

## Causes And Solutions To A Divorce

As a general rule, marriages begin as happy occasions. Two people starting out their lives together with new beginnings and possibilities. Many will remain together “till death do us part.” However, we must acknowledge many marriages end in divorce. Even among Christians there are marriages which end in separation and eventually divorce. Why? What are some of the reasons for these failed unions? What can be done to reconcile and rebuild these relationships? Here is a partial list.

There are marriages that are doomed to fail because one or both are not committed. A vow is a solemn promise between God and mankind. Despite the vows heard at weddings: “Do you take this person for better or worse, in sickness and health, rich or poor, etc.?”, couples do not think about the promises they are making. When the sickness or worse or poor comes along, they are ready to call it quits. In the Garden of Eden, God formed the marriage union between a man and a woman. **“Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:23).** Notice marriage is between two people of the opposite sex but also between a man and a woman not a boy and a girl. That marriage includes God. People who are either immature or not totally committed to their marriage will find divorce appealing.

Marriages often fail due to a lack of time spent with each other. I have known numerous unions end when “he is never at home” or “she is always with her friends”. Time spent together is important in building communication between husband and wife. The phrase “men are from Mars and women are from Venus” speaks to the point that men and women are different. We think differently, react different, desire different things, and are emotionally different. Some of our communication is verbal and some non-verbal which makes communicating even harder. Then there is the child rearing aspect of the home which requires times. Children need two parents, when possible, to rear them. The husband or wife left alone all the time will eventually get tired of it and decide they can do better by themselves.

Other marriages fail when one thinks they have found someone more appealing. Perhaps the wife no longer has the same figure as before having children. The man no longer has the head or hair and has gained weight. Then someone else comes long who is younger and prettier/handsome. The allure of a new love can be exciting. Society says to go for it and find someone else to make you happy.

Then there are times when the person says, “I have changed” or “we no longer have

anything in common.” After years of rearing children and then they leave mom and dad at home alone, they are now “empty nesters”. Their commonality, i.e., children are gone and have grown apart. Or one goes back to school has new friends and no longer feels connected to their spouse. The dreaded “I don’t care anymore” is a serious condition in any relationship which usually ends in failure.

The above things don’t happen over night but over an extended period of time. Most marriages end in one of three stages. Stage one is those who divorce within the first year or two, we can put these into the “lack of commitment category”. Stage two around the 5-year mark, perhaps these would be the “lack of time and communication group”. Stage three when the children leave home which is the “find someone else more appealing and I have changed group”.

I believe we can also apply these to those who become unfaithful to Christ. Some due to a lack of understanding and commitment, some due to a lack of time with Jesus in worship and applying the Bible in their lives become unfaithful. Then there are those who find the world more appealing. They are like the hogs and dogs in 2 Peter 3 which return to the mire and vomit. We can mention those who have fallen out of love with their Savior and just don’t care anymore.

So, what are the solutions to these “marriage problems?” It must start with repentance. Repentance means to change, to turn from that which is sinful and wrong toward God and goodness. Without repentance nothing will improve in our marriages. This is a repentance with a purpose. **“Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” (Ephesians 5:24-25).** A husband who does not love his wife as Christ loves the church needs to change. A wife who is not willing to submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ needs to change. Once both get to that level of love and submission, things will improve.

There is the need to remember and honor the commitment they made in their vows. Both male and female voluntarily enter into the marriage making this commitment before God. God holds us accountable even if society does not.

Husbands and wives must spend time together to bond together, improve their communication and understanding. Children need both a father and mother in their lives which means both must be present.

Remember why the other person was appealing in the beginning of the relationship.

Look for those qualities and think about what made you attractive to the other person.

Caring is a product of understanding what is at stake. People care about those they love which includes the spouse, their children, extended families, and even the church. Do you care about your soul? If so, then you should care about your marriage.

This morning's lesson will go into more detail on each of these points and make application to our relationship with Christ. – Dennis Tucker