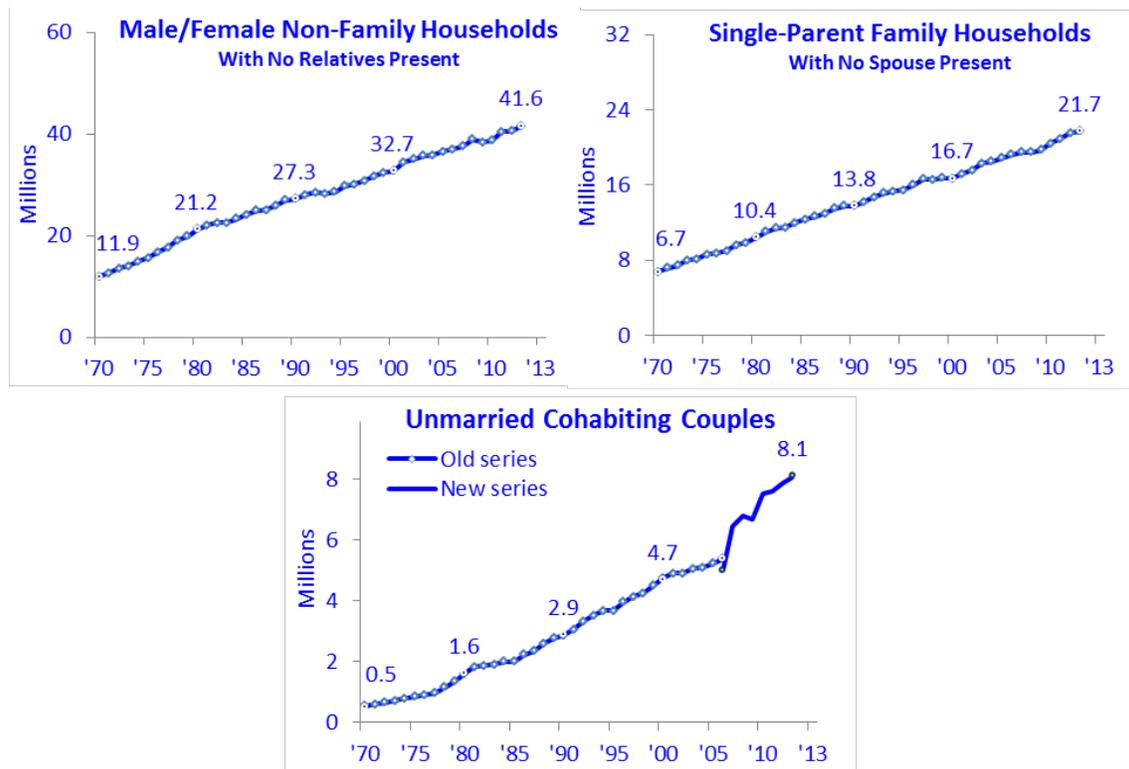




The Sad Legacy of the Sixties' Credo: "If It Feels Good, Do It"

The data show the consequences of one generation failing to convince the next that self-indulgence stunts the development of a capacity for commitment and pair bonding. — Janice Shaw Crouse



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/historical.html.

It is curious that today's post-moderns do not realize how their affinity for reality TV's survivor shows mirrors their own values and outlook on life. They watch with fascination the ruthless winners who have little use for the values of loyalty, fidelity, and honor. The worldview of the audience seems to shut off serious reflection on the fundamental question posed by the contestants' actions: What do I owe to others? How does life's meaning and value — our very humanity — depend upon the nature of our relationships?

The post-modern outlook says: "I'll do as a please," "I answer to no one," and "Don't you dare judge me." This worldview has resulted in a huge segment of society that accepts no standards, no demands, and no accountability, a crowd of isolated persons whose relationships are at best tenuous. These are the legions of the uncommitted and unconnected — 81 percent of the nearly 42 million single-person, non-family households are persons living all alone. While married couples comprised 70 percent of all households in 1970, today they are less than half (48 percent).