

## Christian Marriage

Can we keep our heads  
above water?

The Wider Context

the iWorld



# Christian Marriage

*Can we keep our heads  
above water?*

# The Wider Context

How did we get here?

# the iWorld



How did we get here?



# sexual revolution

**contraceptive pill + legal abortion  
= sex separated from reproduction**

**gradual shift in gender roles --> more  
economic independence for women**



**old norms rejected for sexual freedom**

led to consumerism

- Choices empower us & define our identity
- Acquire 'stuff', experiences, brand association
- Promotes debt and short term d-m horizon
- Driven by advertising, creates dissatisfaction
- Cultural phenomenon: Product of materialistic philosophy + commercial strategy
- Consumerisation of relationships/sex/marriage

+ individualism

Result:

- individual is ultimate source of authority regarding truth, morality, identity
- Autonomous freedom & independence
- Power to create personal lifestyle/brand
- Individuality diminished by interdependence

Result:

# **iWorld of sexual and relational freedom**

**only 3 taboos:**



**1. You may not criticize someone else's lifestyle choices**

**2. You may not coerce or cause**

... lifestyle choices ... someone

**2. You may not coerce or cause harm to others**

engage in a se  
her pe

cause

**3. You may not engage in a sexual relationship with another person without his or her consent**

How did we get here?

# the iWorld

3. Fear of

4. F



1. Equating intimacy with sex

2. "Compound" family bre

equating intimacy with sex

2. "Compound" family breakdown

3. Fear of commitment

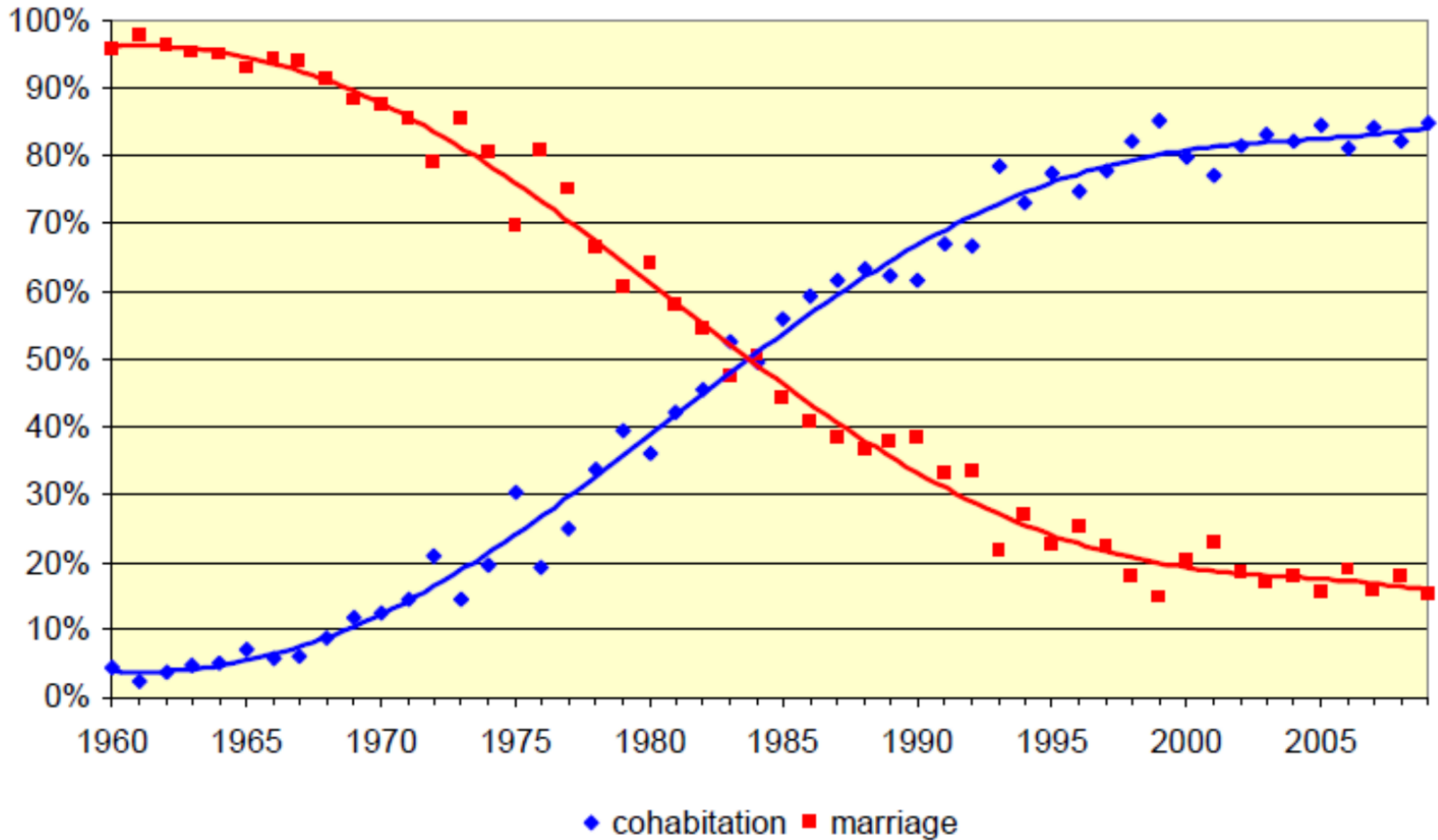
# 3. Fear of commitment



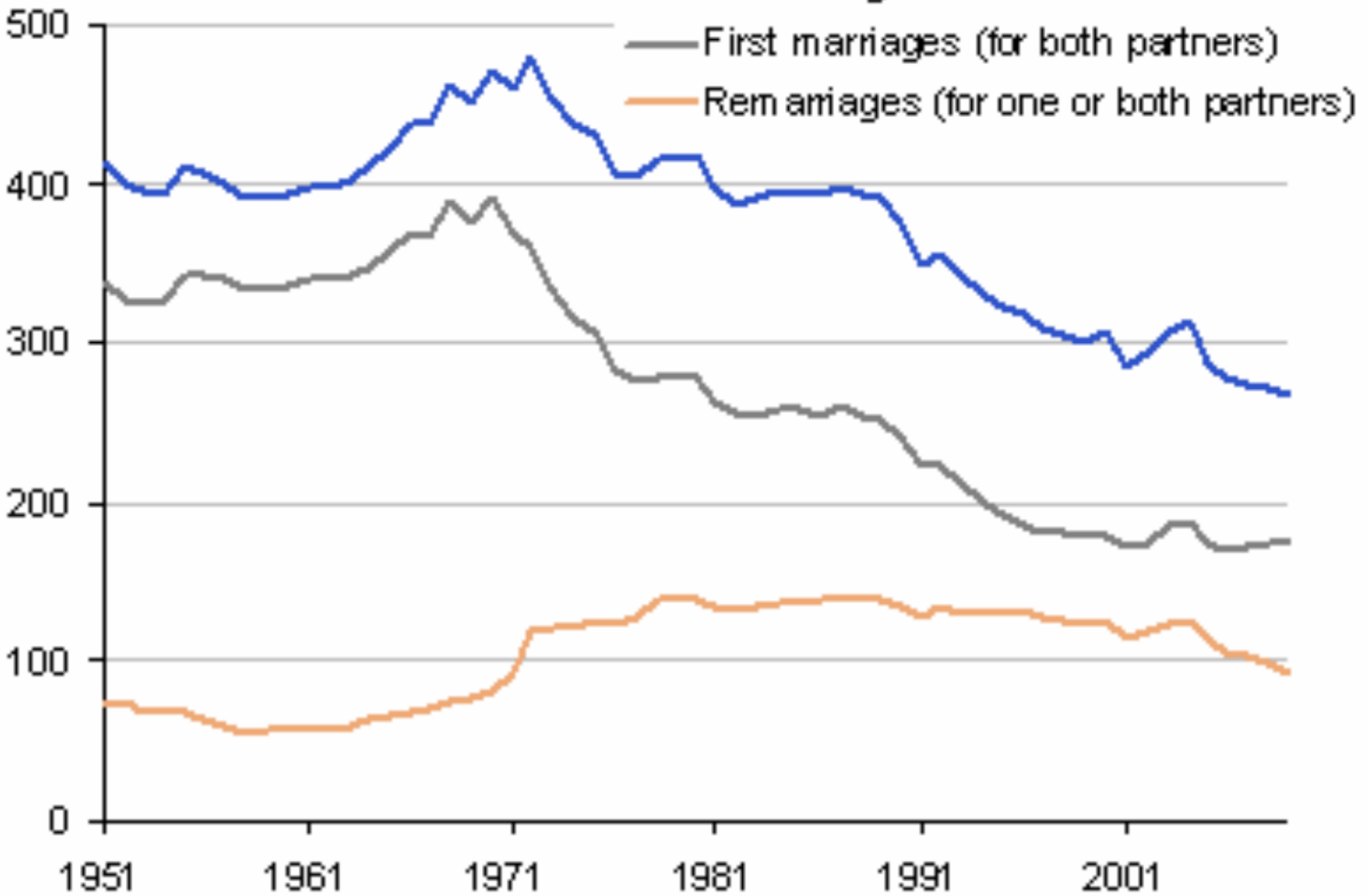
# 4. Rise of cohabitation

# 5. Economic pressures

## Change in first union types over time



Thousands



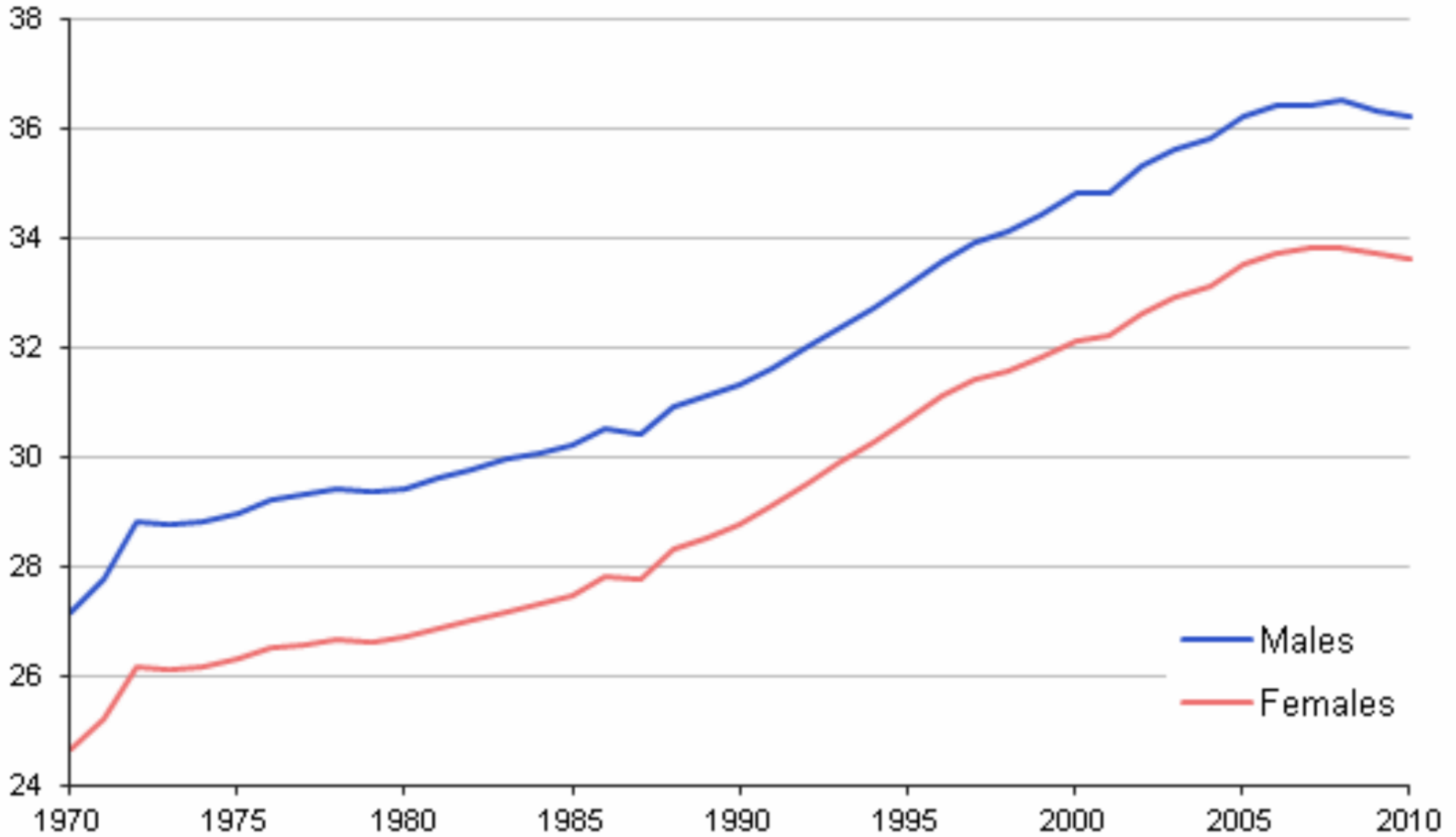
5. Economic pressures - house prices, working hours

6. Delayed family formation

prices, working hours

## 6. Delayed family formation

Years



Males  
Females

All these  
influence  
Christians!