## Frederica Mathewes-Green

# The Cost of Independence

## Comprehension and discussion questions

1) What phenomenon was F discussing with her friend the other day? What was the reaction to it in the past and now? What reasons for this does F suggest?

2) What allows us to be alone and independent?

3) What example does F give to illustrate her statement that the level of prosperity has raised over the last hundred years? What goes R+H stand for?

4) What is there inside of us? What does living together without getting married explicitly say?

5) What effect does prosperity have on the religious life of a person? Has it always been this way?

6) What effect does prosperity have on morality and family life?

7) What comment does F make on American culture and on the Gospel story?

8) What is the "other end" of independence and isolation? Why do we seize isolation, and what is its cost?

9) Why do we not recognize the loneliness, according to F?

10) Does consumerism make us unique?

11) What other thing contributes to our feeling about our existence as foggy and unreal?

12) What benefit is there to living together without getting married?