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**(no subject)**

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reply to discussion

## Module #5 (charolett)

Yes, I do see a declining family. Divorce rates are higher, with couples choosing to cohabitate versus getting married. When I was growing up, couples living together prior to marriage, frowned upon by older family members. It went against Christian beliefs. Women are no longer considered to be "stay at home moms". Many women choose careers and education over children. However, for women that do have children, they have no problem being a single parent or having a child out of wedlock. I must disagree with the ending, where it states the negative side is middle-aged children find themselves taking care of aging parents. I am a caretaker, I don't consider it to be negative, challenging at times but not negative.

## Discussion 5 (Teresa)

I don't believe the trends discussed show a decline of the family because these family structures are a great example of how there is not just one "traditional" way to become a happy and loving family. Family is defined in our text as a socially recognized group (by blood, marriage, or adoption) that forms an emotional connection and serves as a functioning part of society (OpenStax College 2013) and I believe that all of the trends listed above reflect a family unit. I also think it's important to note that men and women who are content in their own individual success and create their own timeline of "big" life events may find a greater happiness within the roles they take on as a partner/spouse and parent because they did not feel pressured. It's a great example to children to see diversity in the family structure and to understand that society does not dictate how you live your life.

I got married at 28 years old and was 30 years old when I had my first child and I remember questioning if I was "too old" at that point and then I realized that it wasn't even my own opinion on age and pregnancy but the opinion of others that had made me feel this way during such a special time in my life. I can't imagine having a baby with the man I was in a relationship with in my early twenties just for the sake of having a child "while I am young" and I am so glad I waited to get married and have a child with someone who was ready for a family. However, I know couples who met in high school, got married after graduation, had 2-3 kids back to back, and they are still happily married. What works for them would not have worked for me, but both of our families are happy and thriving and that's what matters at the end of the day.