most marriages:

Some marriages deteriorate so much that they collapse completely in separation and divorce. At the other extreme some manage to resist the pervasive processes of decay. In between are the bulk of married couples. They stick out their lives together but with
steadily less feeling or actuality of togetherness. (Blood, 1962, pp. 200-201)

Christensen carefully pointed out:

... It is the value-behavior discrepancy that works against the marriage—more than either values or behavior considered alone.
... and it is current values that are important in understanding current behavior and current behavioral consequences. (1968, p. 288)

Cantril simply stated: "Human beings seek some value or system of beliefs to which they can commit themselves" (1964, p. 135).

Papanek echoed the same idea in Adlerian language as she said:

As man's greatest fears concern social isolation and vulnerability of the self through loss of self-esteem, a healthy life style is directed toward achieving competence and social success by working for a goal of social usefulness. (1965, p. 121)

Chadwick compared emotional needs with marital adjustment. She stated the purpose of her study was:

... To compare selective significance of the emotional need and the functional rational reflection areas in marital adjustment to determine which is more closely related to overall happiness and marital adjustment. (1961, p. 15)

She found support for her contention that emotional needs correlated much higher than functional needs with marital adjustment.

Burchinal researched the occupational status of the husband to see if occupation differed between church members and nonmembers, and found: "church membership was much more frequent . . . in families where the husbands' occupations were of higher status" (1959, p. 55).

Scanzoni reviewed a list of significant variables in family disorganization and concluded: "(1) husband's occupational achievement and (2) life-style aspirations may be equivalent variables. . . . One of the core dimensions of a modern society is stress on achievement and success"
(1967, p. 409).

He suggested that occupational status level may, in reality, be tied closely to value systems similar to those we have been reviewing, so closely that they may be treated as equivalent variables in research.

**Brides Age at Marriage**

Burchinal and Chancellor (1962) researched Iowa first marriages from 1953 through 1957 "... to test relationships between interreligious marriage rates, used as measures of religious endogamy norm saliency, and the ages of spouses and status levels of grooms." Among other findings "... ages at marriage and status level interacted to produce the highest rates of interreligious marriage among the youngest or oldest low status couples" (1962, p. 348).

Hatton, in a study of the causes of divorce, found: "... marriages contracted at a younger age were more prone to end in divorce than those begun at an older age ..." (1959, p. 5).

Landis (1946), in looking at the length of time required to achieve adjustment in marriage, found that men and women marrying under twenty years of age reported the smallest amount of marital happiness.
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROCEDURE

This chapter will contain a review of the purposes and hypotheses of this study, the sample selection, the questionnaire and procedure development, and the statistical treatment.

I. RESEARCH DESIGN

Objectives

The purposes of this study included an exploration of:

1. The relative importance of occupational level and religious commitment as related to divorce rate.

2. How the relationship between occupational status and divorce rate differ when strength of commitment to a religious institution was controlled.

3. How the relationship between commitment to a religious institution and divorce rate differ when different occupational levels were controlled.

For purposes of this investigation and to allow the flexibility needed to make meaningful comparisons over time, the following parallel models were used:
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<th>( Y )</th>
<th>( X_1 )</th>
<th>( Y_1 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A_1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A_2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A_3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A_n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At start of marriage (1955) Present time (1968)

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested:

**Hypothesis one.** Divorce rates will be lower for L.D.S. temple marriages than for L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

**Hypothesis two.** For both L.D.S. temple marriages and L.D.S. non-temple marriages, the higher the level of occupation the lower the divorce rate. Hence, divorce rates will be negatively related to occupational level.

**Hypothesis three.** The negative relationship between occupational status level and divorce rate will be less pronounced for the L.D.S. temple marriages than for the L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

Sample

Data already available from earlier research into 1955 county
records regarding L.D.S. temple and L.D.S. non-temple marriages was made available to the author by Dr. Kenneth L. Cannon of Brigham Young University. The sample of persons to be considered in this study was derived by selecting out of all persons married in 1955 (approximately 4,000) in four contiguous counties located in the state of Utah—Utah, Davis, Salt Lake, and Weber—those who met the following criteria for both husband and wife:

1. Born in Utah. Earlier research imposed this criteria for purposes of homogeneity of population.

2. Residing in Utah at the time of marriage. This maximized the ability to subsequently contact the couple over time.

3. First marriage. The influence of such variables as previous divorce and remarriage was eliminated.

4. Either husband or wife, or both, were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the time of marriage. This provided that within each family there existed a potential for identification with the L.D.S. Church. The original non-temple sample was purposely larger to allow dropping those couples neither of whom were L.D.S.

With the above criteria as control factors, 548 couples were selected as the sample.

**Questionnaire**

A questionnaire (Appendix A) was designed for use as a guide in conducting uniform telephone inquiries with the sample members, and as
a recording form. The data gathered by telephone pertinent to this research was entered upon this form. Other data was taken directly from the 1955 county records available from earlier research. The following items were included in the questionnaire:

1. Present status of the 1955 marriage—married or divorced.
2. Present marital status—married or divorced.
4. Religious affiliation of non-temple marriage member at present time, 1968.
5. Status of religious activity of non-temple marriage member at time of 1955 marriage. Could they have procured a temple recommendation?
6. If a temple recommendation at the present time was desired, could one be obtained?
7. Number of children.
8. Present occupation of husband.
9. If divorced, what happened to previous partner?
   a) Remarried
   b) Single
   c) Unknown
   d) Present residence or address

II. PROCEDURE

Much work had already been done, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth L. Cannon, to provide current addresses and telephone numbers of
the couples, or where they were not located, addresses or telephone numbers of either set of parents. Additional information was gathered by the author entirely by telephone. Work was started in contacting the members of the sample during February of 1968 and continued through July 17, 1968. In three locations—Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Provo—use of an L.D.S. ward, seminary, or school facility was sought and obtained. This provided use of local telephones and allowed repeated attempts to make contact as required.

Where original information on telephone numbers was inaccurate or missing, the three telephone directories covering the four counties were each searched. For purposes of this study, a successful contact was limited to either the bride or groom or their parents. If direct contact with the bride or groom was made, it was recorded as a primary contact. If their parents were contacted, it was noted as a secondary contact. This became one of the variables used in the statistical analysis designed to investigate possible parental bias. Because of the nature of some of the questions asked, only information from primary or secondary sources was recorded.

Following completion of the telephoning, the data was transferred to IBM cards and programmed for a 7040 computer. A key for interpreting the questionnaire and other data as presented in this study (Appendix B) was prepared. Items 1 through 20, in Appendix B, are found in the questionnaire (Appendix A). Items 21 and 22 are taken directly from the 1955 county records available from earlier research. Item 23 was recorded on the questionnaire under the heading "Contact Name." Item 24
was gained by sorting and tabulating directly from a deck of IBM cards representing the total population contacted (N=419).

Statistical Treatment of the Findings

Statistical tests of the relationships stated in the hypotheses above were made using contingency tables, the chi-square statistic for statistical significance. The direction of the relationships was ascertained by inspection of frequencies.
CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

Of the original sample of 548 couples, 129 (23.5 per cent) were not contacted in the time available. Of these 129, only 8 (6.2 per cent) refused to answer. Each of the 8 were secondary contacts, either a father or mother of the bride or groom. The largest single category of those not contacted, 67 (55.5 per cent), were individuals or their parents who could not be identified through the telephone directories. Many calls were made to parties bearing similar or identical names only to find no relationship to the sample couple. Also, a substantial number of contacts with children at home alone were made and identification established, but subsequent calls failed to yield the required primary or secondary contact. One additional common experience was to have the telephone go unanswered. In both of the last two situations, a special effort was made to vary the time of the return calls in an attempt to make contact.

In Part I of Figure 1, the total sample of 419 contacted were placed in three major occupational divisions based upon their previously stated occupation at time of 1955 marriage taken from the 1955 marriage register for the county. The general (N=292) category represented all the nonstudent, nonmilitary population. Within this general category, occupational status level was assigned by analysis of the individual's
I. Total sample contacted
(N=419)

- General (N=292)
- Student (N=91)*
- Military (N=36)*

II. Total sample contacted
(N=419)

- Temple (N=212)*
- Non-Temple (N=207)*

**FIGURE 1**

**MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL DIVISIONS OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE CONTACTED (N=419)**

The total sample contacted were placed in three major occupational divisions based upon previously recorded data from 1955 county records. The General category (N=292) represents all the nonstudent, nonmilitary population.

*Includes student and military population who were arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level for 1955.
present work. All those in the student ($N=91$) and military ($N=36$) categories were arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level. Sufficient information was not available to make an accurate assignment on an individual basis.

The low, middle, or high occupational status level, thus assigned, refers to a trichotomy developed by Burchinal (1963a) from an eleven-point scale used by the Iowa Division of Vital Statistics.

- **Low:** operatives, domestic servants, laborers and farm laborers
- **Middle:** clerks, sales personnel, crafts
- **High:** professional men, farm operators, proprietors, managers and officials

The eleventh category, which Burchinal chose to delete from his material, was the armed forces. This decision was made because pertinent information as to rank or rate was insufficient to assign an accurate occupational status level.

The general ($N=292$) population (Part I of Figure 1, page 24) was, thus, free of the military contamination (as well as the student contamination) as to occupational status level. Each groom was assigned a specific occupational status level based upon how his particular occupation was categorized in Burchinal's scale. This was, therefore, true of the L.D.S. temple ($N=146$) and L.D.S. non-temple ($N=146$) populations, and the both L.D.S. ($N=115$) and two-church ($N=31$) populations.

The student ($N=91$) and military ($N=36$) populations were arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level. Numerically, they
were a substantial part of the total contacted (30.3 per cent) and it was felt that retaining them as an active part of the sample, where occupational status level for 1955 was not a variable, would strengthen the study.

In Part II of Figure 1, page 24, the 419 contacted were divided into L.D.S. temple (N=212) and L.D.S. non-temple (N=207) categories which included the student and military population who had been assigned a middle occupational status level for 1955. Hence, there were two sets of L.D.S. temple and two sets of L.D.S. non-temple populations.

Data are presented in Table I, page 27, for the purpose of comparison of the student and military marriages with the others. Primary and secondary groupings indicate whether the information was obtained from a marriage partner, the primary source, or from a parent, the secondary source. The only control utilized was to check frequencies against the three major occupational divisions. Approximately two-thirds of both the general and student populations were primary responses, while the military was well over half. Differences in response patterns were not statistically significant and no further analysis was made.

Data as presented in Table II, page 28, for the total sample of 419 marriages, were divided into temple and non-temple marriages and by occupational groupings: general, student, and military. In two of the three occupational groupings, the percentage of temple and non-temple marriages are very similar. In the third grouping, temple marriages totaled 21 in contrast to 15 for the non-temple.
TABLE I
SOURCE OF INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>General (N=292)</th>
<th>Student (N=91)</th>
<th>Military (N=36)</th>
<th>Totals (N=419)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N   %</td>
<td>N   %</td>
<td>N   %</td>
<td>N   %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>197  67.5</td>
<td>57  62.6</td>
<td>21  58.3</td>
<td>275  65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>95   32.5</td>
<td>34  37.4</td>
<td>15  41.7</td>
<td>144  34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>292  100.0</td>
<td>91  100.0</td>
<td>36  100.0</td>
<td>419  100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant
Chi square = 1.647
Degrees of freedom = 2

*The primary source is either the bride or the groom. The secondary source is the mother or father of either the bride or the groom.
TABLE II

TYPE OF 1955 MARRIAGE (L.D.S. TEMPLE OR L.D.S. NON-TEMPLE) DISTRIBUTED BY MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE CONTACTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of 1955 Marriage</th>
<th>Major divisions of the total sample contacted (N=419)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.D.S. Temple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.D.S. Non-Temple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant
Chi square = 0.951
Degrees of freedom = 4

*Read percentage vertically
**Read percentage horizontally
Table III, page 30, provides data on couples who are still married, the number who have divorced, and the number separated by death. In the general occupational grouping, the divorce rate was about double that of either the student or the military groupings.

II. FINDINGS RELATIVE TO HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were tested:

Hypothesis One

Divorce rates will be lower for L.D.S. temple marriages than for L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

In Table IV, page 31, data are presented concerning the status of the marriage in 1968 for couples married in the temple and for those not married in the temple. The proportion of divorce for couples married in the temple was 2.8 per cent in contrast to a proportion of 13.4 per cent for couples having a non-temple L.D.S. marriage. The difference was significant at the .001 level. Thus the data support the hypothesis.

Hypothesis Two

For both L.D.S. temple marriages and L.D.S. non-temple marriages, the higher the level of occupation the lower the divorce rate. Divorce rates will be negatively related to occupational level.

Occupation 1955 and divorce. In Table V, page 32, data are presented on divorce for couples who had had temple marriages in 1955 (excluding student and military occupational groupings) according to the
### TABLE III

**Present Status of 1955 Marriages (Together or Divorced)**

*distributed by major divisions of the total sample contacted*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Major divisions of the total sample contacted (N=419)</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Military</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotals</strong></td>
<td>286</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deceased</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>292</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant

Chi square = 4.190

Degrees of freedom = 2
TABLE IV

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED)
DISTRIBUTED BY TYPE OF 1955 MARRIAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Type of 1955 marriage (N=419) *</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L.D.S. Temple</td>
<td>L.D.S. Non-Temple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>97.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 15.543
Degrees of freedom = 2
Significant at the 0.001 level

*Includes student and military population who were arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level for 1955.
TABLE V

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED) DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1955 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS LEVEL--L.D.S. TEMPLE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1955 occupational status level (N=146) *</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td></td>
<td>104</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td></td>
<td>109</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>145</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>146</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant
Chi square = 3.124
Degrees of freedom = 2

*Excludes student (N=91) and military (N=36) populations.
1955 occupational status. The divorce rate was lowest in the middle occupational group, 0.0 per cent, and highest in the high occupational group, 14.3 per cent. Unfortunately, this group only involved a total of seven marriages. Hence, the data for temple marriages grouped according to 1955 occupations did not support the hypothesis.

In Table VI, data are presented on divorce for couples who had non-temple marriages in 1955 (excluding student and military groupings), according to the 1955 occupational status level. The divorce rate varied from a low of 14.3 per cent for the high occupational level to 16.2 per cent for the middle occupational level. Thus, the data did not support the hypothesis for couples entering non-temple marriages in 1955.

In Table VII, page 35, data are presented on divorce for the 292 couples referred to separately in Tables V, page 32, and VI (excluding still the student and military occupational groupings), according to 1955 occupational status. The divorce rate was lowest in the middle occupational group, 8.3 per cent, and highest in the high occupational group, 14.3 per cent. The data for the combined temple and non-temple marriages grouped according to 1955 occupation did not support the hypothesis.

Occupation in 1968 and divorce. Data on divorce rates by 1968 occupational levels for temple marriages (Table VIII, page 36), and for non-temple marriages (Table IX, page 37), present some rather striking differences. In Table VIII, page 36, the differences in divorce rate for couples who were married in the temple are in the expected direction,
TABLE VI

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED) DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1955 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS LEVEL—L.D.S. NON-TEMPLE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1955 occupational status level (N=146)*</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togethe 1968</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant
Chi square = 0.016
Degrees of freedom = 2

*Excludes student (N=91) and military (N=36) populations.
TABLE VII
PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED)
DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1955 OCCUPATIONAL
STATUS LEVEL—GENERAL CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1955 occupational status level (N=292)*</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>90.1</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>292</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant
Chi square = 0.468
Degrees of freedom = 2

*Excludes student (N=91) and military (N=36) populations.
### TABLE VIII

**PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED)**
**DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1968 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS LEVEL--I.D.S. TEMPLE CATEGORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1968 occupational status level (N=212)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation unknown but divorced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant
Chi square = 0.194
Degrees of freedom = 2
TABLE IX
PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED)
DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1968 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS
LEVEL—L.D.S. NON-TEMPLE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1968 occupational status level (N=207)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation unknown but divorced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 8.381
Degrees of freedom = 2
Significant at the 0.050 level
but the differences are far too small to be statistically significant; which contrasts rather sharply with the data on non-temple marriages presented in Table IX, page 37, wherein statistically significant differences were found between the occupational levels, with the low occupational group having the highest divorce rate. Hence, the data obtained on the 419 couples found in Table X (referred to separately in Table VIII, page 36, and Table IX, page 37), who composed the sample for this study, gave support to the hypothesis that "the higher the level of occupation the lower the divorce rate. Divorce rates will be negatively related to occupational level."

In Table XI, page 40, data are presented for the total population less the student and military groups, and these data also supported the hypothesis.

These findings suggest that the occupational level that is negatively associated with divorce rate is the most recent, rather than the occupation at the time of the marriage.

Furthermore, the data also suggest that religious commitment may be more important than occupational level. Where the couples have a strong religious commitment, as is found among those who enter L.D.S. temple marriages, differences in divorce rate between occupational groupings are very slight, even though for L.D.S. couples who do not marry in the temple, occupation is a statistically significant factor in divorce rate.
TABLE X

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED) DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1968 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1968 occupational status level (N=419)*</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>97.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation unknown but divorced</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>419</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 12.113
Degrees of freedom = 2
Significant at the 0.010 level

*This 1968 total sample has no student population. The military population of 10 (2.4 per cent) was arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level for 1968.
TABLE XI

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED) DISTRIBUTED BY GROOM'S 1968 OCCUPATIONAL STATUS LEVEL—GENERAL CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Groom's 1968 occupational status level (N=292)*</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation unknown but divorced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 6.536
Degrees of freedom = 2
Significant at the 0.050 level

*Excludes student (N=91) and military (N=36) populations.
Hypothesis Three

The negative relationship between occupational status level and divorce rate will be less pronounced for the L.D.S. temple marriages than for the L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

Occupation 1955 and divorce by temple and non-temple. Inasmuch as the data by 1955 occupational groupings failed to show a consistent relationship between occupational level and divorce rate, it was necessary to test the third hypothesis with the data obtained by the 1968 occupational groupings.

Occupation 1968 and divorce by temple and non-temple. Data on divorce rates by occupational levels in Table VIII, page 36, for temple marriages, and data in Table IX, page 37, for non-temple marriages, present real differences when compared. In Table VIII, the differences in divorce rates for couples who were married in the temple are too small to be statistically significant, which contrasts sharply with the data on non-temple marriages presented in Table IX where statistically significant differences were found between the occupational levels, with the low occupational group having the highest divorce rate. Hence, the data on the 419 couples found in Table X, page 39 (referred to separately in Tables VIII, page 36, and IX, page 37), who were the sample for this study, gave support to the hypothesis that "the negative relationship between occupational status level and divorce rate will be less pronounced for the L.D.S. temple marriages than for the L.D.S. non-temple marriages."
III. OTHER FINDINGS

Bride's Age 1955 and Divorce

In Table XII, data are presented on divorce according to the bride's age at marriage for our sample of 419. The divorce rate was highest in the youngest years, with rapid percentage changes noted. Of the 15 years of age or younger group, 50.0 per cent were divorced compared to 3.3 per cent of the 19 years of age group. The 21 and over age group had a divorce rate of 3.6 per cent. The data supported the bride's age as being related to divorce rates at the 0.001 level.

Type of Marriage and Bride's Age

In Table XIII, page 44, data on the sample of 419 are presented on bride's age at marriage according to type of 1955 marriage. The younger age groups of 15 or under and 16 are heavily represented in the non-temple group, while the 19 through 21 and over age groups are quite heavily represented in the temple group. Hence, bride's age at marriage was found to be associated with religious commitment at the 0.050 level, as measured by temple or non-temple marriage in 1955.

In Table XIV, page 45, data are presented on divorce for temple married brides according to the bride's age at 1955 marriage, and showed that the bride's age, when viewed through very strong commitment to a church as measured by temple marriage, was not a significant factor in divorce rate.

In Table XV, page 46, data are presented on divorce for non-temple married brides according to the bride's age at 1955 marriage and showed
### TABLE XII

**PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED)**

DISTRIBUTED BY BRIDE'S AGE AT MARRIAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>15 or under</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>21 and over</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 39.09

Degrees of freedom = 6

Significant at the 0.001 level
TABLE XIII

TYPE OF 1955 MARRIAGE (L.D.S. TEMPLE OR L.D.S. NON-TEMPLE)
DISTRIBUTED BY BRIDE'S AGE AT 1955 MARRIAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>15 or under</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>21 and over</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.D.S. Temple</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.D.S. Non-Temple</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 24.559  
Degrees of freedom = 12  
Significant at the 0.050 level
### TABLE XIV

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED) DISTRIBUTED BY BRIDE'S AGE AT MARRIAGE—L.D.S. TEMPLE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Bride's age at 1955 marriage (N=212)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 or under</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 and over</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not statistically significant

Chi square = 2.734

Degrees of freedom = 6

---

55
TABLE XV

PRESENT STATUS OF 1955 MARRIAGES (TOGETHER OR DIVORCED) DISTRIBUTED
BY BRIDE'S AGE AT MARRIAGE—L.D.S. NON-TEMPLE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>15 or under</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>21 and over</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>88.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi square = 23.819  Degrees of freedom = 6  Significant at the 0.001 level
that bride's age, when viewed through less strong commitment to a church as measured by non-temple marriage, was a very significant factor at the 0.001 level in divorce rate.

L.D.S. Mixed Marriages 1955 and Divorce

In Table XVI, data are presented on divorce for the total sample of 419 couples according to type of marriage, temple or non-temple. A further split of the non-temple group into both L.D.S. (N=176) and two-church families (N=31) found no statistically significant relationship between the latter two groups.

There did appear to be sufficient evidence to establish the direction of an association with divorce when the temple sample was included. Of those divorced since 1955, 2.8 per cent were in the temple group, 12.3 per cent were both L.D.S., and 19.4 per cent were two-church couples.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Hypothesis One

Divorce rates will be lower for L.D.S. temple marriages than for L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

Much sociological research had been conducted over the years which had obtained a positive correlation between religious homogamy, the mating of like with like, and successful marriages. Burchinal and Chancellor (1963A, p. 362) found "... the clash of religious values and beliefs less frequently led to divorce in the interreligious marriages than did circumstances associated with the lack of affiliation or
### TABLE XVI

**Present Status of 1955 Marriages (Together or Divorced)**
Distributed by Type of 1955 Marriage and Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present status of 1955 marriage</th>
<th>Type of 1955 marriage and religion (N=419)**</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L.D.S. Temple Both L.D.S. Non-Temple**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N  %     N  %     N  %     N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together 1968</td>
<td>205 97.2 150 87.7 25 80.6 380</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced since 1955</td>
<td>6 2.8    21 12.3 6 19.4 33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>211 100.0 171 100.0 31 100.0 413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>1 5 0 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>212 176 31 419</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The relationship between both L.D.S. and one L.D.S. in the L.D.S. non-temple category is not statistically significant.**

Chi square = 17.322  
Degrees of freedom = 2  
Significant at the 0.01 level

*Includes student and military population who were arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level for 1955.
identification with a church . . . " by one of the partners. Burchinal and Chancellor used "identification with a church" as synonymous with membership in a church. For this study, identification with a church was operationally defined as commitment to a church. Those persons entering into L.D.S. temple marriages were considered as having very strong commitment to a church, while those persons entering into L.D.S. non-temple marriages were considered as having a less strong commitment to a church.

In this study, divorce rates were lower for L.D.S. temple marriages than for L.D.S. non-temple marriages, significant at the 0.001 level, hence supporting Burchinal and Chancellor and others cited in the review of the literature.

**Hypothesis Two**

For both L.D.S. temple marriages and L.D.S. non-temple marriages, the higher the level of occupation the lower the divorce rate. Divorce rates will be negatively related to occupational level.

Previous work by Burchinal and Chancellor (1961, Table 6) rather clearly indicated that divorce rates would be negatively related to occupational level. They also stated: "In all religious affiliation types . . . survival rates increased directly with the occupational status levels," (1963A, p. 357). Bywater also found "occupational levels do have a correlation with marital adjustment" (1965, p. 37).

The sample according to 1955 occupational status level did not support hypothesis two. In 1968, the differences in divorce rate for
those couples married in the temple were not statistically significant, but a sharp contrast in the data for non-temple married couples showed statistically significant differences between occupational levels, with the low occupational group having the highest divorce rate. Data were also presented for the total population less the student and military groups and these data also supported the hypothesis.

Two findings seemed highlighted. The most recent occupational status level was associated with divorce rather than the occupational status level at the time of marriage. Of the four opportunities to test the hypothesis concerning the negative relationship between divorce rate and occupational level, only one, non-temple marriages grouped by 1968 occupation, provided support. Second, the data suggest religious commitment may be more important than occupational level. Where couples have a strong religious commitment, as is found among those who enter L.D.S. temple marriages, occupational status level loses its ability to predict divorce rate as the differences between occupational groupings are very slight. Where couples have a less strong religious commitment, as is found among those who enter non-L.D.S. temple marriages, occupation regains its statistically significant factor in divorce rate.

**Hypothesis Three**

The negative relationship between occupational status level and divorce rate will be less pronounced for the L.D.S. temple marriages than for the L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

The data by 1955 occupational status level groupings failed to
show an association between occupational status level and divorce rate. As explored in the discussion of hypothesis two, it was found the most recent occupational status level had the closest relationship to divorce rate.

The data by 1968 occupational status level indicated that differences in divorce rates for couples in the temple group were too small for statistical significance, which contrasted sharply with the data on non-temple marriages, where statistically significant differences were found between the occupational levels, with the low occupational group having the highest divorce rate.

Other Findings

**Bride's age 1955 and divorce.** Burchinal and Chancellor (1961, page 6) in their work in Iowa found support that both bride's age and occupational status level were related to divorce rates. The younger the bride's age at marriage the higher the divorce rate.

They also suggested: "Young ages at marriage and low status interact to produce the lowest levels of religious endogamy norm saliency . . . " (1962, p. 348).

Hatton also found "marriages contracted at a younger age are more prone to end in divorce than those begun at an older age" (1959, p. 5).

This study supports, at the 0.001 level, the generalization that the younger the bride's age at marriage the higher the divorce rate.

**Bride's age 1955 and religious commitment.** The data indicate
the temple group get married later, while the non-temple group get married younger. The data also indicate age may be a pertinent factor in commitment to a church—not an illogical relationship.

The temple group showed bride's age was not a significant factor in divorce. By contrast, the non-temple group showed bride's age was associated with divorce at the 0.001 level.

L.D.S. mixed marriages 1955 and divorce. Mormon youth are under considerable cultural pressure to marry within their faith. Nonconformity would suggest persons in this category would have a moderate commitment to a church.

Though no statistical significance can be attached to the data reported, there did appear to be a direction of association between divorce, and the divisions of temple, both L.D.S., and two church were compared. Of those divorced, 2.8 per cent were in the temple group, 12.3 per cent were both L.D.S., and 19.4 per cent were two-church couples. This would suggest that of the non-temple married couples, both L.D.S. would have higher conformity or commitment to a church than would the two-church couples.
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

I. SUMMARY

Objectives

The objectives of this study were to ascertain the relative importance between occupational level and commitment to a religious institution as related to divorce rate and stability of marriage. Bride's age at marriage and two-church marriages, as related to divorce rate and commitment to a religious institution, were also explored.

Characteristics of the Sample

A sample of 548 couples was selected out of all persons married in 1955 (about 4,000) in four contiguous Utah counties—Utah, Davis, Salt Lake, and Weber—those who met the following criteria:

1. Born in Utah.
2. Residing in Utah at the time of marriage.
3. First marriage.
4. Either husband or wife, or both, were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the time of 1955 marriage.

The total sample actually contacted (N=419) were placed in three major occupational divisions—military (N=36), student (N=91), and general (N=292)—based upon previously recorded data from 1955 county records. The general (N=292) category represents all the nonstudent, nonmilitary populations.
Low, Middle, and High Occupational Status Levels

The low, middle, or high occupational status levels, as developed by Burchinal (1963a), were used.

Low: operatives, domestic servants, laborers and farm laborers
Middle: clerks, sales personnel, crafts
High: professional men, farm operators, proprietors, managers and officials

Anyone found in the military and student categories in the 1955 data was arbitrarily assigned a middle occupational status level. Subsequent use of the 1955 occupational data was modified to control for the bias developed. Numerically, they were a substantial part of the total population contacted (30.3 per cent) and it was felt that retaining them as an active part of the sample, where occupational status level for 1955 was not a variable, would strengthen the study. All others were assigned individually to an occupational status level based upon the criteria.

Source of Information

The only sources of information recognized for this study were the bride or groom as primary sources and the parents of either the bride or groom as secondary sources. Controls were set up to check against a possible bias between primary and secondary sources. Approximately two-thirds of both the general (N=292) and the student (N=91) populations were primary responses, while the military (N=36) was well
over one-half. Differences in these response patterns were not statistically significant.

II. FINDINGS RELATIVE TO HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis One

The first hypothesis to be tested was that divorce rates would be lower for L.D.S. temple marriages than for L.D.S. non-temple marriages. Divorce rates were found to be lower for L.D.S. temple marriages, significant at the 0.001 level. The hypothesis was supported for the total sample contacted (N=419). Small frequencies in the divorce cells were noted as a weakness (N=33).

Hypothesis Two

The second hypothesis stated: For both L.D.S. temple marriages and L.D.S. non-temple marriages the higher the level of occupation the lower the divorce rate. Divorce rates will be negatively related to occupational level.

1955. The hypothesis was not supported by either the temple or non-temple groups based upon occupational level at the start of marriage in 1955. Small frequencies (temple, N=6 and non-temple, N=22) in the divorce cells were noted as a weakness. The non-temple population divorce pattern moved in the direction of supporting the hypothesis, but never reached significance.

1968. The hypothesis was not supported by the temple group based
upon occupational status level in 1968, but was in the expected direction.

The hypothesis was supported at the 0.050 level by the non-temple group based upon occupational status level in 1968. Hence, the data obtained on the 419 couples who composed the sample for this study did support the hypothesis.

A dual factor seemed present. Where commitment to a church was less strong, occupational status level was negatively related to divorce.

**Hypothesis Three**

The third hypothesis stated the negative relationship between occupational status level and divorce rate will be less pronounced for the L.D.S. temple marriages than for the L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

1955. Hypothesis three was not supported by comparing the temple group with the non-temple group based upon occupational level at the start of marriage in 1955.

1968. Hypothesis three was supported by comparing the temple group with the non-temple group based upon occupational level in 1968.

Data in divorce rates for couples who were married in the temple are too small to be statistically significant, which contrasted sharply with the data on non-temple marriages where statistically significant differences were found between the occupational levels, with the low occupational group having the highest divorce rate.

There appeared to be an association between the young couple's
occupational status level in 1955 being unstable, not predictive of divorce, and change in occupation over time such that occupational status level in 1968 was stable and predictive of divorce. Also, where commitment to a church was less strong, occupational status level did predict divorce; where commitment to a church was very strong, occupational status did not predict divorce.

**Bride's Age 1955 and Divorce**

Support was found at the 0.001 level for the generalization that the younger the bride's age at marriage the higher the divorce rate.

**Bride's Age 1955 and Religious Commitment**

Bride's age was found to be associated with commitment to a church at the 0.050 level. To further test the effect strength of commitment to a church had, the total sample ($N=419$) was split. For the temple group, the bride's age was not a significant factor in divorce. Very small cell frequencies for divorce biased the statistic. By contrast, the non-temple group showed that bride's age was associated with divorce at the 0.001 level.

There was a suggestion that strong commitment to a church has an impact upon the negative relationship between the bride's age at marriage and divorce.

**L.D.S. Mixed Marriages 1955 and Divorce**

There was no significant difference between divorce rates for the non-temple marriages where both were L.D.S. ($N=176$) and the two-church
marriages (N=31).

There did appear to be sufficient evidence to establish the direction of association of two-church couples with divorce when the temple group was included in a comparison table. Of those divorced since 1955, in the temple married group there were 2.8 per cent, the both L.D.S. had 12.3 per cent, and the two-church couples had 19.4 per cent.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions have been reached from the findings of this study:

1. There is a significant difference between divorce rates for L.D.S. temple marriages when compared with L.D.S. non-temple marriages.

2. Most recent occupational status level (1968) was associated with divorce rate, but occupation at time of marriage (1955) was not associated with divorce rate.

3. Religious commitment may be more important than occupational level in relation to divorce.

4. Support was found for the generalization that the younger the bride's age at marriage the higher the divorce rate for the non-temple marriages.

Some concern needs to be expressed concerning a recognized weakness that may have biased these conclusions:

1. The small number of frequencies in the divorce cells was unfortunate.

2. Of the original sample of 548 couples, 129 couples (27 per
59

percent) were not contacted. The changes in family structure and residence that resulted from divorce or death are unknown, but it is possible that divorce rate would have been corrected upward if it had been possible to contact all couples in the original sample.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Similar studies, on a larger scale, are needed to ascertain more definitely the relative importance of occupational level and commitment to a religious institution as related to divorce rate (hence, stability of marriage). Very strong commitment to a church may be more closely related to divorce rate than occupation.

2. Further comparison should be made between temple and non-temple marriages and the bride's age at marriage.

3. Two-church marriages, as related to divorce rate, should be studied. Larger samples need to be used.

4. A study of most recent occupational status level as contrasted with earlier occupational status level as related to divorce. There appeared to be an association between young couple's occupational status level in 1955 being unstable, not predictive of divorce, and change in occupation over time such that occupational status level in 1968 was stable and related to divorce.

5. A study might be developed to analyze religious commitment and accelerated vertical mobility. People who are active in the Church appear to also have greater vertical mobility. It seems probable that Church teachings, highly accepted by the orthodox active L.D.S. temple
married, promote a drive to succeed reminiscent of the Protestant Ethic. Vertical mobility may be associated with both commitment to a church and occupational status level.
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Hatton, Le Ora Fern. A study of the basic cause of divorce and marital conflict as determined by cases recorded in the Utah County Marriage Counseling Center for the years 1957 and 1958. Master's thesis, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 1959.


APPENDIXES
### APPENDIX A

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

**MALE**

Card # (1) 1-4
Card Name
Contact Name

Religion at time of 1955 marriage: (4) 7
1. L.D.S. ☐
2. Catholic ☐
3. Protestant ☐
4. Jewish ☐
5. Other ☐
6. None ☐

Type of marriage: (5) 8
1. Temple ☐
2. Civil ☐
3. LDS Non-Temple ☐

1955 status of religious activity: (7) 10

Could you have procured a Temple recommend?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain ☐

Present status of 1955 marriage: (8) 11
1. Together ☐ Sealed in Temple Yes ☐ No ☐ (9) 12
2. Divorced ☐ Civil ☐ Temple ☐ (10) 13

Month ☐
Year ☐

Present marital status: (11) 14
a. Remarried ☐
b. Single ☐
c. Widowed ☐
d. Unknown ☐

Religion at present time: (12) 15
1. L.D.S. ☐
2. Catholic ☐
3. Protestant ☐
4. Jewish ☐
5. Other ☐
6. None ☐

Status of 1968 religious activity: (13) 16

Could you procure a Temple recommend today?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain ☐

Present occupation (14) 17

Comments

**FEMALE**

Card Name
Contact Name

Occupation—1955

Religion at time of 1955 marriage: (4) 7
1. LDS ☐
2. Catholic ☐
3. Protestant ☐
4. Jewish ☐
5. Other ☐
6. None ☐

Type of marriage: (5) 8
1. Temple ☐
2. Civil ☐
3. LDS Non-Temple ☐

1955 status of religious activity: (7) 10

Could you have procured a Temple recommend?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain ☐

Present status of 1955 marriage: (8) 11
1. Together ☐ Sealed in Temple Yes ☐ No ☐ (9) 12
2. Divorced ☐ Civil ☐ Temple ☐ (10) 13

Month ☐
Year ☐

Present marital status: (11) 14
a. Remarried ☐
b. Single ☐
c. Widowed ☐
d. Unknown ☐

Religion at present time: (12) 15
1. L.D.S. ☐
2. Catholic ☐
3. Protestant ☐
4. Jewish ☐
5. Other ☐
6. None ☐

Status of 1968 religious activity: (13) 16

Could you procure a Temple recommend today?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Uncertain ☐

Present occupation (14) 17

Comments

Number of children now
APPENDIX B

TABLE XVII

A MODIFIED KEY FOR INTERPRETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND OTHER STATISTICAL DATA AS PRESENTED IN THIS THESIS

<table>
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</table>
| (17) | 20            | 16              | If divorced, bride's present marital status  
|      |                |                 | 1. Remarried  
|      |                |                 | 2. Other  |
| (18) | 21            | 17              | Bride's religion at the present time, 1968  
|      |                |                 | 1. L.D.S.  
|      |                |                 | 2. Other  |
| (19) | 22            | 18              | Bride's status of 1968 religious activity  
|      |                |                 | based on her ability to procure a current  
|      |                |                 | temple recommendation  
|      |                |                 | 1. Yes  
|      |                |                 | 2. No  
|      |                |                 | 3. Uncertain  |
| (20) | 23            | 19              | Number of children in 1968  
|      |                |                 | 0    5  
|      |                |                 | 1    6  
|      |                |                 | 2    7  
|      |                |                 | 3    8 or more  
|      |                |                 | 4  |
| (21) | 24            | 20              | Groom's age at marriage in 1955  
|      |                |                 | 1. 15 or younger  
|      |                |                 | 2. 16  
|      |                |                 | 3. 17  
|      |                |                 | 4. 18  
| (22) | 25            | 21              | Bride's age at marriage in 1955  
|      |                |                 | 1. 15 or younger  
|      |                |                 | 2. 16  
|      |                |                 | 3. 17  
|      |                |                 | 4. 18  
| (23) | 26            | 22              | Source of information  
|      |                |                 | 1. Primary: bride or groom  
|      |                |                 | 2. Secondary: mother or father of  
|      |                |                 | either the bride or groom  |
| (24) | 27            | 23              | Two-church family in 1955  
|      |                |                 | 1. Both L.D.S.  
|      |                |                 | 2. One L.D.S., one other  |
ABSTRACT

This study focused upon differences between L.D.S. temple and L.D.S. non-temple marriages (which was used as a measure of religious commitment) with respect to divorce rate, and the relationship of occupational level and bride's age at marriage to divorce rate.

A total of 419 couples were involved in the study. They were all married in 1955, had been born in Utah, and were residing in Utah at the time of marriage. Temple and non-temple marriages were equated for occupational level at the time of marriage. By 1968, the L.D.S. temple married couples tended to be higher in occupational level.

Significant differences were found between couples with temple marriages and those with non-temple marriages: the divorce rate was lower and the negative relationship between occupational level and bride's age at marriage and divorce rate was far less pronounced for the temple marriages. The occupational level that was found to be most useful was the 1968 level.

Couples or their parents were contacted by telephone to obtain data used in this thesis.