

DEALING WITH DIVORCE

DIFFICULT ISSUES, BIBLICAL ANSWERS

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STUDENT WORKBOOK

bibleTalk^{TV}



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Dealing with Divorce

Difficult Issues // Biblical Answers

Mike Mazzalongo

This series will examine the various causes for divorce and how to cope when you or someone close is going through a divorce as well as recovering from a broken marriage.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. 7 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL DIVORCE	4
2. WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF DIVORCE – PART 1	9
3. WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF DIVORCE – PART 1	12
4. THE MARRIAGE BED	15
5. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE SECRET SIN - PART 1	18
6. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE SECRET SIN - PART 2	22
7. MIXED RELIGIOUS MARRIAGES	27
8. DIVORCE AND THE GOSPEL OF GRACE	30
9. THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE	33
10. SUCCEEDING AT REMARRIAGE	37
11. DIVORCE BUSTERS - PART 1: <i>PREVENTING A DIVORCE</i>	40
12. DIVORCE BUSTERS - PART 2: <i>DIVORCE-PROOFING YOUR MARRIAGE</i>	42
13. LOVE AND MARRIAGE	45

1. 7 Steps to a Successful Divorce

This lesson reviews what not to do if you want to succeed at marriage.

Divorce Statistics in the U.S.A.

There are many theories on why we have such a high divorce rate.

My theory is _____

Seven Steps to a Successful Divorce

Step #1 - Don't _____

Genesis 2:24a _____

There is a natural bond between parents and children that remains even when they become adults.

However _____

There is a role for parents to play. _____

Step #2 - Don't _____

Genesis 2:24 _____

“Cleaving” is what creates that special intimacy. _____

Successful divorces require that you avoid cleaving. _____

Step #3 - Do _____

Genesis 2:24-25 _____

It's within the “one flesh” union that couples experience _____

Make sure you focus on your _____ first.

Step #4 - Don't _____

Genesis 1:28 _____

In 2010, the U.S. recorded its lowest birthrate in 100 years _____

Step #5 - Don't _____

Ephesians 5:22-24 _____

Tips on how to treat your husband _____

The "tipping" point is when you _____

Step #6 - Don't _____

Ephesians 5:28-29 _____

The successfully divorced male must _____

Step #7 - Don't _____

This last step is for couples. _____

If you're serious about divorce you'll concentrate on _____

Do what most people do to calm their guilty conscience. _____

Summary

1. Don't _____

2. Don't _____

3. Do _____

4. Don't _____

5. Don't _____

6. Don't _____

7. Don't _____

Divorce is painful! _____

Follow God's plan for successful marriage and avoid divorce.

2. What to do in Case of Divorce – Part 1

This class reviews the dos and don'ts for those people who are experiencing a divorce in their family circle or among their friends or co-workers.

We need to know what to actually do or not do when a divorce actually takes place.

I. The Don'ts (things not to do)

1. Don't _____

The situation breeds division. _____

Guilt or innocence is not based on _____

3. Don't _____

We like to think we know because it helps us make sense of a bad thing.

Most people only realize the true "why"

3. Don't _____

Divorce is not the "unforgivable" sin. _____

We should compare ourselves to _____

Romans 3:23 _____

Other don'ts:

Don't _____

Don't _____

Don't _____

II. The Do's (what to do)

1. Do _____

Matthew 7:7 _____

2. Do _____

There is too much effort at talking and not enough time spent _____

3. Do _____

Loving does not justify what has been done. _____

Love doesn't even guarantee that the marriage will be saved. _____

Summary

"All Marriages End in Either _____ or _____."

3. What to do in Case of Divorce – Part 1

Mike finishes up this section of the course by laying out some of the basic dos and don'ts for people caught up in a personal divorce.

Review

Divorce Happens!

Divorce is the result of some kind of failure.

I. When Divorce Happens

1. Don't _____

1. Do _____

I Corinthians 6:9-11 _____

We must define ourselves by our **new** selves in Christ.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

I John 1:7-10 _____

When divorce happens:

2. Don't _____

2. Do _____

A. Protect _____

B. Guard _____

When divorce happens

3. Do _____

Matthew 11:30 _____

I Peter 5:7 _____

There's only one way to deal with the burden of guilt caused by divorce _____

For Christians the good news continues to be good

Romans 3:23

Romans 3:23

Summary

God does hate divorce (Malachi 2:16)

The solution to divorce is _____

4. The Marriage Bed

This lesson reviews the basic instructions God provides concerning the subject of sex in marriage.

HEBREWS 13:4

More and more children are without their parents.

I. Defiling the Marriage Bed - Hebrews 13:4a

Hebrews summarizes well God's teaching concerning sex within marriage.

1. Marriage is to be held _____

2. The bed _____

The author mentions 2 ways this can happen.

A. Fornication _____

B. Adultery _____

II. The Consequences – Hebrews 13:4b

Our society makes an unfortunate distinction between these two sins.

The writer of Hebrews does not give details here, but Paul does in I Corinthians 6:9.

Today we live in a different society but the temptation to be sexually impure is just as great.

III. The Solution

Some think that getting married erases the fornication that takes place before marriage.

1. Commit _____

John 1:7-9 _____

2. Seek _____

I Corinthians 6:14 _____

3. Ask _____

I Corinthians 6:11 _____

Summary

Sexual sins are not “unpardonable,” they can be forgiven and overcome.

5. Domestic Violence: The Secret Sin - Part 1

This lesson focuses on the profile of the typical abuser and reasons why women stay in these types of marital situations.

Domestic violence happens everywhere, even in the church.

I. Domestic Violence (D.V.)

Domestic Violence is _____

National Statistics

_____ hospital visits due to D.V.
_____ of all homicides

Oklahoma Statistics

_____ D.V. phone calls in Oklahoma City
_____ of all homicides

Battered wife syndrome

- A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
-
-

Batterers - Profile

- Low _____
- Difficulty _____
- Little _____
- Perfectionists _____
- Fear _____
- Out of touch _____
- Dual _____
- Unable _____
- All _____
- Believe _____
- History _____
- History _____
- Over _____

II. Why do people behave violently in marriage?

1. Previous _____
2. Low _____
3. Displacement _____
4. Reinforcement _____
5. No _____
6. Violence _____

7. Cultural _____

8. Misunderstanding _____

III. The Cycle of Violence

1. Violent Episode _____

2. Crisis State _____

3. Honeymoon Period _____

4. Calmness _____

5. Stress Period _____

IV. Power and Control

Some of their methods

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Two main types of abusers:

Cobra _____

Pit Bull _____

These are tools that they use to _____

V. Why Women Stay

A. Love _____

B. Change _____

C. Fear _____

Remember:

1. It happens _____

2. Beating _____

3. There is _____

6. Domestic Violence: The Secret Sin - Part 2

The second part of this lesson on Domestic Violence examines the Bible's instructions concerning marriages struggling with this problem.

There are laws that deal specifically with battery, domestic violence and spousal abuse.

The key to breaking the cycle. _____

I. What Counselors Recommend

Listen _____

Try to explain _____

Help her _____

Best place to go _____

The goal is _____

II. What does the Bible say?

1. Don't be _____

II Corinthians 6:14 _____

2. Loving yourself _____

Matthew 22:37-39 _____

Why do women stay?

A. Familiarity _____

B. Ignorance _____

C. Cycle _____

D. Low Self-Esteem _____

Loving yourself means:

1. You do not _____

2. You do not _____

3. Abusive partners are _____

Ephesians 5:28-29 _____

4. Bottom line in marriage _____

I Corinthians 7:12-16 _____

Paul provides teaching for various marital combinations in chapter 7:

Vs. 25-28 – Singles _____

Vs. 10-11 – Married _____

Vs. 8-9 – Widowed and Divorced _____

Vs. 12-16 – Married to Non-Christians _____

“Not Bound” means not bound to the marriage because _____

God has called us to peace _____

Signs You Might be in an Abusive Relationship

There's more to abuse than hitting.

When one person scares, hurts or continually puts down another person, its abuse. If any of these are happening in your relationship, talk to someone. Without help, the abuse will continue. Here is a checklist:

Does your partner:

- Embarrass or make fun of you in front of your friends or family?
- Put down your accomplishments or goals?
- Make you feel like you're unable to make decisions?
- Use intimidation or threats to gain compliance?
- Tell you that you are nothing without them?
- Treat you roughly: grab, push, pinch, shove or hit you?
- Call you several times a night or show up to make sure you are where you said you would be?
- Use drugs or alcohol as an excuse for saying hurtful things or abusing you?
- Blame you for how they feel or act?
- Pressure you sexually for things you aren't ready for?
- Make you feel like there "is no way out" of the relationship?
- Prevent you from doing things you want like spending time with your friends or family
- Try to keep you from leaving after a fight or leave you somewhere after a fight to "teach you a lesson"?

Do you:

- Sometimes feel scared of how your partner will act?
- Constantly make excuses to other people for your partner's behavior?
- Believe that you can help your partner change if only you changed something about yourself.
- Try not to do anything that would cause conflict or make your partner angry?
- Fell like no matter what you do, your partner is never happy with you?
- Stay with your partner because you are afraid of what you partner would do if you broke up?

Source: The Gazette, Montreal, Thursday, July 8, 2004

7. Mixed Religious Marriages

This lesson will deal with the difficult task of balancing one's faith while maintaining a positive relationship with a non-believing spouse.

The real goal in a mixed religious marriage is to _____

I. Bible Background

The Bible recognizes that these marriages exist.

II Corinthians 6:14-15 _____

I Corinthians 7:12-16:

Vs. 12 _____

Vs. 13 _____

Vs. 14 _____

Vs. 15 _____

Vs. 16 _____

II. Personal Experience

How do you manage to “live in peace”?

1. Realize that God _____

Romans 8:37 _____

2. Communicate positively _____

3. Act like _____

4. Identify and keep your _____

5. Understand the _____

Common complaints

- Lack of comfort _____

- Betrayal _____

- Self-Persecution _____

- Panic _____

- Resentment _____

- Prejudice _____

- Struggle for control _____

Remember what Paul holds the believer in a religiously mixed marriage accountable for:

III. Believer's Role in the Body

1. Find your _____

2. Minister _____

3. Teach _____

4. Prayer _____

8. Divorce and the Gospel of Grace

This lesson examines the impact of the gospel message on those who have been divorced.

Divorce causes many burdens:

Some carry a spiritual burden because of divorce.

I. Perfection through Grace

Perfection _____

Perfect Marriage

1 Man + 1 Woman for Life

Imperfect _____

How God deals with the imperfect. _____

The "Good News" _____

II. Issues regarding the Gospel and the sins of adultery and divorce.

A. What about repentance?

B. Repentance based on Law or Grace

1. Legal Repentance _____

2. Repentance based on grace _____

Psalm 32:1-11 _____

Matthew 18:32-33 _____

God is more interested in _____ not _____.

Some ask, "If we are under grace why repent?"

3 Reasons

1. God will _____

2. Romans 6:16 _____

3. If you are _____

Philippians 3:8-11 _____

9. The Most Asked Questions About Divorce and Remarriage

This lesson drills down into the arguments for or against a Christian's permission to remarry after a divorce.

Divorce and Remarriage is one of the most sensitive issues in our brotherhood.

I. Marriage

The Bible definition of marriage is _____

II. Divorce

The main debate is over what happens after divorce.

“Can a marriage be dissolved in God’s eyes?” _____

III. What Dissolves a Marriage?

Matthew 19:1-9 _____

The breaking of the marriage vow is the adultery.

Adultery can be any of the following:

- Sex outside _____
- Sex with _____
- Breaking _____

The argument is over grammar:

Point Action _____

Linear Action _____

Those who interpret with linear action:

A. _____

B. _____

If interpreted as "point" actions _____

Anyone who divorces = _____

And marries another = _____

Commits adultery = _____

If the adultery is a “one time” action:

1. The breaking of the vow _____

2. The marriage is _____

3. Divorce without _____

IV. Guilty / Innocent

A. Guilty _____

Remarriage is not _____

What makes restitution is _____

We never see _____

There is no writing _____

B. Innocent _____

Matthew 5:31-32 _____

If interpreted in “active” mode.

1. Innocent party _____

2. Innocent party _____

3. Innocent party _____

If interpreted in the “passive” voice _____

Jesus exposes the triple damage done to the innocent party.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The gospel of grace _____

10. Succeeding at Remarriage

In this lesson, Mike outlines various strategies to create happy and healthy subsequent marriages.

This can be a difficult lesson for many.

This lesson addresses people who are in “subsequent” marriages.

Proper repentance requires a change of heart even when you cannot change the past.

I. Remarriage and Renewal Advice:

1. You are really _____ !

Subsequent marriages are not first marriages but they are true marriages in God’s eyes and society’s eyes as well.

2. Your marriage is _____

The person who divorces and repents is forgiven for the sin of adultery.

Perfection is the free gift given by grace, received by faith,
expressed in _____ and _____.

3. Follow the _____ advice for remarrieds.

God is patient and kind towards those who fail and are trying again.

Advice for those who fail.

A. _____ the past.

Can't fix the past by punishing yourself. _____

Paul dealt with the past by looking towards the future. _____

B. _____ from the past.

Many second marriages fail because people enter into them with baggage from the first marriage.

Remarriage is not the way to solve past problems or hurts. _____

C. Let your life and change be a _____

Paul began many of his sermons with the story of his conversion. _____

Summary

Jesus came to save, build, encourage, equip – not to judge, criticize and punish.

God wants _____, _____, _____,
even in marriage.

11. Divorce Busters - Part 1:

Preventing a Divorce

In this lesson, Mike gives seven suggestions to single people to help them find the right marriage partner.

Stories of children at Lise's school are the true measure of the pain of divorce.

I. Preventing Divorce

7 Suggestions on how to avoid divorce:

Suggestion #1 _____

Suggestion #2 _____

Suggestion #3 _____

Suggestion #4 _____

Suggestion #5 _____

Suggestion #6 _____

Suggestion #7 _____

Summary

Most of you could add some other suggestions: _____

All of the negatives could be summarized into one positive suggestions:

Marry someone _____

12. Divorce Busters - Part 2:

Divorce-Proofing Your Marriage

In this second part of the Divorce Busters lesson, Mike provides three key suggestions that can help those who are experiencing marriage trouble.

I. Divorce Proofing Your Marriage.

Suggestion #1 _____

A. Contract _____

B. Commitment _____

1. Commitment to _____

2. Commitment to _____

3. Commitment to _____

Suggestion #2 _____

1. Swallow _____

2. Get _____

3. Be _____

Suggestion #3 _____

Forgiveness is the only way to wipe the slate clean.

Summary

Divorce could almost be eliminated if:

- _____



- _____

- _____

These lessons invite you to respond in a variety of ways:

Reconsider _____

Seek _____

Become _____

Be _____

Don't let divorce destroy your marriage.

13. Love and Marriage

In the final lesson of this series, Mike discusses the various types of love that we express and focuses on the type of love necessary to make a marriage last a lifetime.

Most people find their true emotional and physical fulfillment within marriage.

I. Understanding Love _____

1. The kinds of love expressed by human beings.

Eros _____

Phileos _____

Storgos _____

These types of love are based on things “outside” of ourselves. _____

2. The kind of love expressed by God. _____

There are many differences between love expressed by humans and Agape type love:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

II. Agape Love and Marriage

Human love is not the source of love; it is an expression of love.

Agape love is based on a decision, not a feeling.

III. What Agape Looks Like

Paul describes this agape-type love in I Corinthians 13, when he says:

Agape is *patient* _____

Agape is *kind* _____

Agape is *not jealous* _____

Agape is *not proud* _____

Agape is *not rude* _____

Agape is *not selfish* _____

Agape is *not sensitive* _____

Agape is *not vengeful* _____

Agape *loves justice* _____

Agape *forgives* _____

Agape is *trusting* _____

Agape *always hopes* _____

Agape is *longsuffering* _____

Summary

How do we keep love alive in our marriage?

Decide _____

Begin _____

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