

3<sup>rd</sup> National Symposium 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014

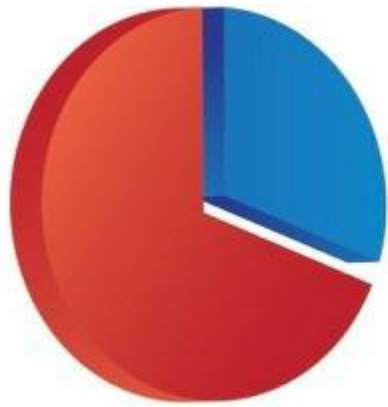


engage

making Christian marriage possible

[www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk)

**Making Christian Marriage Possible:**  
the church is the greatest barrier to Christian marriage  
– how can we change this?



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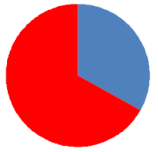
making Christian marriage possible

**What is ENGAGE  
and why is it needed?**



# Key principles

- “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Mt 28.19-20)
- Relationships, marriage and family are key discipleship issues for everyone
- Biblically, singleness is good, and marriage is good
- Most Christians want to marry another Christian (Christian Connection survey, 2012)



# Key principles

- ‘Christian marriage’ defined for today’s purposes as a Christian man married to a Christian woman
- It is best for a Christian to marry another Christian
  - biblical teaching (1 Cor 7.39 ; 2 Cor 6.14)
  - recent research (e.g. Evangelical Alliance, 2012, *How’s the Family?* report)

# Barriers to Christian Marriage

## 1. Church gender imbalance

1 man: 2 women

Tearfund 2007, *Churchgoing in the UK*

Evangelical Alliance 2012, *How's the Family?*

## 2. Lack of teaching in the church

## 3. Lack of awareness

# Consequences

1. Singleness
2. Dating
3. Women
4. Men
5. Children and young people
6. Mixed marriages
7. Christian marriage now and in the future



# Engage: Making Christian Marriage Possible

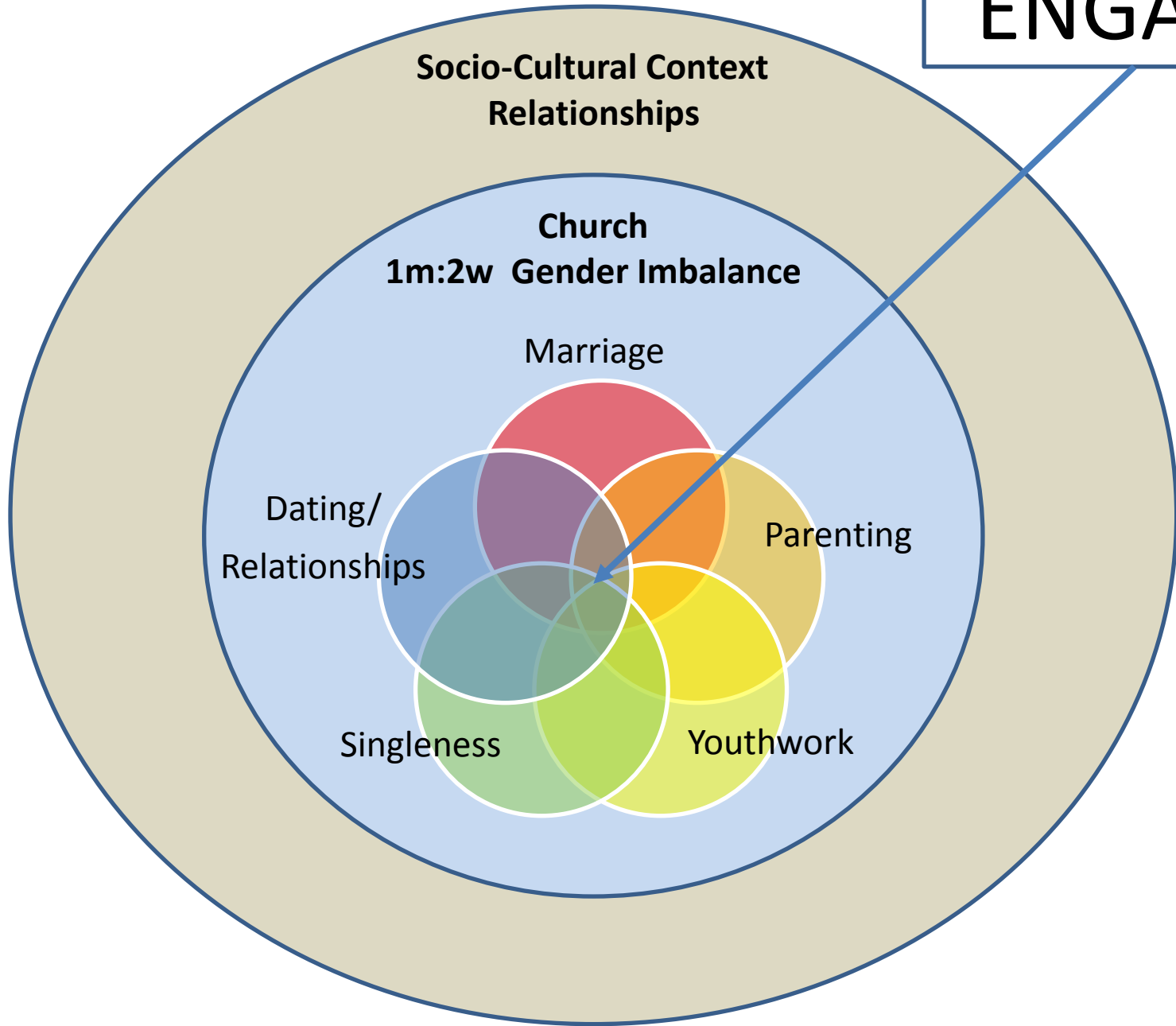
## What?

- A national network of Christian organisations, collaborating to make Christian marriage possible .  
[www.engage-mcmp.org.uk](http://www.engage-mcmp.org.uk)

## The Vision

- To make singleness or marriage a genuine choice for all Christian women and men, through a church which is gender-balanced and teaches about healthy Christian singleness, dating and marriage.

**ENGAGE**







# Engage:

## Making Christian Marriage Possible

### Aims

- To facilitate action amongst Christians that raises awareness of the church gender imbalance and addresses the resulting issues for men, women and children.
- To connect men to Jesus and the church to men (see [www.cvm.org.uk](http://www.cvm.org.uk)), creating a gender-balanced church.
- To promote teaching for the whole church about healthy Christian singleness, dating, relationships, marriage and parenting.

Bringing change...

**Prayer + Action**

**What is your role in it all?**